



Concord

*The magazine of
St. Andrew's and St. Peter's.
The Scottish Episcopal Church
in Ardrossan, Irvine and Dalry.*



Christmas 2014

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Dear Friends

In 1951, I was told many years ago, for my first birthday I was given a set of what were then called Fairy Lights, for the Christmas tree. I grew up with these lovely things and enjoyed them well into my teens – what happened to them, I don't really know. They were larger than modern lights, spherical, in delicate colours and they cast a beautiful soft light through the fragrant greenery of the tree – every Christmas I see them in my mind's eye and wish I still had them. I've never been able to find anything remotely like them. Their memory is important to me, they are iconic, really, of Christmas past for me, iconic of a very special and precious kind of light.

But not just of Christmas past. I wonder if you share with me a sense of an ever-darkening world, of really dark things happening at home and abroad. The darkness of fear – fear for the future, fear of the other, fear of sudden terror and murderous violence, fear of what may still be revealed of abuse at all levels of our society – all of these and many more dark things, gather around us and in us and stalk our world, God's world. So that when at Christmas we hear again the words of St John proclaiming Christ as the light that the darkness can never overcome – *the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (1.5)* - we are challenged once more to hold fast to the hope that in the end the light will have it, the light will have it.

But not simply at the end – now as well. The light has some of it now, too. Not all is dark and not all is bad news, not at all. People still seek what is just and true and beautiful, people still reach out across barriers of hatred and fear, people still do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with their God. People of many faiths and people of none. But some of them do all these things for they know the Light that shines in the darkness and they love that Light above all else and all others. And they hope, even know, that the Light will have it in the end and is having it now in their struggles and commitments. And the Light will draw all other lights to Himself. Christmas is, above all, their time, their celebration.

+Gregor

Just before printing our Christmas Magazine I received the Bishop's Christmas Message and as the content reflected something of my thoughts in the last Magazine I thought it was very relevant to include it in our Magazine this time. Freda and I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas.



Martin and Freda

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meets on the First Monday of each month: As always these meetings are open to everyone. **DENISE ALLEN**



All our meetings begin at 2pm in the Church Hall at Ardrossan. Everyone is welcome to attend – not just Members of the Mothers' Union - and everyone means men as well as women. Hope to see you at one of our meetings.

Lilian, Susan and Freda.

Prayer Chain.

Each month an e-mail is sent round to members of the church with prayer requests. It compliments the prayer which is offered each day by individual members of the church. Requests can be for family or friends who are in need and if there is an emergency an extra e-mail is sent. If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer and/or would like to receive the e-mail please contact me on lilian.bancroft@sky.com.

Prayer Support



The Prayer Support Team



In January, please remember in your Prayers
June Wallace Helen Ternent Connie Mulcock

As they pray for members of their Congregation

Remember also this month
Ministry Team



The Prayer Support Team



In February, please remember in your Prayers
Claire White Anna Currall David Williams

As they pray for members of their Congregation

Remember also this month
Intercessors



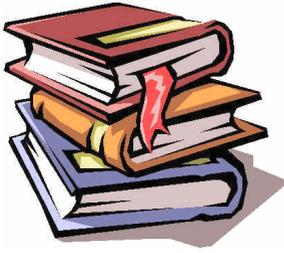
The Prayer Support Team



In March, please remember in your Prayers
Lilian Bancroft Carolyn French Susan Barlow

As they pray for members of their Congregation

Remember also this month
Worship Leaders



The Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club will take place on Thursday 11th. December.

This meeting will be our last before Christmas and will feature a film of "The Mikado," a musical by Gilbert and Sullivan. The book we are reading currently is, "The Earthquake Bird,"

by Susanna Jones. Book club meets every five to six weeks. New members are welcome to join us in the new year. For information phone Yvonne on 01294552880.

A Christmas Prayer

The time has come again ,Lord, to celebrate your birth,
To thank you for your presence here with us upon this Earth.
To remember how you came to us and walk beside us still,
As we try to be good Christians and carry out your will.

The world we live in now, Lord, seems full of struggle and strife
And sometimes we feel overwhelmed by huge difficulties in life.
E-bola, Far East conflict, economic crises, natural disaster,
An agonising, endless spiral, out of control and ever faster.

Our prayers must be for others, we must think of them each day,
For abused children, kidnap victims, homeless people we earnestly say:
"Be with them Lord and bless them ,let them know that you are there.
Give them strength and reassure them that God is everywhere"

As we celebrate Your coming with our friends and family near,
We thank you Lord: we're grateful that at Christmas we can share
The bounty you have given us,the blessings you've bestowed.
Give us courage to face the New Year as you join us on the road.



Junior Craft Club

Our Junior Craft Club meets on the last Saturday of every month (except December!) and we have a wide range of activities. All children from 3 upwards are welcome to attend. Our sessions begin at 11am and finish at 3pm. It costs just £4 per child per session. All we ask is that they bring a packed lunch except for special days which are notified in advance.

So if you would like a few hours on a Saturday to yourself bring your children along! Lilian, Claire & Clare

Lilian (01294273568)

Claire (07970338479)

Diocesan Growth Strategy prayer

*Spirit of our Loving God,
in your mercy and compassion
inspire, encourage and empower us
to live and work together as a Dio-
cese, to allow your mission for us to
take flesh through Jesus Christ our
living and Eternal Lord. Amen.*



We have almost accomplished all we set out to do in the three churches for this year's growth strategy. Bishop Gregor is due to visit the Team on Wednesday 29th April to review all we have done and to discuss our journey ahead. Please do come and join the discussion. For further information on the Growth Strategy see our website:

www.standrews-stpeters.org.uk

Knit and Natter

This group meets in the crèche on Thursday mornings from 10am till around noon. It's open to those who knit or sew and those who don't! It's a time to meet and chat in an informal way. We are currently making articles to sell in aid of the Church Restoration fund. If you're free and want to come along please do – just drop in on any Thursday and you'll get a warm welcome.

Try your hand the the Quiz “A Trip Around Scotland” (Answers on Page 15)

- 1 The Spanish gentleman likes his tonic.
- 2 Patron of Russia.
- 3 Gateway to the Highlands.
- 4 Lots of dates here.
- 5 The blacksmith's anvil is wanted.
- 6 Murdered cutting tool.
- 7 The female sheep went swimming here.
- 8 The bell made this noise when it hit against the stone fence.
- 9 Struck this way when having too many heavy drinks here.
- 10 This place is always open even when others are fogbound.
- 11 Snooker's wizard comes from here.
- 12 The Monarch needs this to cross the river.
- 13 The home of bridies.
- 14 It's not on fire and it isn't one of these.
- 15 A hit for Paul McCartney.



Ardrossan Restoration Project

Future Restoration Fundraising events:
6th Dec ADVENT MARKET 11.00am - 3.00pm
21st Dec CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE
2nd February BEETLE DRIVE
EASTER EGG RAFFLE
24th April BINGO
CAR BOOT SALES... May / July / September



RESTORATION NEWS



The work on the church is almost finished and we now have access to the interior of the church. We are working hard to do the final cleaning and move things back in to the church for our service on 30 November, Advent Sunday and St Andrew's day. This will be the 140th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the church. The work has included some reslating of the roof, the replacement of quite a lot of rotten wood in the roof, repointing of the stonework and replacement of individual stones where necessary. The most noticeable things from the inside of the church are the re-making of the two large

windows on the North and South sides. These have been totally rebuilt, replacing the stonework around the glass and using almost all of the old glass. The Harrison Mann angel window and the women at the tomb window opposite have been built into free-standing frames which means they will be supported and ventilated and preserved for the future, and the West windows over the door have been removed, repaired and replaced. We can now read the inscription on the glass, and more significantly, there are no holes in the panes! All the other glass has been cleaned, and we have had the fake leaded window in the Rector's vestry replaced with a proper leaded window to match the one beside it. We have not got a brand new church, and you will still notice things that need to be done, but the work should mean that the building will be wind and water tight for some time to come. We are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland and to other grant givers for their support, but especially to all those members of the congregation and other helpers who enabled us to raise the funds which allowed us to qualify for the major grants. If you have not been to the church for a while, do come to see what has been done, The church is open on Wednesday mornings, and you can pop in for a look when you come to the Christmas market on 6 December!

BLESSING OF ANIMALS SERVICE

St. Francis of Assisi was made a saint of the Catholic Church in 1226 by Pope Gregory IX and his feast day is the 4th October. He is honoured on this day throughout the world and by all Christian denominations. St. Francis preached that the world and everything in it was created good and beautiful by God and that it is the duty of all creation to praise God and for men to protect and enjoy nature as both stewards of God's creation and as creatures themselves.

Our church had two services this year: one in Irvine on 4th October and the other at Ardrossan on 11th October. This year we had a number of dogs at Irvine and a lovely dapple grey horse. Rosie came to the back of the church and was very well behaved and accepted a couple of carrots! The speaker this year was from the Dogs Trust and we raised £30 for the very good work that Charity does. Ardrossan had only dogs, no ferrets or guinea pigs, but £20 was raised for a horse charity.

Refreshments were served at the end of both services, both human and animal; my thanks to everyone who helped at both services and afterwards.

This type of service is for the people in our community not necessarily those who come to church. It shows God in the wider world looking after his creation – not just the bricks and mortar of the building but everything we have and are involved in.

Linda



I LOOK
I look but I don't see
I touch but I don't feel
I listen but I don't hear
How can this be real?
To look and to see
To touch and to feel
To hear and to listen
And finally heal.
Show me the way Lord
Allow me to see
The gifts you have given
That allow me to be.
That way I can feel love
And worship and pray
And hear what you say Lord
And love in your way
Apart from your love Lord
That daily I know
The emotions I feel now
Have helped me to grow.
Into a person who can now
Care and feel
Lord this is truly
What makes life so real.

written by Patricia J Steed

**St Peter's
Tofts, Dalry**

Sunday 14th
Holy Communion 10.00am

Sunday 21st
Holy Communion 10.00am

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion 8.00pm

Christmas Day
Holy Communion 10.00am

***Services for Christmas
in the
North Ayrshire Team***

**St Andrew's
South Crescent Road, Ardrossan**

Sunday 14th
Family Communion 11.30am

Sunday 21st
Christmas Family Communion
with Nativity 11.30am

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion 11.15pm

Christmas Day
Christmas Family Communion 11.30am

**St Andrew's
Caldon Road, Irvine**

Sunday 14th
Family Communion 9.30am
Lessons and Carols with the
Church of Scotland Congregation
6.30pm

Sunday 21st
Family Communion 9.30am

Christmas Day
Christmas Family Communion 9.30am

Children's Page

CHRISTMAS QUIZ:

1. Which American actress plays the Ghost of Christmas Present in the film 'Scrooged'?
2. The Beach Boys had a Christmas number one US hit single in 1966 with which song?
3. Which country is Eggnog said to have originated from?
4. Which famous scientist born on Christmas day was the first scientist to be buried in Westminster Abbey in London?
5. What is the name of the little boy in the filmed story of "The Snow man" by Raymond Briggs?
6. Which English author wrote the book 'A Christmas Carol'?
7. From which town had Mary and Joseph come before arriving in Bethlehem?
8. Name the Christmas song with the initials 'WIAWW'?
9. Which 3 dimensional puzzle, sold by Ideal Toy Corp., was the most popular Christmas gift in 1980?
10. Who played the Grinch in the 2000 film? **(Answers below)**

Christmas Anagrams

Can you solve these Christmas anagrams ?

(Answers on Page 15)

- 1 – Travel and Dance (2)
- 2 – Rich Star Meets (2)
- 3 – Smashing tricks cost (2)
- 4 – Wean again Mary (4)
- 5 – Vicars Themes (2)
- 6 – The magic swiftness heart-throb (5)
- 7 – Spice in 'em (2)
- 8 – Modestly switch after-shave (5)
- 9 – He's Fat, Smart, Rich (2)
- 10 – Scathing mud drips (2)
- 11 – Red Ernie (1)
- 12 – Let in Things (2)

1. Carol Kane
 2. Good Vibrations
 3. England (East Anglia)
 4. Sir Isaac Newton
 5. James Charles Dickens
 6. Nazareth
 7. Walking in a winter wonderland
 8. Rubik's Cube
 9. Jim Carrey
- Christmas Quiz Answers:**

Children's Page

Q: What do elves learn in school?

A: The Elf-abet!

Q: What's the most popular wine at Christmas?

A: "I don't like sprouts" !

Q: If athletes get athletes foot, what do astronauts get?

A: Missletoe!

Q: Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

A: So he can ho-ho-ho.

Q: Why do birds fly south for the winter ?

A: Because it's too far to walk.

Q: What kind of bird can write?

A: A PENguin.

Q: What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas time?

A: Sandy Claus!

Q: What nationality is Santa Claus?

A: North Polish.

Q: Why does Santa's sled get such good mileage?

A: Because it has long-distance runners on each side.

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Snowflakes.

Q: Why did the elf push his bed into the fireplace?

A: He wanted to sleep like a log.

Q: Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?

A: Because it " soots " him!

Q: What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

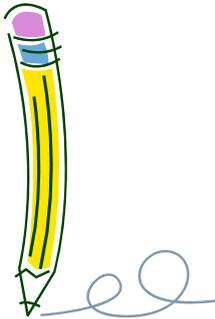
A: Claustrophobic.

Children's Page

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Words can go
across and
down only.

Words may
overlap but do
not share
letters



r c i v y w a d v e n t d b k
e h p s n o w m a n r w e q t
l r h c t l t n l t u z c x b
v i o a m l p b j p d t e t n
e s l r m e r r y e o n m p d
s t l o r h p r h a l l b n s
j m y l p m p z h c p p e l t
o a t s k l v z y e h g r m o
y s d t m z n m f t o y s r c
s c b r t n o r t h p o l e k
l m k e w f k t s a n t a y i
e j f e b r l s n o w r m v n
i n r e i n d e e r y x f d g
g f j i n g l e b e l l s y k
h r n t i n s e l w d s t a r

advent	ivy	reindeer	star
carols	jingle bells	rudolph	stocking
christmas	joy	santa	tinsel
december	merry	sleigh	toys
elves	north pole	snow	tree
holly	peace	snowman	

Answers for A Trip Around Scotland:

- 1 Elgin
- 2 S. Andrews
- 3 Inverness
- 4 Callender
- 5 Gretna.
- 6 Kilsyth
- 7 Pulewe
- 8 Dingwall
- 9 Dumbarton
- 10 Prestwick
- 11 Wishaw
- 12 Queensferry
- 13 Forfar
- 14 Burnt Island
- 15 Mull of Kintyre



SANTA TRACKING

Here is a web site for kids, both young and not so young, that will allow you to keep track of Santa on his journey on the 24th December. This is done with the help of NORAD (yes the North American Aerospace Defence Command). The site is open from 1st December to begin the countdown to Santa's launch.

www.noradsanta.org



Answers

Answers to Christmas Anagrams

- 1 - Advent Calendar
- 2 - Christmas Tree
- 3 - Christmas Stockings
- 4 - Away in a manger
- 5 - Christmas Eve
- 6 - Twas the night before Christmas
- 7 - Mince Pies
- 8 - The Twelve Days of Christmas
- 9 - Father Christmas
- 10 - Christmas Pudding
- 11 - Reindeer
- 12 - Silent Night

Last Writes

From the Editor's desk

Date of next Concord April 2015

As usual, Concord can be viewed on our Web Site.

Deadline for articles to be included in our next Magazine is 15th Mar
martin.sofield@btinternet.com or 01294 278341
or St Andrew's Rectory, 31 Milgarholm Ave, Irvine, KA12 0EL

Martin Sofield



**St. Andrew's, Ardrossan, St. Andrew's, Irvine and St. Peter's, Dalry
form the North Ayrshire Team Ministry
of the Scottish Episcopal Church
A warm welcome awaits you at any of our services**

Service Details:

St. Andrew's Ardrossan

Sundays 11.30am Family Communion, Crèche and Junior Church
Wednesdays 10am Holy Communion

St Andrew's Irvine

Sundays 9.30am Family Communion

St. Peter's Dalry

Sundays 10am Holy Communion

Church Web Site Address: www.standrews-stpeters.org.uk

Clergy Team details:

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e-mail: martin.sofield@btinternet.com Tel: 01294 278341

Asst. Priest Revd. Sandy Montgomerie, 105 Sharpill Rd, Saltcoats KA21 5QU
e-mail: sandy.montgomerie@btinternet.com Tel/Fax: 01294 465193

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