



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DECEMBER/JANUARY 2020/2021



Sidespeople

Week Beginning	Sunday	Wednesday
29 Nov	Sylvia Russell	Irene Bryce
6 Dec	Nell Broadbridge	Sheila Cardwell
13 Dec	Frank Caddell	Clergy
20 Dec	Sylvia Russell	Irene Bryce
24 Dec	Nell Broadbridge	-
25 Dec	Clergy	-
27 Dec	Sylvia Russell	-
3 Jan	Nell Broadbridge	-
10 Jan	Frank Caddell	Clergy
17 Jan	Sylvia Russell	Irene Bryce
24 Jan	Nell Broadbridge	Sheila Cardwell
31 Jan	Frank Caddell	Clergy
<i>If the dates do not suit you please contact another person on the rota to arrange a swap</i>		





CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SERVICES

Date	Week	Time	Service
<i>Nov 2020</i>			
Sun 29	Advent 1	11 am	Eucharist
<i>Dec 2020</i>			
Wed 2		11 am	Eucharist
Sun 6	Advent 2	11 am	Eucharist
Wed 9		11 am	Eucharist
Sun 13	Advent 3	11 am	Eucharist
Wed 16		11 am	Eucharist
Sun 20	Advent 4	11 am	Eucharist
Wed 23		11 am	Eucharist
			
Thu 24	Christmas Eve	11 pm	Midnight Euch
Fri 25	Christmas Day	11 am	Eucharist
Sun 27	Christmas 1	11 am	Eucharist
			
<i>Jan 2021</i>			
Sun 3	Christmas 2	11 am	Eucharist
Sun 10	Baptism of Jesus	11 am	Eucharist
Wed 13		11 am	Eucharist
Sun 17	Epiphany 2	11 am	Eucharist
Wed 20		11 am	Eucharist
Sun 24	Epiphany 3	11 am	Eucharist
Wed 27		11 am	Eucharist
Sun 31	Epiphany 4	11 am	Eucharist

Clergy Cogitations

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends

Waiting. We're doing a lot of it these days. Waiting for a vaccine, waiting for a return of 'normality', waiting to see what Christmas will be like, waiting for better days. Waiting. We're doing a lot of it these days. How is it for you?

Waiting can be a boring thing for some people and for others it can be very frustrating. Throughout scripture we are encouraged to be people who wait well. Not as those who are bored or frustrated, but as those who are hopeful as we wait (for a better world), faithful as we wait (relying on God and not merely ourselves) and loving as we wait (making the wait easier for others).



Advent is a waiting time par excellence. In the big build up to Christmas, in Advent, we help our children to wait well by buying them thought provoking Advent calendars. We teach ourselves to wait during Advent by marking each Sunday with the lighting of Advent candles – each representing a different aspect of waiting. All of that waiting in Advent – whether for children or for ourselves – is an active, productive and spiritually enriching time in which we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

Just as we prepare our houses for Christmas by decking the halls with boughs of holly, putting up our Christmas trees and cleaning into the dark recesses of our reception rooms, so we also think about how we are called by God to prepare ourselves for the return of the Christ at the end of the age.

It's in that tension of waiting that we live as hopeful, faithful and loving people, who by our witness, our attitudes and our efforts make real the love of God in our families, neighbourhoods and world.

A hint of change

By the time you open this magazine and sit down to read these articles the American people will have voted for change in the life of their country. Joe Biden has been ‘projected’ to win the election by the smallest of margins – margins so small that they are likely to be challenged in court by the current Trump administration.

At times of change, Christians have always had to reflect carefully on how they interact with the world of international or domestic politics. Some believe politics to be so corrupt that they withdraw entirely from discussions of who should be elected. Others back one candidate, claiming that God too has voted for them.

But there are other ways to think and pray about politics and elections as Christians, there are principles that we can bring to bear which allow us to be politically engaged whilst avoiding the troublesome claim that God is on one side or the other.

Love must be the primary mode of our political engagement particularly when it comes to the way we speak about and engage with opponents. The kingdom we strive for – the kingdom of God – is not of this world and is far vaster, richer and more powerful than any one campaign, policy or leader. By holding this kingdom principle in mind, which puts justice and human wellbeing first, we have the freedom to support, criticise or reject not only any person, but any policies from any party that do not honour life in all its fullness and the dignity of every human being. When we vote, campaign or speak we do so first as Christians before any party, nation or ideology wins our loyalty or allegiance.

Keeping these principles in mind as we look across the pond, we continue to pray for our American brothers and sisters and ourselves as we face similar decisions at home.

Yours in Christ’s service

Drew and Lee





Since lockdown, the above logo and the technological innovation it names have come to dominate our lives! It's no exaggeration to say that I spend, on average, about 10 hours a week on Zoom, attending or chairing meetings, conducting interviews and organising episcopal services all over the Diocese. Sometimes I feel completely zoomed out! Other times I marvel at the wonders of internet advance and thank God that Zoom has enabled our lives to continue and our church to develop its mission and ministry.

Zoom has become a very important part of our congregational life here at Christ Church too. It allows us to have regular vestry meetings, to keep abreast of the pastoral care of the congregation and to ensure that we stay linked with the Region, the Diocese and the Province. It also provides us with the means of having some very welcome contact with one another. Fortnightly at 2 pm on Tuesdays, we have a "Parish Zoom", which lasts approximately one hour. In that time we enjoy services, or discussions, or question and answer sessions, or power-point presentations, or quizzes or very interesting talks and reflections. Assisting the clergy and Sheila Cardwell in this work are Glenys and John Wilcox as well as Bob and Shona Rabagliati, some recent acquisitions to our number, who have so much to share of their lives and experience.

Please consider zooming in on Tuesdays if you haven't already done so. Watch out for the weekly communication sent out on email and Facebook from the Church Office with details of the week's services, how to book a seat online and the links for all the Zooms, including the Parish one. Make yourself a coffee or a tea before clicking on and joining us! It's a great way to spend an hour on a Tuesday afternoon.

I append here a reflection written by Dr John Wilcox. It gives an idea of the quality of the material we are enjoying on our Parish Zoom.

Exodus from lockdown

In the old testament book of Exodus, we read how the Israelites (led by Moses) finally get to flee a plague-ridden Egypt and head for the “promised land”. They quickly found that fleeing their old locked-down existence was not that easy. First of all they found themselves being chased by the very forces they were trying to leave behind, Pharaoh’s army. Secondly, they had been locked down for so long - they had been in slavery for 430 years - they had become accustomed to it. It had become “normal”, and for many in the fleeing group, the old familiar ways appeared preferable to the uncertainty of whatever lay ahead. *“Better to serve the Egyptians than die in the wilderness”*, they said. And thirdly, their journey to the promised land (their “new normal”) was far from straight forward. It took many years of wandering and searching, and there were many twists and turns on the way.

Though now out of their lock-down, they faced difficult times. For example, they experienced a shortage of food and water. And in these difficult times, people complained. They blamed their leaders for their situation: *“You (Moses),” they said, “have brought us out into this desert to starve us all to death.”*

To survive required innovation - for example when the bread ran out, they had to improvise with some strange white stuff called manna. To survive required discipline, so they were given rules to obey (the 10 commandments). Some rebelled against these rules by creating and worshipping the golden calf, and the rebellion resulted in the death of the rule-breakers.

In recent weeks, I have found myself re-living this story in real time as we journey out of our lockdown (our captivity). Some say this is an opportunity to reset our living, to live more sustainably with less environmental damage. Some see a better world ahead of us, a “promised land”. However, just as in Exodus, we need discipline. We have been given new rules of behaviour - on distancing, masking-up and social gatherings - but just as in Exodus, there are rule breakers. Their behaviour risks certain death.

As we journey, just as in Exodus I hear voices asking us to turn and go back to old familiar ways - to crowded night clubs, shopping malls, office blocks, packed commuter trains. Just as in Exodus, I hear moans and groans and complaints about our leaders as they try to find a way out of our captivity. And just as in Exodus, I see innovation in the way people have adapted their working and living.

As Israel discovered as it emerged from the plagues of Egypt, I suspect our own journey out of lockdown could be a long and bumpy one, with lots of twists and turns as we are chased by the very virus we are trying to flee.

So I'm wondering how you are feeling. Are you fearful and anxious like the Israelites? Do you want to go back to the old familiar ways? Or are you hoping for a "new normal", a new way of living, a "promised land"?

I think Exodus has much to teach us in our current situation. The key message is that God is patient and faithful. He wants the best for us. He has a plan for us (if only we can discern it!), and He keeps His promises. Exodus also reminds us we need to play our part. We need to trust Him and be patient. We need to be faithful and to hold on through good times and bad. We need to obey his commands, and we need to discern and follow His will for us.

Perhaps in these times of anxiety, uncertainty and instability, we too need to hear the words Moses spoke to Israel in the wilderness. *"Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread ... because it is the Lord our God who goes with us; he will not fail us or forsake us."*



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect"

John Wilcox sent in this story which I'm sure has a lot of parallels in today's world

Blame Game!

A man in a hot air balloon realised he was lost. He reduced altitude a bit and spotted a man below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me. Can you help me? I promised a friend that I would meet him an hour ago but I don't know where I am."

The man replied, "You are in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 35 feet above ground. You are between forty and forty-one degrees north latitude and between fifty-nine and sixty degrees west longitude."

"You must be in engineering," said the balloonist.

"I am," replied the man. "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is that I am still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help so far."

The man responded, "You must be in management."

"I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the man, "you don't know where you are or where you are going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is that you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

Chas Blythe

We have received the sad news that Chas Blythe has died. Some of the older members of the congregation will remember Chas who lived in Lockhart Mill before moving to Edinburgh. Chas and his wife, Margery were regular attendees at Christ Church and Chas served as Church Treasurer for a time.

When he was a pupil at Lanark Grammar, Drew exercised his daughter's horse while she was at uni and has very fond memories of those days and of Chas, who was always a very nice and witty man.

2020

By Caitlin Corbett

(13 year old granddaughter of Marilyn & Frank Caddell)

Pandemic and discrimination, is the focus this year,
Lives have been lost, while others live in fear.
Our society has changed us in the way we think and feel,
2020 will never be forgotten, so devastatingly real.

Coronavirus spread like wildfire, forcing people ill,
Until the realisation that this virus could kill.
Death rates increased thousands of lives being lost,
Governments had no idea, what this virus would cost.

Technology was needed for jobs and education,
Masks were to be worn, in a socially distanced nation.
Men and women everywhere, poor and unemployed,
And that's when it happened – the death of George Floyd.

A coloured man named George, was walking down the street,
When a policeman came over, and swept him off his feet.
George was pinned down, his neck pressured by a knee,
Prejudice was chosen, not grace and humanity.

The news blew up, and then the protests began,
Millions around the globe, protesting for this man.
'Black Lives Matter' is what they cried,
For a man of colour had innocently died.

Protesters ignored the virus hiding in the crowd,
The protest was against injustice, which should never be allowed.
But, the calm protesting started to decrease,
Raging riots began, people losing the peace.

I pray to God that we haven't lost hope,
And that we can all join together and continue to cope.
The nations of our world will continue to fight,
Until the virus is gone, and our justice is right.

This year of death and chaos, will always stay with me.
But so too will the love, of my friends and family,
Our society has changed us in the way we think and feel
2020 will never be forgotten, so devastatingly real.

A Christmas Blessing Bunch

Thanks to Margaret Hannah for these instructions

Take:

Holly - Protection

Ivy - Truth, Luck and Loyalty

Pine - Prosperity

Box - Courage

Yew - Long Life & Immortality

Bay - Keeps your House Safe

Fern - Sincerity

Rosemary - Remembrance

Fir Cones - Attracts Friends

Laurel - Peace in the Home



**Tie together with a Red Ribbon to ensure Good Health
Hang until 12th Night**

To The Congregation of Christ Church

I would like to thank everyone who has so generously donated to the Church flower fund. It is really appreciated, especially at this time of year with Christmas being so near.

Thank you all.

Jane

Church Flower Convenor



Thanks from Alison

I would like to thank everyone at Christ Church for the beautiful and so personal piece of glasswork that you gave me last Sunday as I leave to start a new life in Suffolk. So much thought had gone into making it and I shall treasure it always. Christ Church has meant so many things to me over the years. First of all, it has been a source of music with Music Sundays, different members playing their instruments, and I have so enjoyed being part of the choir, even though I could have done with a bit of backup in the alto section! Christingles have been fun too where I have been both an elf and a witch.



Then there are all the different kinds of worship from meditation to Taizé. The building itself with its wonderful dome inside creates a source of inspiration, a place of peace and calm as you walk in yet buzzing as people meet up again after a week's activities. Then we have lovely Sunday Eucharist services which include both rousing and joyous hymns and quiet and meditative ones. Drew and Lees' sermons make one ponder on God and what He brings to our lives. For me, as I know it was for Maurice also, Christ Church is a place where we forged so many friendships both at the services and coffee mornings and big meals for Harvest, Christmas etc. Many of these friendships became very close where we visited each others' houses and learned more about them and their families – and I must thank you all and especially those special people who gave us your love and support over the last difficult years, most of all last year as Maurice's illness worsened.

I have belonged to many church congregations in my lifetime but none of them can compare with the love and sense of belonging that I feel for Christ Church. It is very special.

So thank you all again for being part of my life. I shall miss you.

Alison (Burroughs)

Best wishes in your new home from all at Christ Church

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Kevin

In this challenging situation, what do we have to offer?

We offer hope.

There is hope, even in, especially in the midst of pandemic and legal restrictions.

There is hope in our faith that love is the source of all life and energy. The truth is that the love Jesus showed on the cross, in his passion and death, that love is self-giving and endures all things.



The stories of Jesus' resurrection show that love is of God, it is the hidden force in our world and in our lives. It transforms and transfigures our entire experience. Love is stronger than hate, which killed Jesus.

There will be a vaccine because, in love, many scientists and medics are working to find the formula. Many people are prepared to test the experimental vaccine. That is the truth of love which is proof of its power. The truth that we know in faith, that love is the hidden force which transfigures and transforms our lives and builds the Kingdom of God in the communities in which we find ourselves.

There is hope, also when some of our churches decide they must close again for a while because of the new restrictions. As I said at the beginning of the pandemic, we close our doors in love, not in fear.

Let us always remember that we live in the hope of new life. Let us share that hope, in whatever small ways we can. A phone call to someone on their own, shopping for those who are vulnerable, sharing through food banks... There is hope!

And always, we pray in the hope and the certainty that love is of God, love is stronger than hate or any natural phenomenon. That is the love that we share, and in the sharing, we make God's presence real.

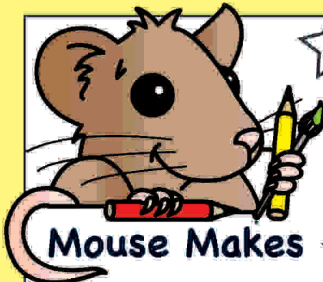
In this time of crisis, please be in touch if there is anything I can help with.

In the sure and certain hope of God's love and presence,

+ Kevin

Glasgow and Galloway

17 November 2020



"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom
God is pleased".*

from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

**HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!**

Read the Christmas
story in Luke
1:1 - 2:21



A picture to colour
for Christmas. Colour in
one star each day as you
count down to Christmas!

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Angels?

Two daughters had been given parts in a Christmas pageant at their Church. At dinner that night, they got into an argument as to who had the most important role.

Finally, the 14 year-old said to her 8 year-old younger sister, ‘Well, you just ask Mum. She’ll tell you it’s much harder to be a virgin than it is to be an angel.’

Christmas cake

Every Christmas, composer Giacomo Puccini would have a cake baked for each of his friends. One year, having quarrelled with Arturo Toscanini just before Christmas, he tried to cancel the order for the conductor's cake. But it was too late, as the cake had already been dispatched.

The following day, Toscanini received a telegram from Puccini: “Cake sent by mistake.”

He replied by return: "Cake eaten by mistake."

Miscellaneous observations during the Christmas season...

Putting on weight is the penalty for exceeding the feed limit.

Father to three-year old: “No, a reindeer is not a horse with TV antenna.”

Christmas is in my heart 12 months a year, and thanks to credit cards, it's on my Visa card statement 12 months a year as well.

Picture

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw a picture of a Bible story with a Christmas theme. She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an airplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. 'The Flight to Egypt,' was the reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: ‘That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who’s the fourth person?’”

‘Oh,’ explained Kate happily, ‘that’s Pontius - the pilot!’



Drew received the latest Christmas coronavirus regulations from the diocesan office.

CHRIST CHURCH LANARK

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

Bishop: Rt Revd Kevin Pearson, 25 Quadrant Rd., Newlands,
Glasgow, G43 2QP. Email: bishop@glasgow.anglican.org
Tel: 0141 221 5720/ 2694



Rector: Rev Canon Andrew Sheridan, The Rectory, 1 Cleghorn Road, Lanark,
ML11 7QT. Email: thecanteringcanon@outlook.com
Tel: 01555 663065

Assistant Curate: Rev Lee Johnston, **7 Hilton Court, Hilton Road,**
Bishopbriggs, G64 3EA. Email: L.Johnston.Gla@gmail.com
Tel: **0141 772 8176 (Note change of address and phone number)**

Church Office: 01555 663065

Lay Readers: Robert (Bobby) Burgon, Richard Evans

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Sheila Cardwell 01555 728802

Adult & Child Protection Officer, Susan Tian 01555 871997

Vestry:

Sheila Cardwell - Rector's Warden	01555 728802
Jean Rance - People's Warden	01555 662461
Jean Patrick - Lay Representative	01555 664040
Mary Gibson	01555 663802
Gemma Horsburgh	07949 701195
Jean Patrick	01555 664040
Paula Moody	01555 660233
Jane Milliken	01555 751514

Secretary - Anne Glen

7 Andrew Place, Carluke, ML18 5UD 01555 772720

Treasurer - Robert Burgon

141 Hyndford Road, Lanark, ML11 8BG 01555 662986

Please remember Christ Church in your will as an act of thanksgiving for the Church. For confidential advice please speak to the Treasurer

Church Flowers: Jane Milliken, 01555 751514

Web site: www.christchurchlanark.com

Magazine and Website Editor: Sylvia Russell: 01555 662676

E-Mail: sylviarussell555@gmail.com

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