



Shettleston New Church December 2024

Messenger magazine

DECEMBER 2024

Dear Friends

We see quite a range of different emotions displayed by the characters in the Nativity stories in Luke and Matthew's gospels -

- For Mary and Joseph, there was the stress of finding somewhere for Mary to give birth but later some precious memories to treasure in their hearts.
- The angelic choir sang of peace and goodwill.
- For the shepherds there was excitement following the angelic announcement and the wide-eyed wonder of seeing the Messiah in a manger.
- The wise men were determined to worship this baby king despite the challenges that they faced and were overjoyed to be able to finally bow down and give Him their gifts.
- Herod wanted to make Christmas go away, and his murderous attempt to do so led to terrible feelings of loss amongst some of Bethlehem's families.

Goodwill, excitement, stress, sadness, joy and treasured memories. Two thousand years later, we too are still experiencing many of these emotions at Christmas.

But the start of John's Gospel gives us a different perspective, one that transcends human emotion: "In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Whatever we may be feeling this Christmas, the truth of these wonderful words can bring us hope. My hope for you is that the light of Jesus will indeed fill your hearts this Christmas and beyond into 2025 - so much so that His light shines out to others through your words and actions. Or as Jesus put it in the Sermon on the Mount, "...let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and every blessing for the year ahead,

Louis

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT!

We are looking at the possibility of establishing a project working with pupils from Eastbank Academy later next year. This would involve lunchtime and/or after school activities. However, we would need a core of volunteers to help prepare and serve food and to chat to the young people. If you are available any weekday lunchtimes or 3.30-5 pm and think you might be interested, please let Louis know. We're not looking for a firm commitment at this stage but need to have an idea if we might have enough volunteers to make the project feasible.

UPCOMING SERVICES -

COMMUNION – SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2024 -2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Communion service at 11 am. The retiring collection will go towards supporting the work of Amanda Cunningham with Latin Link.

All Elders - Please meet for devotions in the small hall at 10.15 am.

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2024 – 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Morning Worship at 11 am.

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 2024 – 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

All-age Christingle Service at 11 am.

Carol Praise Service at 6.30 pm in the Church Hall.

CAROL PRAISE SERVICE

The annual Carol Service will take place in the Church Hall on Sunday 22 December at 6.30 pm.

Invite all your friends and relations to come and swell the singing so that it will be a joyful service leading us up to Christmas.

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE – TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER 2024

The Watchnight Service on Tuesday 24 December will begin with carol singing at 11.15 pm, followed by the main service at 11.30 pm, with the chance to wish each other 'Merry Christmas' just after midnight. It's a lovely service and, if you're not tucked up in bed awaiting Santa's arrival, then please think about coming along! There will be tea/coffee, mulled wine (non-alcoholic), mince pies, etc, after the service. The offering at the Watchnight Service will be donated to the Lodging House Mission (LHM) in East Campbell Street, whose work brings support to the homeless and to those struggling with social isolation across Glasgow.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE – WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER 2024

Christmas Day Family Service - A short celebratory all-age service in the church sanctuary at 11.00 am. Children (and adults!) are welcome to bring some of their presents to confuse the minister! As with the Watchnight Service, the offering will be donated to LHM.

SPRINGBOIG CARE CENTRE SERVICES

A service of Christmas lessons and carols will take place in the main lounge at Springboig Care Centre at 3 pm on Monday 23 December. After that, the next services will be at 3 pm on Wednesday 5 February led by Louis, and Wednesday 5 March led by Rev Tess Lowe.

MINISTER'S HOLIDAYS

Louis will be on annual leave from 26 December until 4 January. Pastoral cover will be provided by Rev Rhona McDonald of Carntyne & Cranhill Church (07931708314). Rev Peter Vincent, the retired minister of Glasgow City Church, will be leading the services on 29 December and 5 January.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

We started a young adults group in September. We typically have 6-8 young people coming along on a Sunday evening, a mix of senior school pupils (S5/6), students and those in employment. The leaders are Louis and Janie Reddick and Iain Currie. We've enjoyed getting to know each other better and growing in faith through some interesting discussions and Bible studies, as well as a games night in the church hall, a movie night and joining together with lots of other Christian youth groups at Magnitude worship nights. If any other young adults would like to join the group, please let Louis know.

DISCIPLESHIP FACILITATOR

How on earth have we reached the season of advent?! It is unbelievable to think that as I type this article, we have lit the first candle of the advent wreath and started opening advent calendars! By the time you read this article, we will have had our Christmas Prayer Experience, which I trust will have been a great success! My thanks go to Aileen, Aileen, Lynne and Yvonne for all their help in preparing and running this event.

We also have an Advent Bible Study taking place face to face on a Thursday morning at 10.30 am in the café area. All are welcome to come. If you are not able to come, but interested in the material, then I'm delighted to pass it on for you to read at your leisure!

The past month has seen a major change to my working pattern as I have now started working in Drumchapel. I have been asked many times how I am finding the work there. I am enjoying a fresh challenge and the people at St Mark's are on a par with the people at Shettleston New! Just a reminder that my days for working at Shettleston New are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, with Tuesday and Friday seeing me at Drumchapel.

Thanks to all who kindly donated to my sponsored walk/run over The Forth Road Bridge at the start of last month. I raised the unbelievable total of £1001 for Crossreach! My thanks for all your generosity!

Many thanks for the continuing prayers and support. I wish everyone and their families a peaceful Christmas and a Blessed New Year when it comes.

Douglas

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to our newest member, Elizabeth Black, who joined us in November.

DEATHS

"Blessed are the Dead which die in the Lord"

Joe Dunbar - 26 September 2024

Joe was a member of the Evangelical Church in Cathedral Street and raised a lot of money for good causes over the years through the institutions that he was involved in. He was a faithful friend and regularly visited the sick in hospitals and care homes. Joe was married to Janet for 47 years and she cared for him faithfully as Joe's health declined in recent times. Please continue to uphold Janet in prayer.

Betty Paterson – 29 September 2024

Betty was one of our longest serving members, having joined Eastbank in 1959, although ill-health had meant she hadn't been able to come to church for several years. Betty loved to sing whenever she got the opportunity and was also a longstanding member (and one-time Lady President) of Springboig Bowling Club. She shared a very happy marriage to Gavin for over 5 decades and adored being a granny to her three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. We continue to remember her daughters Christine and Jean and the wider family in our prayers.

Margaret Ward – 16 October 2024

Margaret was a remarkable woman in many ways. She rose to head up the Actuarial Department at FS Assurance and had a great love of travelling. Margaret was also a woman of great faith and she put her faith into action, serving in many capacities in the churches of which she was a member – initially Tollcross Central, then Carntyne Old and Shettleston New. This included many years as a Brownie leader and commissioner, serving on the Congregational Board alongside her husband Martin, and being a very committed member of the Guild. Her great skills as a baker and knitter were often put to good use at fundraising events. She was a much-loved sister, auntie and friend and we continue to remember her family in prayer.

Janet Guyan – 1 November 2024

Janet joined Shettleston New in 2009 but had been worshipping at Eastbank before the union, and at High Carntyne before that, although ill-health had meant she hadn't been at the church recently. She worked as a secretary for many years, and was married to David for more than 4 decades. She loved to knit and to cook and was a friend to many. We continue to uphold her son, Derek, and the wider family in our prayers.

PRAYER MEETINGS

The prayer meeting takes place on Wednesday at 1.15 pm in the small hall. Please come and join us as we pray for our church, our community and our world. Please note that there will be no prayer meeting on 25 December or 1 January.

FUNDRAISING –

FASHION SHOW

A huge "thank you "to all who attended on the night. It appeared yet again to be a successful evening going by the bags of clothes going out the door.

Special thanks to the person who made a cash donation after the show to bring the total up to the maximum we can make from this event. You know who you are and it was very much appreciated. The final total raised from the show was £406. Well done everyone.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 30 November was a great success. Not only was it well attended, but members of the congregation excelled in making, donating and giving of their time to make it such a success. A special thank you to the Community Choir for their performance during the Fayre - it certainly added to the enjoyment and increased the numbers coming along. The wonderful sum of £1,673.84 was paid into the Church bank account.

Well done to everyone and thank you for your support.

Grace Dunlop

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Boxes in which you can put Christmas cards for friends in the congregation will be out in the hall on Sundays 8, 15 and 22 December. It is up to everyone to check the boxes regularly to see if they have received cards, and to remove them. If not, they cannot be delivered, and end up in the recycling bin! Please make sure that the full name is on the envelope as many share the same Christian name.

COME AND SING CAFE

The Come and Sing Café has enjoyed another splendid year! We have visitors from many care homes, and we even have welcomed a couple of individuals who are still living at home! Our numbers can range from 6 or 7 people, right up to 39! It can certainly get lively! We meet on the first and third Mondays of each month, 2 pm -3.30 pm. We have a wide array of music, and sometimes a few guest singers too! The Come and Sing Café is open to anyone who lives with Dementia and their carers. We will start back on Monday 6 January 2025.

AUDITING OF ORGANISATION ACCOUNTS

Reminder: End of Year Accounts

A reminder to all treasurers of church organisations to have the accounts for 2024 submitted to me. Deadline date is Sunday 12 January 2025. Please email or speak to me if you need any assistance. Thank you.

Karen McChesney (treasurer.shettlestonnewchurch@gmail.com)

COMMUNITY CHOIR

We've been enjoying many opportunities to perform this term. Our Ladies Lunch at the Garfield House Hotel was a great success and raised £4,006 for the Beatson. We also loved singing at the Church Christmas Fayre and the Christmas market outside the East End Fox.

We're not done yet as we're going to be performing at a Christmas Celebration at Garthamlock Church at 7.15 pm on Thursday 12 December and would love you to join us. We're finishing by carol singing at Glasgow Fort (outside Next) from 7 pm on Thursday 19 December – please come and support us as we raise valuable funds for LHM. After the Christmas break, the choir will restart on Thursday 9 January at 7 pm.

TEARFUND QUIZ NIGHT

When I first had the idea of the Tearfund Quiz Night I thought we'd sell maybe 20 tickets. Gathering together a team was the easy part! On the night we managed to create a fabulous fun night for over 80 people. The total funds raised was in excess of £545. To date people are still talking of the fun and laughter they had along with meeting new friends. Enquiries are incoming about the next one....watch this space!

My sincere thanks to the team - Cameron, Margaret, Willie, Lynne, George and Douglas. Couldn't have happened without you all. Also thanks to everyone who came or supported and contributed to making it a good evening.

Irene Davison

POPPY SCOTLAND – FUNDRAISING

I would like to thank everyone who supported me for the Poppy Scotland appeal by buying poppies and cards and giving donations. It was much appreciated. The total raised was £255 for such a good cause. My grateful thanks.

Margaret Laing

CHURCH POPPIES

Our boxes were delivered to Poppy Scotland during the week following Remembrance Sunday. As yet we have not heard how much was collected in them. Thanks to all who contributed.

KIRK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday 25 February – 7.30 pm.

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 4 February – 7.30 pm.

CHURCH FLOWERS

"In Sweet Remembrance and with Grateful Thanks"



Flower lists for 2025 are now on both the front and back door noticeboards. If you wish to donate flowers for a specific Sunday please put your name against the date on one of these lists, or see Margaret Stevenson. If you have requested a specific Sunday every year this should already be filled in.

Over the past few years we have lost several members who provided flowers every year, leaving us with a number of free Sundays. Would you like to mark a special anniversary, a loved one's birthday, etc, by donating flowers for the church on the Sunday nearest the date?

For those wishing to make a contribution towards flowers on free Sundays, donation boxes are in both vestibules. Flowers are usually purchased and put into the church for you, but if you wish we can arrange for you to do it yourself.

Thanks to everyone who provided the beautiful flowers we have enjoyed seeing Sunday by Sunday during 2024.

THANKS

On behalf of my sister, Ishbel, and myself, I would like to thank you for all the prayers, thoughts and wishes of goodwill as we have undergone our kidney transplant. To have so many people thinking of us and willing us well has been completely overwhelming, and we are both massively grateful. So far things are looking good. Both relieved it's over and looking forward to a more normal life again.

Thank you to you all.

Love

Rhona

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers I received when my husband Joe passed away in September. Thanks also to everyone who kindly asked after him and kept him in their prayers, and for all the sympathy cards received. To Louis, thank you so much for the wonderful service at Daldowie.

I found great comfort from my church family.

Janet Dunbar

We would like to thank everyone for sponsoring us for our 10k run in October for the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. As a team, we raised an incredible total of £4,505. We greatly appreciate your generous donations for a charity that means so much to us.

With love and thanks,

Amy and David Booth

On behalf of my mother, Margaret Buchanan, I would just like to say a big thank you for prayers and visits. Thanks too for lifts for me to the hospital to visit my mother, and also for all the help and support I have been getting. I would also like to thank Louis for visiting my husband John in hospital. It is at times like these that you know who your friends are. God has given me strength to cope with everything I have had to do. I am so blessed.

Margaret Chalmers

WEDNESDAY LUNCHES

It hardly seems weeks since we were enjoying our summer break, but we will be closed both Christmas and New Year's Day. I offered the volunteers another week off but they all voted to be back on 8 January!!! Please have a lovely time over the holiday season, and we will look forward to seeing all the usual faces, plus any new ones who will be most welcome.

Margaret Ramsay

THE GUILD

It is hard to believe we are almost at the end of the first part of our session. We are delighted to have welcomed 2 new members and it would be grand if this was the first of more.

We have a weekly "shop" table where goods are donated for sale by our members and the proceeds go to Guild funds, as did the proceeds from the recent quiz competition which raised over £50 thanks to Doreen.

We meet each Tuesday at 2 pm and would be pleased to see you there. This session ends 3rd December and we resume on 14th January.

Margaret Watson (Secretary)

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL

A huge thank you to all who donated to our Shoebox Appeal. We handed in 61 shoeboxes and £130 to Blythswood Care. A fantastic response!

The shoeboxes will be sent to people in Ukraine, to neighbouring countries supporting Ukrainian refugees, as well as to those whose lives are marked by poverty across Eastern Europe.

Thank you again for your kindness and support.

Lorraine Neary

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Doreen Macleod on the celebration of a very special birthday.

240th GLASGOW RAINBOWS, BROWNIES AND GUIDES AND TOLLCROSS/SHETTLESTON RANGER UNIT



Rainbows and Brownies – Wednesdays 6.15 pm – 7.30 pm
Guides and Rangers – Wednesdays 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm

RAINBOWS

The Rainbows have 18 girls coming along each week. Ten of them recently made their Rainbow promise, 8 received their Healthy Mind badge and 7 received their First Aid badge.

We are looking forward to our Christmas cinema trip to see Moana 2 with the Brownies.

Congratulations to one of our leaders Karen McGuigan who recently received her 20-year service award.

BROWNIES

We have had a great first term back at Brownies this year. We have around 20 girls at present and we are working on pre-promise and some of the theme badges. Several girls have completed the Aviation badge and we are working towards the Skills for my Future skills builder. We are hoping some more Bronze and Silver awards will be achieved soon too.

Everyone is very excited about our upcoming Christmas trip to the cinema to see Moana 2 and we will finish the year on 18 December with some festive fun, games and crafts!

GUIDES

The Guides have been busy getting ready for Christmas, making crafts and having an end of term treat. We are making sure the girls are having the opportunities to complete their awards, with about 5 soon to complete their silver.

We are always happy to welcome new girls and volunteers.

RANGERS

We have welcomed two new members this session - one who has moved up from 240th Guides and another who was a Brownie in the Carmyle Unit, didn't go to Guides as the night didn't suit, but has come back to Girlguiding.

This term the girls have been working towards the Ranger Cooking Badge, amongst other activities. We had 3 groups of girls each prepare a 3-course meal, Come Dine With Me style. All the groups did a fantastic job ... and they left the kitchen spotless when they were finished! Four girls have completed all the activities for the Skills For My Future Theme Award - well done to them!

We will finish this term with a visit to the Ice Skating in George Square. There is always space for girls age 14 - 18 who would like to join us on Wednesday evenings.

240th Unit Leaders and Tollcross/Shettleston Ranger Unit Leaders



94TH GLASGOW (1ST SHETTLESTON) COMPANY, THE BOYS' BRIGADE

JUNIOR AND ANCHOR BOYS SECTIONS

It's been a busy few months for Junior and Anchor Boys Sections and we have seen our numbers grow in both sections which is good, but we would love to grow them even more. We have been busy doing different activities to celebrate the 140th Birthday of The Boys' Brigade. This has seen the boys learning the history of The Boys' Brigade and working as a team to celebrate the birthday. We also had some birthday cupcakes courtesy of Mr Rennie.

The boys have been working through their badge work which has seen them learning new tasks and learning about healthy eating and the best way to stay healthy. It was really great to see all the boys enjoying and trying new fruits and talking about ways to stay healthy. Part of the Stay Healthy Badge saw the boys learning about their bodies and how it's important to keep their heart healthy.

We also did some games around this which the boys loved.

A few weeks ago we had our annual Halloween party, to which we asked the boys to bring a friend. The boys had a blast at the party and enjoyed trying to hit the piñata although I think they ended up hitting Mr Bell more. They also enjoyed turning each other into mummies with toilet roll and splatting spiders against the wall. Several of the boys brought friends, and I am pleased to say some have come back and enjoyed our regular parade nights.

Just recently the Junior Section attended the BB Scotland Giant Sleep Over at Glasgow Science Centre, alongside 300 other officers and boys. They had a brilliant time and were complimented for their exemplary behaviour. They played with the exhibits and attended a fascinating science show. Later in the evening we went to the planetarium and the boys wowed as we looked at the stars and planets, close up. The boys enjoyed interactive play, sang songs and enjoyed hot chocolate and chocolate muffins before going to bed in their sleeping bags on the floor. It was a fantastic experience for the boys and officers alike; only downside was that sleep was not on the agenda for the officers that night.

As we head into advent we will be learning about the story of Christmas and enjoying some Christmas crafts and Christmas themed games and will end the session with our Christmas Party.

If anyone is interested in joining please contact us via email at:

the94th1st_jrsBB@hotmail.com or come and see us on Friday evening at 7 pm.

Nicola Bell
Officer in Charge (Junior Section & Anchor Boys)

COMPANY SECTION

We're nearly halfway through Session 2024-2025 now and we've been very busy throughout our regular Friday parade nights as the Boys progress through their annual award scheme work. In addition to the normal programme, we've had a visit from the Community Police and have a session with SAMH booked, as well as a night with Cosmos, a group who'll be bringing a mobile planetarium to the hall. We also held an activity evening at Soccer World.

Our Seniors who gained their Queen's Badges last Session (our last ever ones, now that it's become the King's Badge) have been taking a greater role in delivering activities to younger Boys.

The Company attended services for Founder's Day and Dedication, and for Remembrance Sunday.

Company Section meets on Fridays from 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm for Boys in Primary 7 and above. New members are always welcome.

Colin Goodall
(colingoodall91@hotmail.com)Tel 07827032807

TEDDY AND DOLLY OUTFITS/BABY AND CHILDREN'S JUMPERS AND CARDIGANS/KNEE RUGS AND PRAM BLANKETS

Always available. Just enquire after the service or come to the café area during Wednesday Lunches, Thursday Tots' Group or Friday New Place when the stall is usually out. Thank you to the Community Choir for allowing us to sell our goods on the first Thursday of each month. This has been a tremendous help with sales.

In addition to cardigans, jumpers, hats, etc for babies and children and lots of dolly and teddy clothes, our stock includes quilts and pillows for dolly prams and cradles and items of school uniform (trousers, pinafore dresses, skirts, shirts, ties and gym gear) for dollies and teddies which can be made in a child's own school colours. These items are ideal gifts for Christmas, birthdays or new babies. Orders can be taken if we do not have what you want in stock.

So far, for the year beginning 1 April 2024, we have raised just over £1,600 and we still hope to benefit from people purchasing goods for Christmas gifts. Our previous record annual amount was £1,000, so we are thrilled to have overtaken that already and by so much. Thanks to everyone who has supported us in this fundraising effort.

COLLECTIONS FOR OTHERS

Unwanted spectacles for Vision Aid, mobile phones for Oxfam, unwanted foreign coins and obsolete British coins for Huntershill Marie Curie Hospice, and knitting wool for blankets for charities which need them (and goods to sell for our own Building Fund) are all being put to good use. Thanks to all who contributed. Boxes are in the church vestibule, the large hall and on the shelf in the cafe area.

TEARFUND

As Christmas is almost here, we remember God's promises of the coming Messiah and of hope and salvation for the world. 'In his great mercy he has given us new birth into **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.' (1 Peter 1:3)

This Advent, through a series of short, prayerful emails, be inspired by stories of hope-filled, life-changing transformation from places around the world where Tearfund works - places where the local church is making a difference in their community. Sign up for these inspiring emails at: www.tearfund.org and *A Living Hope* emails will arrive in your inbox each Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday during Advent. Through each email, discover stories of hope directly from our global teams, as well as Bible verses, videos and prayer points for places and situations where transformation is still needed. When the troubles of the world can be overwhelming and we don't know what to pray, let stories of hope inspire you and direct your prayers. As we look towards Christmas and the coming king, Hope of the World, please join us in prayer and praise. Poverty is not God's plan. You are. Your faithful prayers will make such a difference to communities living in poverty across the world.

Christmas Appeal

Countless people continue to live in poverty. **This Christmas, you can help families around the world break the cycle of poverty and bring joy.**

Following the worst drought to hit Kenya in 40 years, Lokhu could no longer afford to keep her children in school. "There is water crisis, food insecurity and this time is a long drought. Even my parents have never seen this..." *Lokhu*

Thanks to your kindness, Tearfund responded quickly through our church partner to provide emergency support. Helping the community rebuild and provide training, including drought-resistant farming techniques, so families can stand strong in the face of the climate crisis.

Many more people around the world urgently need the life-changing training Lokhu's community had. Your kind gift this Christmas could help someone like Lokhu leave poverty for good.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. The ongoing support throughout the year makes such a difference to communities like Lokhu's and the many other areas where Tearfund works with church partners, to make a difference to people's lives.

To find out more visit www.tearfund.org or follow Tearfund on Social Media: Facebook, X and Instagram.

Christine Walker (Tearfund Representative)

ALTERATIONS 4 U

Suspended until after Christmas. Will resume in the New Year.

POSTAGE STAMPS

Not long now until the large quantities of stamps from the Christmas mail! Please continue to advertise this form of fundraising (which costs us nothing) and encourage friends and work colleagues to take part. If possible leave about 1 cm (½ inch) of envelope round the stamps to prevent damage. All stamps – British or foreign, large or small – are required and any already off their envelopes are also accepted but do not make any more money. A4 posters to display at your workplace or elsewhere are available from Margaret Stevenson. Thank you from Huntershill Marie Curie.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

Using last year's Christmas lights, less the sets which finally stopped working and adding extras received, we have been able to light all the Church trees (in many cases using bulbs from sets which had to be discarded). So if you are finished with working lights, or can't get sets to work and are buying new ones, please let us have the old ones. We appreciate not having to spend our money on lights when it is needed for so many other things. We now have lots of tree decorations and a good quantity of garlands, etc.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



God's Christmas gift to us is Jesus. He is the reason for the season, and He came to pay a debt He did not owe, because we owed a debt we could not pay