



**BAINSFORD PARISH
CHURCH NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2018**

From the Locum's desk

It's early November as I write this and Halloween has only just passed, but you won't read this until nearly the start of Advent. This makes it quite difficult for me!

However, just as Halloween is the eve of All Hallows/Saints Day, so Christmas Eve is the day before our celebration of Our Saviour's birth. The lead up to a great day is often as busy and exciting as the day itself.

Advent is not just a time of anticipation and waiting, but more importantly should be a time of preparation. Seeing Christmas displays in the shops has not annoyed me as much this year as it has in the past. I've even got some of my present buying done! But don't tell my family, because they think I don't start thinking of what to buy until Christmas Eve to explain the awful choices I have made in the past!

If the Wise Men were coming from the area around Baghdad, they would have been on their way by now, to ensure they weren't too far behind the event about which the stars told them, so perhaps we should be looking forward to Christmas rather than bemoaning the commercialism that has overtaken the Christian calendar.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you can discover what's going to be included in our Advent and Christmas events. Please try and come along to some, or even all, of them. We are a worshipping community, and that word 'community' implies that we are in communion with each other. It's impossible to worship God alone, however much you try to justify it. I love getting involved in the Christmas parties and assemblies in the schools our parish serves. Jesus says, "unless you become as a child...", and children of all faiths, and none, are drawn to celebrate his birth together, so why do we grown-ups shy away from letting their hair down so often?

As 2018 draws to a close, and the uncertainties of 2019 loom, let us turn our faces to God, and put our trust in him, to enable us weather the storms that we undoubtedly will face. To murder a couple of well-known sayings, "When the going gets tough, the only way is praying!"

Praying that you all may receive the richest blessing from God in the days and months to come.

Your friend and pastor

Andrew

Advent and Christmas Calendar

Fri 30 Nov	9.30am	Bainsford Primary School Christmas Fayre
Sun 2 Dec	10am	Advent Communion
Wed 5 Dec	6.30pm	Memorial Service at Collumbine's Funeral Parlour
Sun 9 Dec	10am	The Brigades' Christmas
Mon 10 Dec	11am	Carols at Newcarron Court
Wed 12 Dec	10.30am	The Ladies at Harley Court (with Communion)
Wed 12 Dec	1.30pm	Bainsford Primary School Nativity in Church
Sun 16 Dec	10am	The Ladies at Church
Sun 23 Dec	10am	Readings, Reflections and Carols
Mon 24 Dec	11pm	Coffee & Carols
Mon 24 Dec	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Sun 30 Dec	10am	Looking forward to 2019
Sun 6 Jan	10am	Epiphany Service
Sun 13 Jan	10am	Breakfast Club; Feeding the five thousand

Parish Register

Baptism

Oct 14 Cearney Chisholm-Walton
Carronside Street

Wedding

Oct 27 Duncan France and Varrie Muirhead
McCambridge Place, Larbert

Funerals

Died	Funeral			
Sep 16	Sep 25	Bruce Rennie	Pardovan Pl	
Sep 16	Sep 26	Dorothy Watson	Newcarron Court Flats	*
Sep 18	Sep 28	Margaret Walker	Carrondale Care Home	*
Sep 24	Oct 5	George McLuckie	Watson Pl, Dennyloanhead	*
Oct 3	Oct 19	Jim Mulhall	Ward Ave, Redding	

EMMS PAGE

NICK WAS A YOUNG SOLDIER , JUST 17, FROM HULL WHO WAS INJURED IN THE 1914-18 WAR. HE WAS SENT TO CONVALESCE AT GLAMIS CASTLE THE SCOTTISH HOME OF THE EARL OF STRATHMORE. ONE WARD MAID STOLE HIS HEART. SHE WAS 16 BUT HER KINDNESS AND SWEETNESS CAPTIVATED HIM AND ALL THE OTHER SOLDIERS TOO. HER NAME WAS ELIZABETH, THE EARL'S DAUGHTER. WHEN HE WAS WELL ENOUGH TO GO HOME, NICK PROMISED TO WRITE TO ELIZABETH AND SHE TO HIM. HE SENT HER POSTCARDS AND SHE WROTE BACK WITH NEWS OF HERSELF AND OF HIS FRIENDS WHO WERE STILL AT GLAMIS, ENCLOSING A PHOTOGRAPH. HIS FAMILY TEASED HIM AND PULLED HIS LEG WHEN THE LETTERS WITH THE SCOTTISH POSTMARK ARRIVED. ALL HE WOULD SAY WAS 'SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL, SHE'D MAKE A LOVELY QUEEN'. WELL NICK WENT BACK TO THE BATTLEFIELD AND SADLY WAS KILLED TWO YEARS LATER. ONLY ONE PHOTOGRAPH OF HIM WAS LEFT - SITTING BETWEEN ELIZABETH AND HER MOTHER, THE COUNTESS. HIS SISTERS ALSO FOUND THREE LETTERS FROM ELIZABETH WHICH THEY STILL TREASURE. THOUGH NICK NEVER KNEW IT, ELIZABETH DID BECOME QUEEN AND THE CHARM AND SWEETNESS OF THE QUEEN MOTHER WON HEARTS WHEREVER SHE WENT.

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THIS YEAR IS THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENDING OF THE 'GREAT WAR OF 1914-18' WHEN HUNDREDS OF YOUNG MEN, AND OLDER ONES TOO, WENT OFF TO WAR AND MANY NEVER CAME BACK HOME. I HEARD OF ONE FAMILY WHO LOST FIVE SONS IN THIS WAR - SO VERY SAD. IT WAS THEREFORE SICKENING TO READ ABOUT THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE IN PRINCES STREET GARDENS BEING VANDALISED LAST WEEK. HOW DISHEARTENING WAS THAT ACT OF UTTER STUPIDITY BY A FEW FOOLS. THANKFULLY NOT ALL YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SO DISRESPECTFUL TO THE MEMORY OF THESE BRAVE SOLDIERS AND SATURDAY NIGHT BRINGS THE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE FROM LONDON, A MOVING AND FITTING HONOUR TO ALL OUR FALLEN HEROES WHEN THE POPPIES FALL.

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CHRISTMAS IS ON IT'S WAY AGAIN BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT IF IT WASN'T FOR A MAN NAMED WILLIAM WINSTANLEY IT WOULDN'T BE. HE LIVED FOUR CENTURIES AGO WHEN THE PURITANS FORBAD ANY KIND OF CELEBRATION, A SAD STATE THAT LASTED FOR 18 YEARS. WHEN THE MONARCHY RETURNED WITH CHARLES THE SECOND, MOST PEOPLE HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN THAT IT HAD BEEN A TIME FOR REJOICING. WILLIAM WINSTANLEY DIDN'T FORGET AND AS AN ESTABLISHED WRITER, HE PENNED PAMPHLETS, LOBBIED INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS AND DID HIS UTMOST TO RE-INSTATE 25th DECEMBER AS A TIME OF CELEBRATION, MARKING CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY WITH CAROLS, DANCING AND PRESENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE FORM OF FOOD AND YULE LOGS FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE, SO THAT THEY WOULDN'T BE LEFT OUT OF THE MERRYMAKING. NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW OF WILLIAM WINSTANLEY OR OF HIS CAMPAIGN BUT I DO HOPE I WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE THANKING HIM FOR BRINGING BACK CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS.

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**SINCE 1991 1st OCTOBER HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS. IN RECOGNITION OF THIS POPE JOHN PAUL 2nd WROTE A LETTER TO THE ELDERLY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD CALLING ON THEM TO REJOICE IN THEIR AGE AND EXPERIENCE, SAYING 'THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO RECOVER A CORRECT PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE AS A WHOLE'. HE ENDED WITH THESE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT:- 'LIVE WITH SERENITY THE YEARS THAT THE LORD HAS GRANTED YOU'. THIS THEN REMINDED ME OF THE LOVELY WORDS OF THIS HYMN -
LORD, FOR THE YEARS YOUR LOVE HAS KEPT AND GUIDED, URGED AND INSPIRED US, CHEERED US ON OUR WAY, SOUGHT US AND SAVED US, PARDONED AND PROVIDED, LORD OF THE YEARS, WE BRING OUR THANKS TODAY.**

CHURCH NEWS

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Sacrament will be celebrated in Church on SUNDAY 2nd DEC. at 10am. All who love the Lord in sincerity are invited to share in fellowship around His Table on that day . The Kirk Session meets at 9.40am

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

THE B.B. Meetings are on Fridays as follows:

Anchor Boys – 6-7 pm- Mrs. E. Burnett)

Junior Section-6.30-8pm- Mr. A. Nimmo) For Information phone Captain Paul Mitchell

Coy. Section – 8-10pm - Mr. G. Goldie) on 07885-245739

Recruits wanted in all sections – If interested phone the Captain.

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE

THE G.B. Meetings are on Tuesdays as follows:

The G.B. All sections – Explorers, Juniors and Brigaders are on from 6.30-8pm and costs £1.50.

They meet in the Church Hall every Tuesday excluding school holidays up till end of March 2019

For further information contact the Captain- Mrs. Linda McAuslan on 07813-247658

COMMUNION SILVER AND GLASSES ROTA

The ladies on duty for DECEMBER communion are Betty Muirhead, Christine Young, Wilma Weir.

Any ladies willing to help out on a regular basis will be very welcome. If interested, please give

your name to any of the Ladies Group members or any elder. You help out only ONCE a year.

Thanks to all our helpers-you are much appreciated.

FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to donate flowers for the Church on Sundays or for a special occasion please contact Mrs. Milly Morrison on 01324-624207.

THE LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meet every second Monday at 7.30pm in the Session House. All ladies welcome to join.

BOOK CLUB

Come and buy a book at the book club and help boost church funds.

TEA AND COFFEE

Teas and Coffees are served in the Church Hall after the service each Sunday along with home baking. Thanks to all who come along and thanks also to all the ladies of the tea committee for a most enjoyable cuppa. To date money raised for 2018 is £1005.

FOODBANK COLLECTION.

ANY ITEMS OF FOOD MAY BE LEFT IN THE BASKETS AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE CHURCH FOR THE FALKIRK FOODBANK. PLEASE CONTINUE TO GIVE GENEROUSLY. THANKS TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS.

SHOEBOXES

At the time of writing this report we have again overtaken last year's number of boxes filled which was 132, and have 136 filled with more to fill once we get more boxes. We should reach at least 150, so well done again. We keep on getting better so give yourselves a pat on the back. I'd personally like to thank you for shoeboxes, knitted goods, items donated and shoeboxes filled. A sincere thanks also to the ladies who have helped once again to get them filled and to make someone's Christmas just that bit happier. Thank you so much!!