

Christ Church Lanark Clydesdale's Episcopal Church December 2017 - January 2018

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday 9,00 am – Said Eucharist 10.30 am – Sung Eucharist 6.00 pm – Advent Lessons & Carols Sunday 10th December Advent 2

10.30 am – All Age Sung Eucharist

Sunday 17th December Advent 3 10.30 am – Sung Eucharist 6.00 pm – Christingle Service

Sunday 24th December Advent 4 Christmas Eve 10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

Holy Trinity, Lamington 6.30 pm – Lessons & Carols Christ Church 11.30 pm – Midnight Eucharist

Monday 25th December Christmas Day 10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 31st December Christmas 1 10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club meets every Tuesday in the Church Hall. Cost £2.50

Christmas Lunch is on Tuesday 12 December.

Lunch Club will not meet again until 9 January Come along and enjoy friendly company, homemade soup and a filled roll. There are also frequently speakers and slide shows. **All welcome**

JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 7th January 2018 The Epiphany 9,00 am – Said Eucharist 10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 14th January Epiphany 2 10.30 am – All Age Sung Eucharist

Sunday 21st January Epiphany 3 10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 28th January Epiphany 4 10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 4th February Epiphany 5 9,00 am – Said Eucharist 10.30 am – Sung Eucharist





Christingle Service Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm



Christingle is about our world, it's about the people within it and it's about the light of God's love that goes all around it with a little bit of help from us



Every year, the money raised at the Christingle Service is sent from the children of Christchurch to children who are in need in other parts of the world.

We hope to have a 'Dress Rehearsal' on Saturday 16th December and probably another before that - to be arranged.

We also need volunteers to make the Christingles themselves.

If you or your children would like to take part please contact -

Alison Black – alison.black@btconnect.com Rachel Hill - rachelhill@madasafish.com

Rachel Hill

This is one of Christ Church's most popular services and not to be missed as it really gets you into the true spirit of Christmas. As usual, following the service, there will be mulled wine and mince pies in the Church Hall.



Winter Garden Notes

As the first frosts of November arrive, the begonias in the Church Garden pots collapse along with the summer pansies. These are removed and the compost is given some more goodness and "cheered up" with chicken manure pellets to enable the winter display planting. This consists of the colourful decorative cabbages, some



flowering heathers, a small-flowered hardy chrysanthemum, a few purple Michaelmas Daisies and two experimental winter cyclamen plants. Hopefully, the cyclamen will be hardy enough to give a good show throughout November and December. If they do well we can increase the number of these next year. I have left in the few white geraniums from summer in the hope that they may flower again. Also, we keep the silver cinerarias because their silvery white leaves give a lovely contrast to the purples and pinks. The colour scheme is chosen to coordinate with the Bishop's Purple colour of the garden seat. Take some time to admire the wonderful white cabbages which look just like large roses! In the woodland area 200 new mixed daffodil bulbs have been planted which will give us a lovely spring show. Also, we look forward to the re-appearance of the Broadbridge's, snowdrops which were so nice last year behind the gate.

Joan East

Dear Friends

In a matter of weeks they'll be visible around us - on the top of trees, heading out to parties, gazing down on us from cards. I'm talking about angels, of course. Angels. Thankfully there's still just enough of the "real" Christmas left in our society for them to make an appearance alongside the reindeer and the Santas.



They'll be making an appearance in church as well - the angels who spoke to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds - and later in the church year, the angels who gave the message about Jesus' resurrection.

We have a tendency to trivialise angels, don't we? "Oh, you are an angel!" we say when somebody has done us a good turn. Or we call a kind-hearted person "an angel in disguise". Many of us like the idea of having a "guardian angel" who keeps a close and friendly eye on us at all times and places.

In the Bible, though, angels are rather scary beings. They are messengers of God who seem to cause nothing by disruption with the news they bring: the lives of Mary and Joseph were never the same after angels visited them with their messages.

Some of us will know what it's like to get news about our health, our job or our family that turns our world upside down. I was reading a meditation about an angel on a bus who handed someone an envelope with a message from God which read: "The one thing you always forget, and the one thing you'll need to remember, if you are going to get anywhere in life." The poor person who had been given the message was rather taken aback by this and started to panic about what it could possibly be that they always forgot; was it their prayers, or being nice to their neighbour, or trying to kick that old bad habit? With nail biting apprehension they ripped open the envelope and found a card with just four words on it: "I, God, love you!"

As we move into the Christmas season of angels and on into the New Year with all its unknowns, let us hear the extraordinary message again – the message that God gave to us when he sent Jesus to be born on earth and born in the hearts of each one of us: "I, God, love you.

With every blessing at Christmas and in 2018



Drew

We were saddened to learn of the death of our Rector's mother, Mrs Marilyn Sheridan on Wednesday 15th November. Our thoughts and prayers are with Drew and his family at this very sad time.

Christmas

"Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart". (Luke 2:v19)

Luke's nativity account is familiar and well loved. However, the very familiarity of it tends to blunt the story's shock value as we hear it related year after year. But shocking it was, and its impact on Mary and Joseph must have been disorienting and full of mystery.

Luke's account concludes what was promised to Mary by the angel Gabriel, but it does more than this, for it also gives us a real insight into Mary's character. When the shepherds came, she listened to the experience, treasured their words 'and pondered them in her heart'.

Not content to be simply a passive vessel, Mary engages deeply with her experience, meditating on the meaning of the wonderful thing that has happened. As Jesus' life continues to gather momentum, we will learn that understanding, for Mary, does not come easily.

When she and Joseph take Jesus to the temple at eight days old, they were 'amazed' at what was said about their son, and there will be later incidents in Jesus' life when Mary's bafflement was equally apparent.

Today, in our so-called modern world, the pressure is for everything to be done instantly, with no real time for thought or reflection. Isaiah tells us that God's ways are 'mysterious', but if we are willing to 'ponder' our life-experiences in His presence, we will discover that we are, somehow, within the flow of His life and work in our world.

Our own lives are drawn into the Christmas story. May we reflect on this and may we respond to the appearance of grace in the world through the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

Have a blessed Christmas

Bobby

Winter Trees

Winter trees, of growth denuded Bow their heads to wind and snow Bow towards a lonely stable Unto which some shepherds go. Trees that seem so cold and lifeless Bow toward that heavenly glow.

In that shed, a new-born infant Bathed in golden lantern's light Shepherds kneel in awe and wonder At the gift of God this night. E'en the trees so bare do whisper Wondrous praises at that sight. Winter trees will soon be verdant When the winter turns to spring. We, like them, can be as joyful Death has lost its fatal sting. For that babe within a manger Brings good news of which we sing.

Glory be to God in Heaven Glory be to God, we cry For His gift, so freely given His own precious Son to die. Alleluia! Alleluia! We can live with Him on high!

By Nigel Beeton



Hilary Rankin would like to thank Drew and the congregation for the lovely flowers and cards that she received last month on her 80th birthday.

BISHOP GREGOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE St John 1.14: and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ...

We're all familiar with slogans, mottoes, catchphrases, strap lines, by which institutions or political parties or campaigning groups like to promote themselves, their



claims, their values among the rest of us. Some of them may strike us as important and even challenging – I certainly, for example, find that to be true of Christian Aid's strap line, we believe in life before death. And I've always loved the motto of the University of Oxford, where I studied for my degree in theology: Dominus illuminatio mea, the Lord is my light.

Well, I think that the word flesh was a kind of strapline for the Christian communities among which the Gospel of St John came to be written, say, in the second half of the first century CE. The most celebrated use of it we hear proclaimed in the gospel every year at Midnight Mass: the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. But we also find it in the letters of St John, closely related to the Gospel, where it is said that true believers always confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. Indeed so important was this little word flesh to these Johannine Christians that they went so far as to claim that those who would not say that Jesus came in the flesh were Antichrist, just about the worst thing you could say about anyone, from a Christian point of view, right up to the present day.

The thing is, though, that this coming in the flesh isn't just important to St John's Christian communities. It's not just a matter of what they thought all those centuries ago. Not at all. It has remained of absolutely fundamental importance to all Christian people ever since and is at the very heart of our Christmas celebrations, every year, which is why traditionally the reader of the gospel makes a deep blow at these words and why people used to kneel for the words and was made man in the Creed. Really, Christmas simply isn't conceivable, isn't possible without St John's joyous affirmation that God the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Why is that so? Why should such a small word matter so very much? Well, for St John and his communities of Christians flesh was important because it meant to them our human life, so that when he says that God becomes flesh he wants us to understand that in Jesus Christ God lives out our human life from the inside.

We call this the Incarnation, God with a skin if you like, and it's what Christmas is all about. God so loves us, so wants us to make the most of the lives given us, by drawing us to God's own life, that it is a case of becoming God with us, God one of us, flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. God wants to be as close to us as possible and that means beginning life as we do, utterly dependent on other people. Not God commanding us from afar with overwhelming power, but in our midst loving us in the weakness and vulnerability of a human child. This is how much God loves us fleshly human beings and, as the divine life among us unfolds, we know the cost of that love, the height, the depth, the self-giving of that love.

As we celebrate once more that immense love God has for us and for the whole world, we must know ourselves called to love God in return. And a big part of that is to love ourselves and all around us as we are loved by God, to love ourselves and those around us because we are all loved so much by God and so precious to God.

This we are called to do in and for a world that can often seem very far away from love, life and hope. We see so much hatred, so much holding of human life not as precious but as cheap and insignificant, so much torn and wounded and abused flesh, so many shattered lives, so much cruelty, so much indifference to suffering, so much pitiless killing of the innocent. Christmas is not about escaping from all of that. Apart from anything else it is all anyhow embedded in our Christmas celebration as it unfolds - after all, on the second day of Christmas we find ourselves commemorating the terrible stoning to death of St Stephen and then two days later the slaughter of the children of Bethlehem at Herod's command.

The thing is, of course, that the Word made flesh, Jesus himself, from the very start of his life among us, as his family fled for their lives as refugees into Egypt, faced in the world he loved the same lovelessness and cruelty that we face. He knows what that's like and He is with us in our Christmas celebration and throughout our lives to encourage us always to keep faith, to hold to love, and goodness and truth and beauty, to hold to God's vision of the preciousness of all God's children, whose flesh God shares, whose lives God cherishes and whose love God desires, always and for ever.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

+Gregor



Laughter is the Best Medicine

Camels

She replied, 'Oh, he's looking for a wrapped in wrinkled clothes.' place to park.'

Christmas presents

our her learn to share.'

Prompting

The boy forgot his lines in the Christmas drama presentation. His mother, sitting in the front row, tried to prompt him, gesturing and forming the words silently with her lips, but it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank.

Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, 'I am the angel Gabriel!' The child beamed with acknowledgment, and in a loud, clear voice so that everyone in the audience could hear him say: 'My Mummy is the angel Gabriel!'

Wiped out

Just got home and found all the windows and doors and open everything has gone.

What kind of sick twisted person does that to someone's Advent calendar?

Christmas pageant

In a little girl's Christmas drawing, My three children were in the Christmas two of the camels were approaching pageant. I was so proud. My daughter was the inn, over which was pictured a playing Mary. One son was a shepherd. huge star. The third camel and its And my other son was a Wise Man. My rider were going directly away from shepherd son had practised his lines over it. 'Why is the third man going in a and over, but when the time came, he was different direction?' her mother asked. nervous and said, 'We found the babe

To which Mary replied, 'That's not wrinkled clothes, that's dirty rotten Catching her in the act, I confronted clothes!' Giggles from the audience three-year-old granddaughter. followed, but the play went on. Until my 'Are you opening your little sister's Wise Man son, wearing his father's bath presents?' I demanded. 'No,' she robe and paper crown knelt by the manger innocently replied, 'I'm just helping and said, 'We are the three Wise Men and we are bringing gifts of gold, common sense and fur.'



DATE	SIDESPERSONS	TEA/COFFEE	CHURCH CLEANING	LUNCH CLUB	COMMUNION
2017	Rosemary Marshall Tel: 663774	Jean Rance Tel: 662461	Connie Johnstone Tel: 01899 308764	Doreen Dixon Tel: 750295	
3 Dec	S. Russell M. Main	M. Caddell C. Robbins	J. Comrie	Soup 6 Dec Jamie & Janet	C Johnstone
10 Dec	D. Evans S. Cardwell	M. Gibson J. Patrick	N. BroadbridgeA. Comrie	13 Dec Christmas Lunch	G Rankin
17 Dec	R. Marshal J. Rance	L. Rickards E. Baxter	J. Rance K. Rance	20 Dec Closed	D Dixon
24 De 10.30 am	N. Broadbridge D. Evans	J. Rance K. Rance	J. Rance K. Rance	27 Dec Closed	S Cardwell
24 Dec 11.00pm	J.Rance K. Rance				R Cleary
25 Dec	Christmas Day				:
31 Dec	R. Marshall S. Cardwell	N. Broadbridge C. Johnstone	A. Comrie		R. Evans

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<u>2018</u>	Rosemary Marshall Tel: 663774	Jean Rance Tel: 662461	Connie Johnstone Tel: 308764	Doreen Dixon Tel: 750295	
7 Jan	M. Main S. Russell		A. Gray	Soup 9 Jan Ruby & Joyce	R Burgon
14 Jan	G. Rankin J. Rance	N. Broadbridge C. JohnstoneM.	M. Gibson J. Patrick	16 Jan Diana & Connie	G Rankin
21 Jan	N. Broadbridge R. Marshall	L. Rickards E. Baxter	C. Johnstone S. Tian	23 Jan Doreen D & Jean P	S Clark
28 Jan	D. Evans S. Cardwell	J. Rance K. Rance	J. Comrie	30 Jan Hilary & Doreen E	D Dixon
4 Feb	S. Russell M. Main	M. Caddell A. Burroughs	N. Broadbridge	6 Feb Jamie & Janet	P Glancy
11 Feb	R. Marshall G. Rankin	M. Gibson J. Patrick	J. Rance K. Rance	13 Feb Ruby & Joyce	

DATE	DIARY	READERS	FIRST LESSON	SECOND LESSON	GOSPEL
<u>2017</u> 3 Dec	Advent Sunday	K Rance	Isaiah 64: 1-9	1 Corinth'ns 1: 3-9	Mark 13: 24-37
10 Dec	Advent 2		TBA	TBA	TBA
17 Dec	Advent 3	N Broad'ge	Isaiah 61: 1-4 & 8 - 11	1 Thess 5: 16 -24	John 1: 6-8 & 19 - 28
24 De 10.30 am	Advent 4	S Cardwell	2 Samuel 7: 1-11 & 16	Romans 16: 25 -27	Luke 1: 26-38
24 Dec 11.00pm	Christmas Eve	R Cleary	TBA	TBA	TBA
25 Dec	Christmas Day	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
31 Dec	Christmas 1	C Johnstone	Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3	Galatians 4: 4-7	Luke 2: 22-40

DATE	DIARY	READERS	FIRST LESSON	SECOND LESSON	GOSPEL
<u>2018</u> 7 Jan	Epiphany	J Rance	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Ephesians 3: 1-12	Matthew 2: 1-12
14 Jan	Epiphany 2		TBA	TBA	TBA
21 Jan	Epiphany 3	P Clark	Jonah 3: 1 - 5. 10	1 Corinthians 7: 29 - 31	Mark 1: 14 - 20
28 Jan	Epiphany 4	D Dixon	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20	Revelation 12: 1-5a	Mark 1: 21-28
4 Feb	Epiphany 5	P Glancy	Isaiah 40: 21 - 31	1 Corinthians 9: 16 - 23	Mark 1: 29 - 39
15					

CHRIST CHURCH LANARK

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

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