



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DECEMBER '25 - JANUARY '26

Schedule of Services

December

Sunday 7

Advent 2

08.30 – Said Eucharist

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 14

Advent 3

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 21

Advent 4

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

18.30 – Christingle

Wednesday 24

Christmas Eve

20.30 – Carol Singing

21.30 – Midnight Eucharist

Thursday 25

Christmas Day

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 28

Christmas 1

10.30 – Sung Eucharist (Lamington)

10.30 – Sung Eucharist (Lanark)

January

Sunday 4

The Epiphany

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 11

Epiphany 1 – Baptism of the Lord

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 18

Epiphany 2

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 25

Epiphany 3

10.30 – Sung Eucharist (Lamington)

10.30 – Sung Eucharist (Lanark)

February

Sunday 1

Epiphany 4

08.30 – Said Eucharist

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 8

Epiphany 5

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

News in the Pews

- We hope that you are feeling the benefit of the new overhead heaters which members of our Property Team have been fitting on our behalf. They look much neater than the old ones and give off a much better heat. Please let the Property Team or the Rector know what you think of them.
- On the first Wednesday of every month we now have a Taize service at 6 pm in the church. Please consider coming along to one. They are prayerful, meditative, contemplative experiences, conducted in candlelight.
- Brunch & Browse, our fellowship and formation group, is back up and running with a new course. Day – Thursday. Venue – The Hall. Time: 12.30 until 2. Indicate your interest in attending by signing up on the sheet at the back of the church or by emailing the Curate – Jacqueline.fenton@outlook.com
- Congratulations and Very Best Wishes to John and Myra Murphy on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.
- It's great to have The Revd Liz Clelland back among us after her jaunt to the north of Spain to walk the Camino de Santiago. Congratulations and All Good Wishes to her as she celebrates her 70th birthday.

A Message from Our Treasurer

Bobby and Sandra Burgon, after what seems an interminable wait, are scheduled to move house late November/ early December (new address on back cover). Please do not hand deliver anything for the treasurer to Hyndford Road after 25 November.

Their new address is;
16 Mill View, Hyndford Park, Lanark ML11 8FT



Clergy Cogitations



For all of us, privately and publicly, 2025 will have been a mixed year. Years are always like that. Hopes and fears, dreams and nightmares. The same kind of mixture can be found in the Christmas story, and you don't have to look too hard to find it. The incarnation of Jesus is never going to be sanitised or made pretty no matter how much tinsel we put around it or how often we try to hide behind the lie that Christmas is really just all about the children! There is,

however, beauty, awe and wonder in the Christmas story, but there is also pain, uncertainty and despair. All of these we find in the world, so all of these have their place in the stories of Christmas.

As we write, those mixed feelings are dominating our news. The situation in America. The wars in The Holy Land and Ukraine. The tensions across the globe. For some there is excitement and possibilities in the things that are happening in the world. We find ourselves with the others - rather perplexed and astonished.

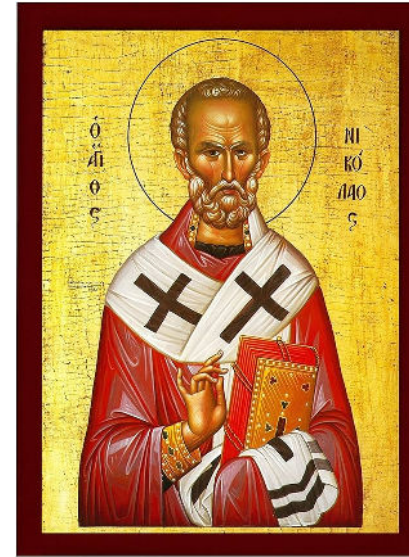
We will not despair, though the world is turning upside down. We will not despair, though the hurts are real. We will not despair, though walls may be built. We will not despair, though light is flickering. We will not despair, because hope will come. We will not despair, because truth will triumph. In all that has happened in our world in 2025, much of which has saddened and dismayed, faith will give the courage, the strength, the vision and the resilience that is needed. Divisions must be bridged, and we, the children of faith, have to be the people to do this. We will not despair, because although our hopes and dreams have not always carried the day, we believe the arc of God's justice bends inexorably towards mercy. We work steadily to see God's kingdom, in all its challenging discomfort, established. We will not despair, because there is, always, hope.

The story of Christmas has many meanings: it speaks to the elated and the despondent. It also transcends the cares and worries of this present age. That is why the Christmas story shines. It shines in the world, despite everything. It shines in our private lives, despite everything. It shines because it tells of God with us, a light in every darkness, and a hope in every despair.

May the light and hope of Christmas shine in your lives and homes now and throughout the coming New Year.

Jackie & Drew

St Nicholas – a much-loved saint



One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.

Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten - in bygone years boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many people feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

Nigel Beeton writes: When you are singing 'While Shepherds watched their flocks by night' this Christmas, consider the aeronautical and musical display which the angels put on! Even if you're an angel, you don't learn those skills overnight!

Flying Lessons

The angels that the shepherds saw
Whose singing led them to adore
The new-born Jesus in a stall
At one time could not fly at all!

To hover, singing, o'er a hill
While playing harps – well, that takes skill!
And blowing trumpets as you fly
Without falling from the sky?

So novice angels all must go
And learn the facts that they must know.
Aerodynamics, and such things
Before they even get their wings!

Then they practice flying well
For crashing just might break the spell
The shepherds won't be 'sore afraid'
As laughter drowns the carols played!

It's sad, but some are never meant
For soaring through the firmament.
But they can spend eternal days
Writing hymns of angel-praise!

But some soon grasp the things they're taught
Becoming singing aeronauts!
Formation flying? Piece of cake!
And what an awesome sight they make!

And, like the angels in the sky
God teaches us both how and why
That we should learn, this Christmastime
To praise His name in song and rhyme!

(P.S. You have to be an angel to fly. Don't try this at home! 🙄)

By Nigel Beeton



New Heaters for the Church

The "industrial" ceramic heaters that were installed in the church some 20 years ago have reached the end of their life. They have been very effective, giving out an intense heat, but their high power consumption means that they have become expensive to run. Also, other than manually switching them off and on, there is no way of controlling them so sometimes the church feels cold and sometimes it's too hot.

The new heaters we have sourced and are currently installing can each be controlled wirelessly using an "app" on a mobile phone via the church wifi. They can be programmed to automatically switch on and off as required, and they each have a thermostat so they will switch off once the church reaches a set temperature. They have a slightly lower power output and emit a gentler, less intense heat. However, temperature measurements indicate that the pew "ledges" still reach the same temperature as was achieved with the old heaters. So, overall, these new heaters promise a more comfortable experience as well as some cost savings. We also think they look better!

Finally it is possible to programme the new heaters to come on when the outside temperature drops close to freezing, meaning that they can be used to provide some frost protection. This will hopefully allow us to eventually switch off the gas boilers, enabling us to decarbonise our heating.



The Torch – The people who inspired

We have all known people who have shaped our lives. Loved ones. Friends. People of courage and integrity, people who have triumphed over adversity, people who never knew the impact of their quiet, humble service, a silent but still influential “cloud of witnesses”, who made us the people we are. Alive, or now dead, they continue to shine like torches in our personal walk of faith, especially during these challenging times. We are introducing a new magazine feature called “The Torch” in which you are invited to share your Torch story as a source of inspiration, motivation, and strength to our whole church community. Articles should be maximum 400 words, less if a photograph is to be included. If you would like help in writing your story, please contact Ruth Coates. Otherwise your articles should be submitted to Sylvia before each magazine deadline. Someone has left God’s fingerprint in your life. Who was he? Who was she?



The Torch – The people who inspired Granny Martindale, shared by Ruth Coates

Granny Martindale died when I was only two years old. She was no blood relative, but within the family she was always known as Granny, a woman of unswerving faith, whose own life was filled with unimaginable tragedy.

Married to William, Granny had six children. However, in an age of high infant mortality, five of these children died in infancy, or early childhood. The sixth, Tom, survived until he was nineteen years old but then he, too, died, on his way home from a POW camp, after the Armistice signed in 1918.

By this time William had also died so, in her early forties, Granny was left alone, widowed and childless. However, far from capitulation, Granny did something extraordinary. In an age before the introduction of modern maternity services, Granny became the local, unofficial midwife. She delivered dozens of babies and then, on September 12th, 1930, she delivered my mum.

Granny became a powerful presence in my mum's life. Perhaps mum helped to heal the gaping wounds of bereavement. Perhaps mum gave Granny the love that she had never had the opportunity to experience. Whatever the reason, Granny became a second mum to my mum. It was Granny who took mum away to Blackpool for

holidays from time to time. It was Granny who paid for baby clothes, school uniforms, and extra food for the family. At the age of eleven, Mum won a scholarship to attend the local grammar school. Grandad, being a man of his time, thought education for girls to be a pointless and expensive luxury, but Granny argued, and Granny prevailed, and mum went to grammar school!!!! In many ways, Granny was a woman ahead of her times.

However, more lasting even than her sacrificial giving, more powerful even than her emotional connection, was the strength of a life ethos, emanating from a profound Christian belief system. Her faith informed her life, gave her the strength to bear each blow and, like a blazing torch, was passed on through mum, and into every following generation. More than half a century after her death, we still talk about Granny Martindale with respect, with pride, and with gratitude.

Truly, she was God’s fingerprint in our lives.

Christingle Service



The Christingle Service will be held on Sunday 21 December at 6.30pm.

This is a lovely family service which blesses the Christingles and is followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church hall.

Do come and join us and get into the joy and spirit of Christmas.

Camino 2025



On September 10th I set off from my accommodation in St Jean -Pied-de-Port, France, to begin the first section of the Camino, The Way of St James. I left full of excitement and a little trepidation, wondering what experiences and adventures would have along the way. I will share some of my experiences, and photographs in forthcoming magazines.

Each Camino undertaken is different and unique to each pilgrim, and however long or short the journey each is complete in its own way.

Two things were occupying my thoughts as I set off.

One: An awareness of the frailty in my body. A new experience for me on the Camino for on previous times I've walked it, I have felt strong and had no thoughts that I might not complete the whole walk. This time from the beginning I had back pain.

Two : I resolved to engage more readily with other travellers. It may surprise you to know that I, by nature, am a solitary person. I like my own company, but I decided this time I would make sure I didn't keep myself to myself.

So, the first morning over breakfast I spent time chatting to a group from Northern Ireland. They were a lively bunch and very excited to be on the Camino for the first time.

Our paths crossed a few times on the 14 miles of the first section, which is mostly uphill over the Pyrenees. We chatted and one of the men shouted, "Keep going Scotland!" when I was flagging a little. At one of the resting places, I got a group photo of us, which I was glad to get, for after the first section I did not see them again.



One thing that is a real blessing to pilgrims is the kindness offered by strangers, whether it's fellow travellers, staff at cafes or bars, or hosts at hostels or hotels. There's a saying on the Camino, "The Camino will provide" And that's certainly been my experience over the years.

On day four of my journey, I had been walking for 15 miles in temperatures of 35 degrees. As I arrived in the town I was staying in that night, I was feeling lightheaded and a bit nauseous, and I just couldn't work out where my accommodation was. I was wandering around and just about at the point of sitting down at the side of the road, when a woman approached and asked if I was alright. I said, "no, I think I am lost." I showed her my map and she said she knew where the hostel was, and she would ask her husband to drive me there. I made to go to the car, but she insisted on taking me to her home where she gave me water and a chance to recover a little. She then told me the owner of the hostel and she were friends and she phoned ahead to say we were on the way. Before we left her husband said, "I am part Scottish" and he donned a "see you Jimmy" hat to prove it.

Such kindness shown by two complete strangers, who showed true hospitality to a pilgrim on the way.

The hospitality of the Camino, a reminder to all of us to be aware of fellow travellers we meet day in and day out. Each encounter an opportunity to show the hospitality of Jesus, in a kind word or action.



"Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey and companions on the road,

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load"

Blessings, Liz

Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr John Wilcox who will be going to London shortly to receive a very prestigious award, the Sir Andrew Bryan Medal. Below is the citation.



John's journey with Scottish Association for Metals (SAM) began in 1983 when he was first appointed Honorary Secretary. His dedication has been unwavering ever since. In 1998, he briefly stepped away from his Secretary role to serve as the Regional Representative of the Institute of Materials for Scotland and Ireland. However, his commitment to SAM brought him back as President in 2003, and he resumed his role as Secretary in 2005, a position he still holds today.

Beyond his invaluable contributions to SAM, John was a member of the Council of the Institute of Materials, Minerals, and Mining from 2009 to 2019 and served on the Institute's Accreditation Committee. He also represented SAM at the Federation of Engineering Societies in Glasgow (now Engineering Scotland) and acted as its Secretary from 2000 to 2012.

John has been the heart and soul of the association for many years. Notably, during the COVID-19 pandemic, he led SAM into the digital age, maintaining regular lectures and expanding the audience and speakers to a global scale, significantly enhancing the association's appeal beyond Scotland.

John's leadership is evident in every aspect of the association, from organizing events and supporting office bearers to updating and maintaining the membership and constitution. He ensures that all operations run smoothly and efficiently.

He is also actively involved in various association activities, such as site visits and engaging with student societies. John tirelessly works to expand the network of Scotland's metals, materials, and manufacturing industry, connecting students with industry professionals. His innovative ideas continually bring like-minded individuals together, fostering a vibrant Scottish materials and manufacturing network.

John is truly the pillar of the association and a remarkable ambassador for SAM. His dedication to promoting the advancement of the science and technology of metals, alloys, and allied materials within Scotland is unparalleled.

Autumn Ladies

On the 22nd October we had a very interactive forum with Willie Mitchell of 3R Energy about Wind Turbines. Contrary to belief, the number of turbines being built is limited. They are removed and recycled at the end of their lifespan. Items such as seats and bus shelters are made from recycled turbines, the blades and the body being used for different objects.

Willie told us Scotland was heading in the right direction for net zero consumption by 2040. Due to our weather conditions Scotland was ideal to create energy using onshore wind power. Offshore turbines were badly affected by the weather and salt conditions. In areas where the wind farms are active the communities are benefitting financially. Three local areas were reported in the Gazette of receiving such grants the week Willie visited us. Thus improving community life. The turbines had no adverse effect on grazing animals.

Bill Jack visits on the 5th November giving us an account of Kentigern's Way, the Pilgrim's route, and Doris and Ulrich will tell us about their journey into the development of Lanark's Gin Distillery on the 19th November. We then arrive at our last meeting of the year on the 3rd of December at which we will be entertained by Charlie Todd on his accordion and share Christmas lunch.

We will restart on Wednesday 14th January with a new syllabus of exciting speakers/activities ahead of us.

Join us on a cold winter's day for companionship, entertainment, hot tea/coffee, cake and a blether.
See you there,

Isobel Malcolm



Christmas Quiz

Board Games Theme

By Bob Rabagliati



1. What is the name for a boxed collection of Games?
2. What is the game 'Checkers' otherwise known as in the UK?
3. Which Board Game has the editions called Genus and Ruby?
4. Which word guessing game, inspired by Charades, was invented by Robert Angel?
5. How many ships does each player have in 'Battleship'?
6. Which Chess pieces cannot move backwards?
7. How many wedges do you need to collect in Trivial Pursuit?
8. In Scrabble how many points would you score if you played the word 'Quickly'?
9. On a standard Monopoly board what colour is Bond Street?
10. Which Board Game features an erratic mule?

Answers

1. Compendium
2. Draughts
3. Trivial Pursuit
4. Pictionary
5. Five
6. Pawns
7. Six
8. 25 (Q 10 + U 1 + I 1 + C 3 + K 5 + L 1 + Y 4)
9. Green
10. Buckaroo

Laughter is the Best Medicine

The Wrong Gift

A young couple began to assemble a special Christmas gift they had bought for their children. They had bought a kit for a tree house, but it didn't make sense. Then they realised that the materials were for a sailboat, so they wrote to the company to complain. The company's reply was brief: "While we regret the inconvenience this mistake must have caused you, we are more concerned about the man who is out on a lake somewhere, trying to sail your tree house."

Oops!

A vicar gave his daughter a puppy for Christmas. An hour later, he found her in the kitchen, looking sadly at a puddle in the centre of the floor. "Look Dad," she said, "My pup runneth over."

Weird Christmas

Christmas is weird – at what other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat sweets out of your socks?

Let's play

Four-year-old to her two-year-old sister: "Let's play Christmas. I'll be Father Christmas, and you can be a present and I'll give you away."

Don't eat

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitus.

Helpers

What do you call Santa's helpers? Subordinate Clauses.

Keep it a surprise

Three-year-old Lily was helping her mother wrap a present for her father. While wrapping, her mother told Lily about keeping the present a secret so it would be a surprise. After the present was wrapped, Lily proudly put it under the tree.

When her father asked her if he could shake it and guess what's inside, she said very seriously, "No, that's not possible. T-shirts don't rattle."

Santa's sleigh

Father Christmas nervously went for his sleigh-driving test. He came rushing back in a thunder of reindeer and pulled up in front of the toy factory. "At last!" he shouted, "No-el plates!"



We've got online carol-singers again!

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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