



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DECEMBER '22 - JANUARY '23

Schedule of Services

December '22

Sunday 4th

Advent 2

08.30 am – Said Eucharist
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist
06.30 pm – Advent Devotion

Sunday 11th

Advent 3

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 18th

Advent 4

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist
06.30 pm – Christingle

Saturday 24th

Christmas Eve

11 pm – Midnight Eucharist

Sunday 25th

Christmas Day

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

January '23

Sunday 1st

The Naming of Jesus

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 8th

The Baptism of the Lord

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 15th

Epiphany 2

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 22nd

Epiphany 3

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 29th

Epiphany 4

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

February

Sunday 5th

Epiphany 5

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 12th

Epiphany 6

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist



Luke 2:14

News in the Pews

- Canon 35 permission has been granted for us to complete the new lighting scheme in the church. All of the bulbs in the nave, sanctuary, side chapel, music area, porch and vestries have been changed to money saving LEDs. The uplighters and colour wash lights are on order and should be installed by the time this magazine is published.
- Julie Black played the concert grand for one of our services recently. It was a treat to have live music once again. We hope that Julie will be willing to play again for us very soon.
- Our Harvest Festival was a great success again this year. Thanks to Jane Milliken for her magnificent floral displays and to everyone in the congregation who responded with such generosity to our appeal for easy-open, ring-pull tins of food for donation to the Foodbank in Carluke.
- Thanks also to everyone who decorated, filled and donated a Christmas Shoebox for the Blythswood Trust. We contributed lots of boxes. Margaret Hannah read out to the congregation a letter she had received, thanking us for the part we had played. It was very moving to hear how much these Christmas gifts are appreciated by the young people who receive them.
- Choir practices are now in full swing. With two Christmas lunches, an Advent Choral Devotion, a Christingle and all the Christmas Services to sing the workload over the next few weeks will be heavy. If you'd like to join us in the choir stalls, please speak to the Rector.



New members
welcome



Advent Choral Devotion

Sunday 27 November
6.30 pm

Mulled Wine &
Christmas Pies
served in the hall afterwards



Christingle

Sunday 18 December
6.30 pm

Mulled Wine &
Christmas Pies
served in the hall afterwards



Holy Trinity, Lamington

Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve
6.30 pm

A.G.M 2022

The AGM of the congregation took place in church on Sunday 23 October after the 10.30 am Sung Eucharist. Teas and coffees were served in the Memorial Chapel before the meeting began.

The meeting started in the customary way with prayer and a memorial of those members of the congregation who had died in the course of the previous year. The Rector then suggested that 5 of the reports in the Annual Report be selected for further comment and question. Those written by The Treasurer, The Rector, The PVG Co-ordinator, The Hall and The Buildings Convenor were chosen. The Church continues to attract new members and to grow, our finances remain in a very healthy state, the new lighting project in the church will be completed by Christmas, there were no PVG issues and the Hall, under the management of Peter Glancy, was being better used and more efficiently run.

The following vestry elections and appointments were made:

Alternate Lay Representative – Bobby Burgon

Treasurer – Bobby Burgon

People's Warden – Jane Milliken

Rector's Warden – Sheila Cardwell

Independent Examiner – The Accounting Crew

PVG Co-ordinator – Susan Tian

There were three nominations for two vestry positions. Following a ballot, Rob Thain and Margaret Hannah were elected.

The position of Lay Representative, made vacant following the resignation of Jean Patrick, remains unfilled.

The Rector thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication. He praised the many achievements of the past year and looked forward to even more developments in the year ahead.

Autumn Ladies

A warm invite to everyone to join the Autumn Ladies in Christ Church Hall on Wednesday, December 21st for fellowship and an afternoon of Carol singing led by choir master, Revd Canon Drew Sheridan between 2 - 4pm.

An opportunity for the menfolk to join us. Tea/coffee, Christmas cake and mince pies will be served. A Christmas raffle will also take place.

The Autumn Ladies were able to give the Fireman's charity a grand total of £31.50pence, from their table top sale on Wednesday 9th November.

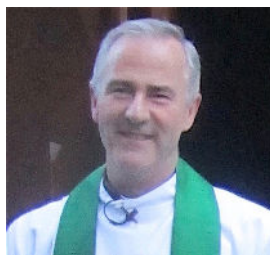
Thanks to all who donated and bought.

Isobel Malcolm

Clergy Cogitations

Dear Friends

How are you planning to spend Christmas this year? I know folk who have been planning events since September, with all their cards bought and written, presents wrapped, and delivery slots with local shops and supermarkets already booked. Annoying, aren't they?! And, of course, there are all the Christmas television adverts and channels that have been running since high summer. They're annoying too, aren't they?!!



What preparations will you be embarking upon, particularly since the restrictions around gathering and sharing and being together are more relaxed than they have been in recent years? Will it be the tried and tested routines? Will you be doing something different? What will stay the same? What will change?

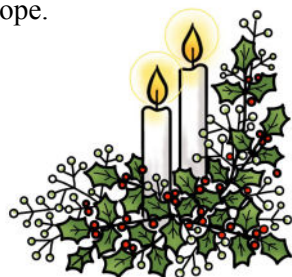
I was attracted by a design that said, "The first Christmas was pretty simple. It's okay if yours is too."

Whilst our traditions and ways of doing things have their importance, at the heart of the Christmas message is the unnerving but simple one: God, in Jesus, came to earth to show us what love looks like and this love is for every single one of us.

After the nearly three years that we have had, with all the challenges and heartbreaks, all the signs of hope and steady resilience, yet again the world, and everyone in it, needs to hear the simple direct message of God's love for us, around us, with us.

Whatever your plans are for the Christmas and New Year celebrations, whether you are with family, friends or on your own, my prayer for you is God's richest, warmest deepest blessing. Simple or fancy, may the good news of God with us fill your homes and your lives with light, peace and hope.

Drew



90 years of broadcasting the Royal Christmas Messages

This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III. He follows in a tradition that spans three generations.

It was 90 years ago, on 25th December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.

King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the second world war.

Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her Christmas message could be televised – live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.

But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3pm UK broadcast continued every year – except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary Royal Family, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. King Charles III is expected to give his first Christmas message this year.

by Tim Lenton

Monastic Musings



The build up to Christmas is full of TV advertisements. We get lured into thinking that wearing a certain perfume or cologne will transform us into the god/goddess that we always wanted to be. (I've fallen for that one and I can assure you it doesn't work!!) When we go to the shops the decorations are already up and the toys, cakes and delicious foods are ready to be snapped up.

We spend a lot of time anticipating the day. Some – with happiness; others – with sadness or apprehension.

Preparing for Christmas in the monastery was quite a bit different. The focus was on celebrating the day that God reached down from the heavens and became one with his creation, revealing his magnificence in a lowly manger in Israel. Jesus, the face of God with us.

In 2013 I was asked to join the small monastery of brothers in Montreal, Canada. So, in obedience to the call, I packed up my things in France and flew out in September to find myself in the middle of an Indian summer in a bustling and very diverse city.

I spent a lot of time working in the kitchen. At the end of October I looked out of the kitchen window and saw that it was snowing. Oh, how cute is that, I said to myself.

But the cuteness wore off when it didn't stop snowing until the end of March the next year!! The bustling city was covered in a white blanket of deep, very deep snow. No one remained outside for very long and a silence – a perceptibly still silence – filled the air.

Preparing for Christmas was delightful in this silence. It lent itself to the watchful waiting of Advent. We wait for his birth and in the stillness we hear a whisper that he is near. At night in the darkness, while waiting for his arrival, there was a light coming towards us. This is the waiting that we do in Advent. We know he will come and we anticipate this in the Liturgy and in the readings from the prophets who pointed to his Kingdom that was coming.

I came to love the snow in Canada. I came to love the quiet rest it gave to the city so that we, in turn, could contemplate who and what we are in preparation for the celebration of eternal life that reached down from heaven and still today draws up powerfully into the Kingdom that he wishes for us. Not the kingdom of our own making, but the Upside Down Kingdom that sees God born in a poor hovel. Now that's good news.

Gerry Creaney

25 December

Thank Dickens for Christmas as you know it!

Ever wonder where many of our Christmas traditions come from? A surprising amount of our modern Christmas celebrations can be traced back to the well-loved story of 'A Christmas Carol', by Charles Dickens.

When you read 'A Christmas Carol', you discover almost a template of the 'ideal Christmas' which we still hold dear today. Dickens seems to have selected the best of the Christmas celebrations of his day (he ignored some of the odd excesses) and packaged them in such a way as to give us traditions that we could accommodate and treasure – more than a century later.

So, for instance, in A Christmas Carol, Christmas is a family day, with a family-centred feast. In a home decorated with holly and candles the characters enjoy a roast turkey, followed by Christmas pudding. They give their loved ones presents. Scrooge even gives donations to charity (!).

And all the while outside, there is snow and frost, while church bells ring, and carol singers sing, and hope for mulled wine. In 'A Christmas Carol' there is even a Father Christmas – in the shape of Christmas Present. Only the Christmas tree itself came later, when Prince Albert imported 'a pretty German toy' that won the heart of the English court, and hence the rest of Victorian society.

The Best Gift Ever

Good News ...For all the People (Luke 2:10NIV)

For many people Christmas is a sad time.

Author Jon Walker writes: I'm sitting in a fast food restaurant observing a young girl celebrating an early Christmas with her mother. Her presents are spread across the booth and she just said, "I miss you mommy". "I miss you too baby", her mother replied. Beyond the booth...a woman casually watches them. Using my journalist's eye, I put it all together. The watching woman is a Social worker supervising a structured visit for a mother and child who are doing their best to celebrate Christmas...a few minutes later foster parents arrive and take the little girl home. The mother leaves alone.

There's a darker side to Christmas we rarely acknowledge, we create this fantasy that seldom matches reality. Even in the best of homes...many Christmas memories are full of tension, not tinsel...The holidays are just another excuse for mummy to get drunk, or Daddy to be with his new family...yet another reminder that the one we love is far away or perhaps never coming back.

The suicide rate is extraordinarily high in December, depression as common as 'Joy to the World', more people 'hurt' at Christmas than we initially imagine.

For those tired of the hollow hope & false fantasies of Christmas, the Good News is, God is with us. Jesus came to earth to 'bring...good news...for all people, and regardless of your situation, Christmas is the best gift you'll ever get because:-

1. It's the costliest you'll ever receive because it cost Jesus His Life.
2. It's the only gift that lasts forever.
3. It's the one gift you can enjoy for the rest of your life.

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Ken Scott

We three kings of Orient are... what?

"A cold coming they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey, in. The way's deep, the weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off, in *solstitio brumali*, the very dead of winter."

It was 1622, and the Bishop of Winchester, Launcelot Andrews, was preaching a magnificent sermon to King James I. Reckoned one of the best preachers ever, Launcelot Andrews' words were later taken up by T S Eliot and transformed into his wonderful poem 'The Journey of the Magi'. What a vivid picture – we can see it all! The camels' breath steaming in the night air as the kings, in their gorgeous robes of silk and cloth-of-gold, and clutching their precious gifts, kneel to adore the baby in the manger.

Yet the Bible does not give us as much detail as some people think. Tradition down the centuries has added a great deal more. For instance, we know from St Matthew that the magi were 'wise', or learned men of some sort, but we do not know if they were kings or not. The Bible tells us there were several; tradition has decided upon three, and even named them: Balthassar, Melchior, and Caspar (or Gaspar). But the Bible does tell us that the magi gave baby Jesus three highly symbolic gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Gold stands for kingship, frankincense for worship, and myrrh for anointing – anticipating His death.

There is a lovely ancient mosaic in Ravenna, Italy, that is 1,500 years old. It depicts the wise men in oriental garb of trousers and Phrygian caps, carrying their gifts past palm trees towards the star that they followed... straight to Jesus.



Christmas Day

Carols sound throughout the land
Heralding a special birth
Rejoicing as from Heaven's realm
Immanuel comes to bless the earth.

So in the town of Bethlehem
The Saviour Jesus gently lies,
Mary rocks the tiny child
As angels serenade the skies.

Shepherds told the awesome story
Divinity will now reside
As He who ruled in Heaven above
Yet Lord of all comes as a child.

By Megan Carter



Shoe Box Appeal

Margaret Hannah has received a letter of thanks from Blythswood Care following the delivery of our Christmas shoe boxes and donation of £500 from the church.

They wrote:

Thank you for your kind donation. Your support for Blythswood's Shoe Box Appeal helps to deliver practical aid and sends a powerful message that somebody cares.

Last winter Mihai Micula delivered boxes to a home for orphaned and abandoned children in Northwest Romania. The carer told him that, after he left, many of the teenagers had started to cry, hugging the presents which they had been given.

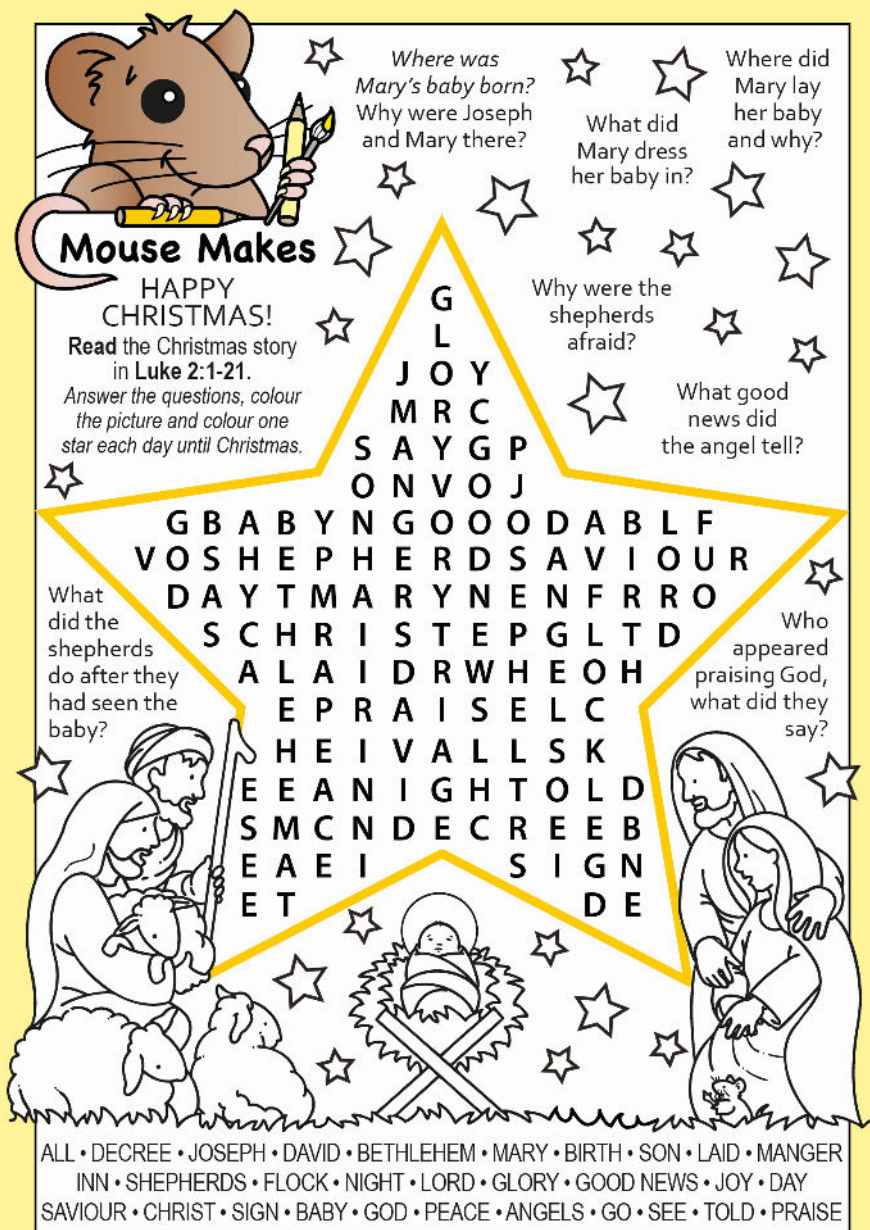
These young people keep asking themselves what is wrong with them, that no-one in their families wanted them. Their stories were so sad to hear. Some of them had slept with their Christmas boxes close to them.

Your gift helps shoebox distributors like Mihai to show the love of God in a practical way.

Thank you very much

ED It is heart warming to hear that our donations are making such a difference to people. Many thanks to Margaret for organising Christ Church's efforts.





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Visiting Father Christmas

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

Seasonal Smiles

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!"

"What part?" asked his mother. "I'm one of the three wise guys!"

Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

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

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.

Santa

I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.

Miscellaneous observations on life:

A lot of people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.

It is easy to do any amount of work - provided it isn't the work you are supposed to be doing.

Anyone who thinks talk is cheap never argued with a traffic warden.

Anything that is good and useful is usually made of chocolate.

One reason why a dog is such a lovable creature is that his tail wags instead of his tongue.



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

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

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: susan.tian02@icloud.com

Vestry:

Sheila Cardwell - Rector's Warden 01555 728802

Jane Milliken - People's Warden 01555 751514

Gerry Creaney 07871 250323

Margaret Hannah 01555 662100

Paula Moody 01555 660233

Rob Thain 07966 595156

Secretary - Joyce Moody

Ashburn, East Teaths, Kirkfieldbank, ML11 9UH 01555 660233

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

Church Hall Bookings: Peter Glancy, 01555 661859

Web site: **www.christchurchlanark.com**

Magazine Editor: Sylvia Russell: 01555 662676

E-Mail: **sylviarussell555@gmail.com**

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