



**Candlemas Bells,
Winter's half-way markers**

**CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2017**

FEBRUARY SERVICES

Sunday 5 February

Epiphany 5

9.00 am – Said Eucharist

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 12 February

Epiphany 6

10.30 am – All Age Eucharist

Sunday 19 February

Epiphany 7

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 26 February

Sunday before Lent

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Tuesday 28 February

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party

Church Hall 5.00 - 7.00pm

LUNCH CLUB

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

Come along and enjoy friendly company, homemade soup and a filled roll. There are also frequently speakers and slide shows.

All welcome

MARCH SERVICES

Wednesday 1 March

Ash Wednesday

6.30pm - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 5 March

Lent 1

9.00 am – Said Eucharist

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 12 March

Lent 2

10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 19 March

Lent 3

10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 26 March

Mothering Sunday

10.30 am All Age Eucharist

Sunday 2 April

Passion Sunday

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 9 April

Palm Sunday

10.30 - Sung Eucharist



Candlemas 2 February

February snowdrops we welcome you!
Candlemas Bells, winter's half-way markers,
symbols of hope and light to come, creation's reminders
of the Creator revealed in the child in Simeon's arms.

VESTRY NEWS

Buildings Report

The Quinquennial Inspection has been carried out by the Diocesan architect. As a result of this there has been further work on the church roof.

The mysterious damp in the back bedroom of the Rectory has also been investigated and more building work carried out as a result.

The crack in the ceiling of the church apse has been filled in and repainted.

John Patrick has fitted units in the Church Vestry and also sorted the back door - many thanks, John.

SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKE PARTY

Tuesday 28th February

Christ Church Hall

5 pm - 7 pm

Join us for a pre-lent feast of French crepes, filled with delicious savoury and sweet fillings all washed down with a glass of wine!



And

remember -

bring a friend!

Update on our ‘Last Sunday’ Away Giving

The Congregation of Christ Church takes its mission to others less fortunate than themselves very seriously and our monthly ‘Away Giving’ collections have raised a great deal of money over the years. Many small charities have benefitted from our generosity and here is a brief rundown of three recent collections.

New Beginnings

Mary McLellan and the volunteers at New Beginnings, Clydesdale send greetings and thanks to the congregation of Christ Church for their continued support and generous giving over 2016 and particularly for the Christmas Hamper appeal. You may have noticed (if you read The Lanark Gazette) that Christ Church received a special mention as “faithful supporters” in an article Mary did for the paper about the Christmas appeal.

There was a substantial increase in referrals from social work, health and support agencies for families this year for requests for additional support to provide a good Christmas to people in need around Clydesdale; this led to 91 food hampers and 175 children’s and 131 adult gift bags being delivered in the run up to Christmas.

Many thanks once again for all your support.

Connie Johnstone

Children in Distress

Our 4th quarter collections raised £750 for the charity

Children in Distress is a small charity now based in Glasgow. The work of Children in Distress was inspired by Reverend Dr John Walmsley and the parishioners of St. Laurence Barkingside is to address the plight of the children and orphans with HIV AIDS or infant and children abandoned in Romania’s rundown hospitals and institutions as result of terminal or incurable illness as result of accident, infection, genetic disorders or accident at birth. Their work has evolved from an initial focus of caring for children with HIV/AIDS and today they offer love and care to infants and children with a range of other incurable and terminal illnesses. (www.childrenindistress.org)

The Railway Children of Guwaharti (part of the Lotus Flower Trust)

Alongside the mainline railway tracks in Guwahati, Assam, there are whole communities living in slum conditions between the rails and the fence; children who are born there are unlikely ever to go to school, unlikely ever to live anywhere else. Many are killed in train “incidents”. Their poverty is complete and unrelenting.

Lotus Flower Trust have, with support from a local NGO, acquired land from

a charitable lady and built the first phase of a hostel and school development for the children. Their mothers, if they have them, are hugely supportive of this venture by which their children might have a chance of education, of getting a job, of getting away from the railway slum.

The money raised from the Christingle Service will all go directly to the project to buy mattresses, bedding and any other essential equipment as this project becomes a reality. Reports on how it is all progressing will appear in the magazine at intervals.

In the meantime, a huge THANK YOU from Lotus Flower Trust to all those who contributed so generously at Christingle where the magnificent sum of £460 was raised.

Direct Link, our first quarter charity for 2017, was established in 1988. It finds sponsors for very needy children in Kenya, many of whom are HIV/AIDS orphans, (and many of these are disabled), who would otherwise be unlikely to be able to attend school. Each child is followed throughout his/her school life, and if good enough KCSE exam results are achieved, the children can continue their education at college or university. They also help deaf children to receive an education that they normally would not be able to receive. Physically disabled children are supplied with wheelchairs and crutches and physiotherapy for those who have problems with their limbs. (www.directlink.org)

Happy New Year

As the year
is coming to an end
We all have to remember
Our family and friends.

Soon we will see all the flowers bloom
Brightening our days
No time for gloom.

Days will go so fast
We will be back in a flash.

So take time to be with the ones that you love
And give them a big hug.

By Addi Jopp (age 8)

*A lovely poem
by one of our
Sunday School
members*

Dear Friends

January and February can often feel like very long, dark and dismal months. Christmas is something of a distant memory and Spring seems like a long way off. For those who suffer from SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) one remedy is to spend time in front of a light box that reproduces the sun's rays. The theory is that the light stimulates the hypothalamus, the part of the brain which controls mood, appetite and sleep. Without that boost of light depression can set in and life can become very difficult.



We Christians maintain that we need more than physical light to live healthy lives. At the beginning of John's Gospel Jesus is described as "the true light that gives light to everyone". As his people we are called to live in his light, to be conscious of God's presence with us, to allow the rays of God's love to shine on us and remind us that "the darkness did not overcome it".

Christmas and Epiphany are powerful reminders that light always overcomes darkness. Although the world continues on a path of darkness, the light of Christ is now shining – brighter than a million suns. We need to place ourselves before that light. This means being willing to acknowledge the darkness that resides deep within our hearts and to allow the light of Christ to overcome it. As the Spirit of the living God transforms us from one degree of glory to another, so we begin to reflect the light of Jesus to the world around us, whether we are aware of it or not.

Whether or not we need a light box to help us through these dreary winter months we all need the light which is Jesus to deliver us from darkness and to enable us to share in his wonderful victory. As the apostle Paul says in Romans 8: 37 "in all the troubles of this life we are more than conquerors through Jesus, who loves us, and gave himself for us." Shine, Jesus, shine!

Drew

Update on Bishop Gregor

As many of you already know, Bishop Gregor has suffered a minor stroke and is currently in hospital. He continues to make progress and it is expected that he will remain in the hospital at least for the next few days. The bishop is extremely grateful for the outpouring of prayers and well wishes. Please continue to keep Bishop Gregor in your prayers as he continues on the road to recovery.

Sue and Jos Verkerk

A number of you will remember Sue, who used to be a member of our congregation some years ago. She married her Dutch husband, Jos, in Christ Church and the reception afterwards was held in the hall. It was a lovely occasion. They settled in the Netherlands, but were keen to keep in touch with us, so I send our magazines out to them.

I had a lovely letter from Sue at Christmas saying how good it was to hear that we now had Drew to follow on after Dan, and that they would like to make a financial contribution to Christchurch funds.

Sue is a great inspiration for us all. While coping with two cancer operations in the last five years and ongoing treatment she has been doing an incredible amount of international secretarial and organisational work – for Roman Catholic congregations of sisters. At these international gatherings she can meet folk from as many as ten different countries.

She has also been working with Bishop Robert Innes of the Anglican Diocese in Europe, which is made up of 40 different countries: writing a curriculum for delivery across all the chaplaincies and training trainers at a 3 day event in Cologne.

Fitted around all this she has been writing a huge academic book on the history of the biggest teaching congregation of religious women in Netherlands, Indonesia and India – the JMJ (Congregation of Jesus, Mary and Joseph). The book is almost finished and will be published in India for the Indian sisters and other members of the JMJ congregation in India.

What amazing achievements! I am sure you will all want to join me in sending our best wishes for her continued good health and stamina to continue all this work – and thanks to Jos for all his love and support.

Marilyn Caddell

Guthrie and Hilary would just like to thank everyone who has held them and Ian in their prayers for so long. They've just spoken to him on their return and he says he's feeling better and his energy is returning. He still has a big battle ahead so please hold him in your prayers for the future.

CHRISTINGLE 2016





The 2016 Christingle Service was based on the Cradle of Life and the Light of Christ. All the children participating behaved impeccably and presented a lovely start to all the Christmas celebrations. We are fortunate to have such talent amongst these youngsters who attend each year to make our Christingle Service such a great success.

Our grateful thanks must go to all the people who helped in producing this event. To Alison for organising the children, to Rachel and Kenny for all the time spent in organising the musicians and the wonderful music and to Helen for her undoubted organising skills in bringing it altogether.

Our thanks to Drew for allowing the ladies to produce the service in the way Christingle has been celebrated in Christ Church over many years and for all his help in encouraging the children with their singing and dialogue.

There are many others to thank including all the musicians and those in the background who produced the Christingles, costumes, mulled wine, shortbread, mince pies and Joan and Brian for the decoration of the church hall and sweets for the children.

Once again our Christingle Service was a great success and the Church was filled with the warmth and blessing of friends and family.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who participated for all their time and hard work.

MISSION IN CHRIST CHURCH

With the New Year now well underway we will be turning our minds in Christ Church to the all important subject of... Mission.

Since the beginning of his Episcopate +Gregor has had in place a Diocesan Growth Strategy, the purpose of which has been to encourage congregations to become “missional” in their outlook and to resource them to make mission and numerical growth achievable.

A feature of the Diocesan Strategy has been the formation of Mission Action Planning Groups (MAP Groups) in each congregation across the Diocese and the appointment of a facilitator for each of these groups. Before becoming your Rector it was my privilege to serve as facilitator for Christ Church’s MAP Group and to work with it on Welcoming & Integrating strategies.

As it has been some time now since the Mission Action Planning Group met, we shall be taking time to revisit what the Strategy is all about, and to refresh our memories of what each of the Strategy Strands stands for and can offer to us as a congregation as we discern our own missional calling in the here and now.

The plan is to have a preaching series on each of the Strands, followed by a congregational consultation morning (hopefully facilitated by the Canon Missioner), all of which will lead to the reformation of the Mission Action Planning Group and to the implementation of new ideas for our on-going development.

We hope you will find this helpful.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Jane Milliken wishes to thank everyone who contributed so generously to the Christmas flower fund.

The congregation and Vestry would like to thank Jane for making the church look so beautiful, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.



Laughter is the Best Medicine

With St Valentine's Day fast approaching....

Romance, marriage and all that stuff - the way children see it....

How do you decide whom to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the crisps and dip coming.- Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. - Derrick, age 8

What do you think your mum and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough.- Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

Is it better to be single or married?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck. - Ricky, age 10



“To think we grumbled when the Church used unintelligible archaic language”

DATE	SIDESPERSONS	TEA/COFFEE	CHURCH CLEANING	LUNCH CLUB	COMMUNION CUP
2017	Rosemary Marshall Tel: 663774	Jean Rance Tel: 662461	Connie Johnstone Tel: 01899 308764	Doreen Dixon Tel: 750295	
5 Feb	G. Rankin M. Main	M. Gibson J. Patrick	A. Gray	Soup 7 Feb Mary G & Janet	D Dixon
12 Feb	N. Broadbridge D. Evans	L. Rickards E. Baxter	M. Gibson J. Patrick	14 Feb Ruby & Joyce	S Cardwell
19 Feb	S.Russell S. Cardwell	N. Broadbridge C. Johnstone	J. Rance K. Rance	21 Feb Diana & Connie	R Evans
26 Feb	R. Marshall G.Rankin	J. Rance K. Rance	J. Rance K. Rance	28 Feb Hilary & Doreen E.	G Rankin

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2017	Rosemary Marshall Tel: 663774	Jean Rance Tel: 662461	Connie Johnstone Tel: 01899 308764	Doreen Dixon Tel: 750295	
5 Mar	D. Evans M. Main	M. Caddell A. Burroughs	C. Johnstone S. Tian	Soup 7 March Jamie & Janet	S Cardwell
12 Mar	N. Broadbridge S. Cardwell	M. Gibson J. Patrick	J. Comrie	14 March Ruby & Joyce	D Dixon
19 Mar	S. Russell R. Marshall	L. Rickards E. Baxter	N. Broadbridge	21 March Diana & Connie	R Burgon
26 Mar	G. Rankin D. Evans	N. Broadbridge C. Johnstone	A. Comrie	28 March Hilary & Doreen E.	R Evans
2 April	M. Main S. Russell	J. Rance K. Rance	A. Gray	4 April Jamie & Janet	D Dixon
9 April	N. Broadbridge S. Cardwell	M. Caddell A. Burroughs	M. Gibson J. Patrick	11 April Ruby & Joyce	G Rankin

DATE	DIARY	READERS	FIRST LESSON	SECOND LESSON	GOSPEL
<u>2017</u> 5 Feb	4 before Lent	J Rance	Isaiah 58: 1-9a	1 Cor'thians 2: 1-12	Matthew 5: 13-20
12 Feb	3 before Lent	ALL AGE	SERVICE	TBA
19 Feb	2 before Lent	R Evans	Genesis 1: 1 - 2.3	Romans 8: 18-25	Matthew 6: 25-34
26 Feb	Sunday Before Lent	R Cleary	Exodus 24: 12-18	2 Peter 1: 16-21	Matthew 17: 1-9

DATE	DIARY	READERS	FIRST LESSON	SECOND LESSON	GOSPEL
2017 5 Mar	Lent 1	L Rickards	Genesis 2: 15-17 & 3: 1-7	Romans 5: 12-19	Matthew 4: 1-11
12 Mar	Lent 2	P Clark	Genesis 12: 1 -4a	Romans 4: 1-5 & 13-17	John 3: 1-17
19 Mar	Lent 3	R Burgon	Exodus 17: 1-17	Romans 5: 1-11	John 4: 5-42
26 Mar	Mothering Sunday	ALL AGE	SERVICE	TBA
2 April	Lent 5	D Dixon	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	Romans 8: 6-11	John 11: 1-45
9 April	Palm Sunday	J Hill	TBC	TBC	TBC

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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