



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DECEMBER 2021 – JANUARY 2022



Advent & Christmas Service Schedule



December 2021

Sunday 28 November
Advent Sunday
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist
6.30 pm Advent Carols by
Candlelight

Sunday 5 December
Advent 2
8.30 am – Eucharist
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 12 December
Advent 3
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 19 December
Advent 4
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist
6.30 pm Christingle

Friday 24 December
Christmas Eve
11 pm – Midnight Eucharist

Saturday 25 December
Christmas Day
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 26 December
Christmas 1
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

January 2022

Sunday 2 January
Christmas 2
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 9 January
Baptism of Jesus
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 16 January
Epiphany 2
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 23 January
Epiphany 3
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 30 January
Epiphany 4
10.30 Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6 February
Candlemas
10.30 Sung Eucharist



Advent Carols by Candlelight

Advent Sunday

Sunday 28th November at 6.30 pm



Christingle Service

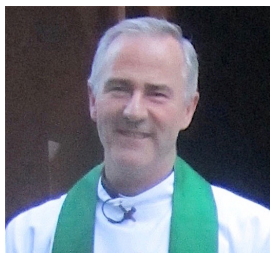
Sunday 19th December at 6.30 pm

Clergy Cogitations

Dear Friends

We are approaching the deepest and darkest time of the year. We look back at the year that has passed with all its changes and challenges; the world we live in seems beset by sorrow, conflict and noise. Politicians argue and countries are almost destroyed by war or want.

Thousands of people are on the move, crossing seas and continents in search of a better, peaceful life.



At Christmas time we hear again the story of one family's journey under orders from their Imperial masters. Joseph and Mary are forced to leave the safety of Nazareth and travel for days to reach Bethlehem, to be counted, named, put on a list of residents of an occupied country. They will soon have a baby, another name to be recorded, and Mary needs a place to rest. In a quiet, dark stable, Jesus is born, laid in a manger and adored by Mary and Joseph. God appears in the most unlikely place, unheralded, unseen, unknown except by a few shepherds and three strangers from the East.

If we stop this Christmas, stand still for a while, and wait, perhaps we will hear the Christ-child in the darkest corner of some desperate street in a bombed out city. Perhaps we will see the light of hope shining in the distance, drawing us all to its penetrating fire.

Light looked down
and saw darkness.
"I WILL GO THERE", SAID LIGHT.
Peace looked down
and saw war.
"I WILL GO THERE", SAID PEACE.
Love looked down
and saw hatred.
"I WILL GO THERE", SAID LOVE.
So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love,
came down and crept in beside us. (Iona Community)

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7)

May I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year

Drew

Christmas Presence (Isa 9:6, 7:14)

Unto us a child is born

To us a son is given ...

And you will call Him Immanuel

God with us.

Jesus, God actually with us.

God's greatest gift.

Born into weakness and vulnerability

Sharing life's raw reality,

Family rows, family rejoicing, Broken relationships, broken hearts,

Grief and great suffering,

Rejection and injustice,

Despair and death.

Yet through it all

Still the gift goes on

Revealing God's grace and power

And peace to overcome.

This is a gift that cannot be wrapped,

That will never break

Or pass its sell-by-date.

This is Jesus

The greatest gift.

Receive God's Christmas presence

And walk on with him.

By Daphne Kitching



Monastic Musings



Advent is for many a time where the spiritual life intensifies. The sense of waiting for the Lord is expressed with poignancy through the choice of liturgical readings drawn from some of the very beautiful texts the various prophets in the Old Testament notably Isaiah. The prayer of Advent is the longing of the heart for God expressed in the simple prayer. Come Lord Jesus.

We know that the Lord has already come among us so why do we pray in our hearts Come Lord Jesus.

I believe that the Lord is constantly coming towards each one of us. He is constantly gazing in our direction with a burning love that stops us on our tracks and brings us to a place of gentle peace in his presence. The Lord is reaching out to us, extending his hand, inviting us to take his, as we walk this pilgrimage on earth. His coming to us through those in our lives that help us on the way, through times of hardship and sadness. He comes to others through us, as his grace transforms our lives and the lives of those whom we meet along the way.

In the monastic life - there is a spirituality of waiting. Waiting for that Union with the Lord which will be so complete and beyond our expectations when we meet him face to face. The unspeakable joy expressed by Paul when he recounts the mysteries of his union with God in prayer that left him without words.

Monks and Nuns wait. They are sentinels who watch over the city which turns and moves with the business of life. They rise in the night to pray in praise and wait in the silence of the choir stall for a murmur of his eternal voice calling each of us his beloved. There is a mission of prayer for the entire creation punctuated with moments of praise, moments of silence with the Holy Scriptures and moments of joy in the communion and fellowship shared around the common table and the common work.

We all wait. Wait for that something more, that only God can give. We wait in hope, with anticipation, perhaps with a sigh which is the spirit praying in us. While we wait, we pray: Come Lord Jesus, and then one silence filled night in the beauty of creation a Star shines and the light is the sign that the beloved bridegroom has arrived. And then we will be filled with a joy that transforms us in an instant. Amen

Gerry Creaney

What is a Labyrinth?



A labyrinth is a walking meditation, a path of prayer. It has only one path that leads from the outer edge in a circuitous way to the centre. There are no tricks to it and no dead ends. Unlike a maze where you lose your way, the labyrinth is a spiritual tool that can help you find your way. When walking the labyrinth this is a time to quiet the mind and release your troubles. Open your senses and focus on the process of taking slow and deliberate steps. Bring to mind a prayer or spiritual question to contemplate during the walk to the centre. Walking the labyrinth in this way can be surprisingly calming and clarifying for your thoughts and allows for a level of focus that can be difficult to find in a busy life.

The labyrinth in the photograph is on a beach in Iona with some of our congregation walking it during a retreat that we had there a few years ago. A new labyrinth is being constructed on the sundial lawn at Castlebank Park and should be ready in time for an Easter Pilgrimage.

NEW KITCHEN IN THE CHURCH HALL



The new kitchen in the church hall is now finished and it looks magnificent. It includes a fridge/freezer, new cooker, sink and a fabulous commercial dishwasher that can wash all the dishes in 3 minutes!

Grateful thanks to John Patrick and Danny Craig for all their hard work installing it - what a magnificent job you have done.

John also repaired all the wall panels in the entry porch as they were rotten.



Coffee Returnsbriefly!

It was wonderful to get back to normal on Sunday 7 November by going across the road to the church hall for coffee after the morning service. This is an important part of Christ Church's life as it allows church members to socialise and has been greatly missed during the pandemic lockdown. However, the pleasure was short lived as during the week part of the ceiling collapsed, so no more coffee until the repairs are done.



Congratulations to Margaret and David Hannah on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Thank you all at Christ Church for the wonderful flowers and hand made card. Much appreciated
Margaret and David

Word Challenge

How many words can you make from **EPISCOPAL**
(You should be able to find at least 50)

Lee's Licensing



Thursday 14th October was a wild and woolly night weatherwise, but that did not deter 17 brave souls from Christ Church from making the long journey down to St Andrew's Church Ardrossan for the special occasion of our former Curate Lee's licensing as Priest in Charge of the North Ayrshire Team.

With the lifting of restrictions it was good to see a full church for the service. The Rector, being Bishop's Chaplain (as well as Lee's Training Incumbent), had prepared and rehearsed the service to perfection, The Revd Canon Jane Ross (Rector of St Nnian's Prestwick) preached a great sermon and The Bishop (The Rt Revd Kevin Pearson) was in sparkling form, obviously delighted with Lee's appointment in Ardrossan and Dalry.

While we will all miss Lee from our midst we know that now was the right time for him to progress to the next stage in his ministry. There is no doubt he will do well in it, with God's grace and guidance.



A new face joins our Ministry Team

Rob Thain has moved to Lanark and, as an licensed Lay Reader, he has joined the Ministry team. He preached a very thought provoking sermon on Sunday 17 October. We look forward to his ministry with us.

Christmas Crackers!



- What's the absolute best Christmas present? A broken drum — you can't beat it!
- What happens if you eat Christmas decorations? You get tinsel-it is.
- What do Santa's elves learn in school? The elf-abet.
- What do you call an obnoxious reindeer? Rude-olph.
- What do grapes sing at Christmas? 'Tis the season to be jelly.
- What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet? The Christmas alphabet has noel.
- What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Ice Crispies.
- Who is never hungry at Christmas? The turkey—he's always stuffed.

How Father Christmas got where he is today

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back.

It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.



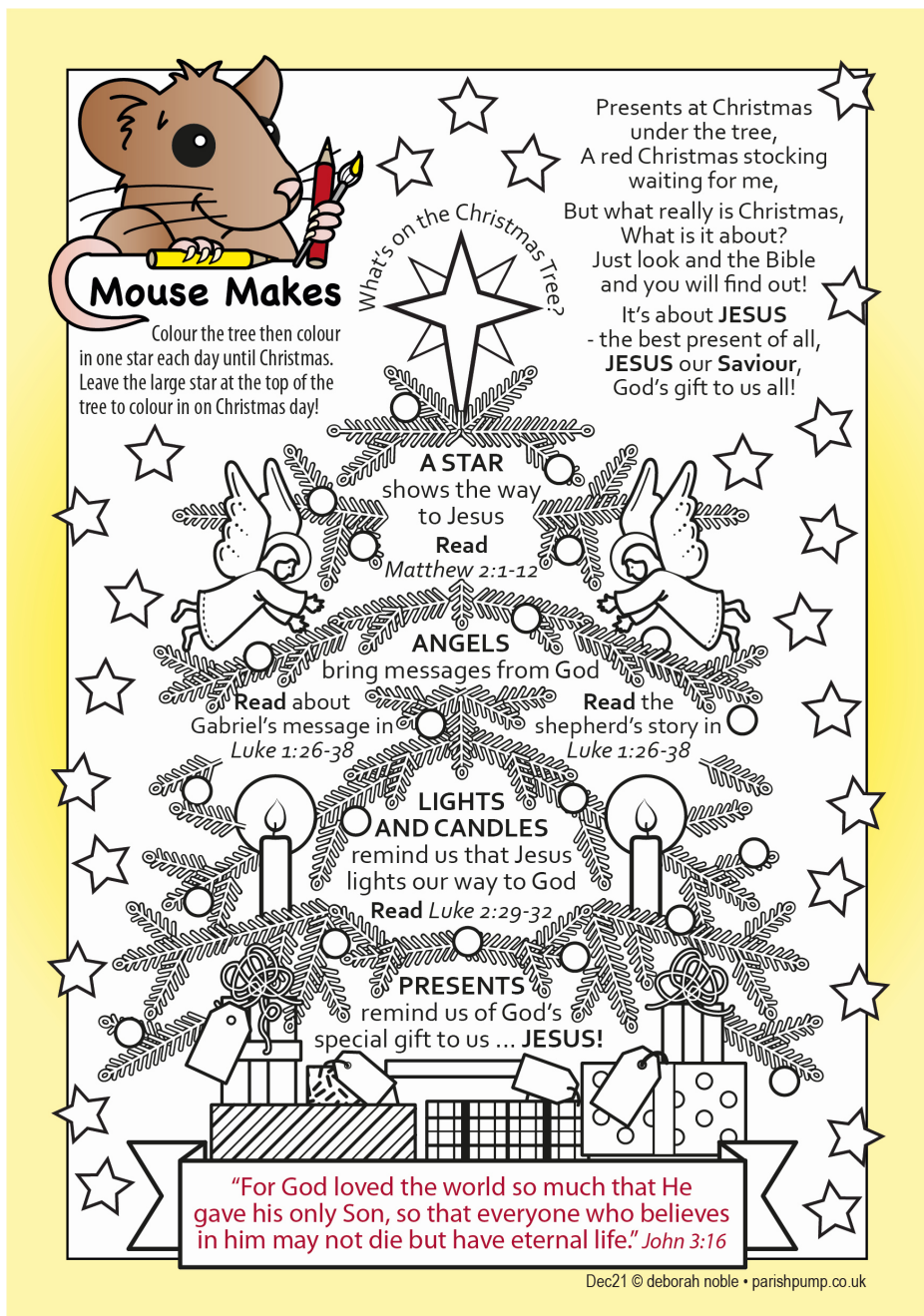
Quotes for December

Bells, the music bordering nearest heaven - Charles Lamb

Drive carefully this Christmas. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker. - Anon

Be kind to your mother-in-law, and if necessary, pay for her board at some good hotel. - Josh Billings

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around. - Anon



New bank

Mother decided that ten-year old Cathy should get something 'practical' for Christmas. "Suppose we open a savings account for you?" she suggested. Cathy was delighted. "It's your account, darling," mother said as they arrived at the bank, "so you fill out the application." Cathy was doing fine until she came to the space for 'Name of your former bank.' After a slight hesitation, she put down 'Piggy'.

Angel tidings

The little boy was to be an angel in the Christmas play and his one line was: "Behold, I bring you good tidings." He asked what tidings were and his mother explained that the word meant news.

On the night of the play, the youngster had stage fright and, after a long silence, blurted out: "Hey, have I got news for you!"

Star

At a rehearsal for a Sunday school Christmas tableau, the teacher carefully lined up four little 'cherubs'. Each carried a huge cut-out letter. As they stood side by side, the letters would spell out "STAR". A slight mix-up occurred, and those present in the church auditorium nearly fell out of their pews as the four little performers took their places – in reverse.

What the young monk found

A young monk was assigned to help other monks copy out the old canons and laws of the church by hand. On his very first day he noticed that all the monks were copying from copies, not from the original. So, the new monk pointed out that if someone had made even a small error in the first copy, that error would be continued in all the subsequent copies.

The head monk said: "You make a good point, my son." So he went down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts were held in a locked vault that had not been opened for hundreds of years. Hours went by and nobody saw the old abbot.

Finally, the old monk returned, looking distraught. "We missed the **R**! We missed the **R**! We missed the **R**! The word was... **CELEB R ATE!**"



We don't sing carols no more... you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!

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