



Concord

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



December 2016

Dear friends,

As we begin to prepare for the Christmas season we are offered an opportunity think of new beginnings within our three churches. The Rev Martin Sofield retired on Advent Sunday so we are now in a vacancy, Martin has been our rector for over five years but as he retires we wish both he and his wife Freda a happy and peaceful retirement giving them both more time for family connections. You may however see them from time to time as they are continuing to live in North Ayrshire. It is hoped our church services will continue as normal, as your interim priest and with the valued support of Margaret Williams and Linda Whitby our two Lay Readers we will do all we can to make this possible.

Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas but here is a short test that might determine how we approach this season. Is time now rushing past faster than you can imagine? Or is time creeping and crawling along, ever so slowly? If you're a child, Advent is an eternity, a seemingly endless stretch of December days and waiting for Christmas. If you're an adult, especially a busy person, the four short weeks of Advent leave us breathless--not always with anticipation, but often with exhaustion.

So the Advent we celebrate in the church - the one that has nothing to do with the number of shopping days left until Christmas - is very different.

The lighting of the first Advent candle - invites us to dream dreams of a better world, to allow expectant visions.

Advent invites us to fill the cup of today with a full measure of tomorrow.

So the season of Advent calls us to take time to think on our lives and I hope these thoughts might help.

Take time to work - it is the price of success.
Take time to think - it is the source of power.
Take time to play - it is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take time to read - it is the foundation of wisdom.
Take time to be friendly - it is the road to happiness.
Take time to dream - it is hitching your wagon to a star.
Take time to love and be loved - it is the privilege of the Gods.
Take time to look around - the day is too short to be selfish.
Take time to laugh - it is the music of the soul. *Irish Saying*

Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas
and a New Year filled with hope.

Canon Sandy Montgomerie

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve

Dalry—8pm

Ardrossan—11:15pm



Christmas Day

Irvine — 9:30am

Ardrossan—11:15am



What do snowmen wear on their heads ?
Ice caps !

What sort of ball doesn't bounce ?
A snowball !

Christmas Quiz



1. What two words are normally pre-printed on gift tags?
2. Where did Santa land his sleigh in "The Night Before Christmas"?
3. Who wrote A Christmas Carol?
4. What were the names of the three kings that went to see baby Jesus?
5. What is the 12th day after Christmas called?
6. Why do people give water globes at Christmas?
7. What was the name of the angel who appeared to Mary?
8. Where did Joseph and Mary live after their marriage?
9. Why were Joseph and Mary going to Bethlehem?
10. What was the manger?
11. What are magi?
12. How old was Jesus when He began His ministry?
13. Who was the first English monarch to have a Christmas tree?
14. According to the Bible, in which season was Jesus born?
15. In what year did a shipload of Italian sailors rescue the bones of St. Nicholas?
16. Which traditional Christmas plants are NOT poisonous?
17. According to legend, what did Santa have arranged back in 1901?
18. How many sides does a snowflake have?
19. Which city, famous for its 'Christmas Market', is also known as 'The Gingerbread Capital of the World'?
20. In which two oceans would you find a 'Christmas Island'?

Harvest Gift

This is a special thank you from Bishop Mani in Maiduguri Diocese, Nigeria for the £350 given at the Joint Harvest Service this year for the building of a clinic and trauma centre to help refugees in the city. The money is especially appreciated because there has been more suicide bombing incidents in Maiduguri in the last 3 months. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.



Elizabeth Deeks



Christmas Nativity stories.

A Sunday School teacher was telling a group of four or five year olds the story of Christmas morning and telling the children that Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. A worldly lad at the back of the class was heard to murmur to his neighbour: "I blame Joseph. He should have booked".



A school nativity play described in 'Inspires' the magazine of the Scottish Episcopal Church in Dec 2015.

Kevin was a gentle giant of a boy. He stood head and shoulders over the rest of his class mates. He had Down's Syndrome and severe learning difficulties. In his primary school they were choosing the children to take part in the nativity play and some teachers didn't think that Kevin would be able to take part, but he was given the role of the inn-keeper and he rehearsed his one line endlessly before the show.

The big night arrived and Joseph with a heavily cushioned Mary knocked at the door of the inn. Kevin looked down at the couple before him and said "The inn is full, I have no rooms." He looked out at the audience and then at Mary and his eyes started to fill with tears and then he said, "But you can have my room if you would like" There was a stunned silence. One member of the audience who had been against Kevin having a part began to boo and protest at this departure from the script. Kevin's face fell and tears began to drop down his cheeks and then one by one the rest of the audience began to rise from their seats and to clap and cheer.

The question that I think we need to ask in this situation is: 'What would Jesus have done if he had been the innkeeper?'



Installation of Rev Montgomerie as Canon

On Sunday 20th November 2016 Rev Sandy Montgomerie was installed as a Canon at St Mary's Scottish Episcopal Cathedral Glasgow.

The picture shows the three canons from left to right Canon Sandy Montgomerie, Canon Jeanette Jenkins from North Ayrshire and Canon Scott Robertson, the previous rector of the North Ayrshire Team.



A Big Thank You from the new Canon

May I offer sincere thanks to all you kind people who sent me wonderful cards, gifts and messages on the occasion of being installed as Canon of St Mary's Cathedral. Also your presence in such numbers at the cathedral on Sunday 20th November was just amazing seeing so many weel kent faces surrounding and supporting me at this special event in my ministry was more than I ever expected.

Special thanks to Barbara Mackie who organised the bus from Irvine and the generous gift of £250 from that group which will be donated to charity.

I was especially grateful for the friends from the Diocese of Gothenburg for taking time to be there, after working together for nine years the diocese has concluded our shared link and my work ended, I can only say with a bang!

With blessings

Sandy

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 nationality is Santa Claus?

A: North Polish.



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


A: Sandy Claus!

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Snowflakes.

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

Prayer Support





The Prayer Support Team

In January, please remember in your Prayers
Susan Garner, Anna Sinclair, 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
Eveline Gray, Kit Still, 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
Dorothy Lynam, Kit Still, Susan Barlow

As they pray for members of their Congregation

Remember also this month
Worship Leaders



BON ACCORD GROUP

One of the places we visited recently was Skelmorlie Isle in Largs. Some of us had been before but for the rest of us it was a new place which we knew nothing about. We phoned ahead to Largs Museum and were met on our arrival by a guide who took us up the steep steps into an old churchyard tucked away behind the main street. He explained to us that originally there had been a church within the churchyard but now all that remains is a smallish building. Inside this building is the tomb of Sir Robert Montgomerie of Skelmorlie Castle and his wife, Dame Margaret Douglas. The tomb and the aisle were built in the church in 1636. The ceiling of the aisle is a curved vault which is beautifully painted with heraldic symbols and the signs of the zodiac. We noticed that the sign for Scorpio was painted as a lobster! There were lots of interesting details to see and we enjoyed our visit very much. We had a good look around the Largs Museum which has many items of interest including historical photos of Largs. After all our cultural efforts we went along to Nardinis for our customary refreshments!

During the winter months we expect our meetings will be mainly in the church hall, although we might occasionally take turns to host meetings in our homes. There will always be refreshments! If you would like to join us please note that we meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 2pm. Ring Angela or Toby on 01294 607293 for more details.



QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. To, From | 2. Upon the roof |
| 3. Charles Dickens | 4. Gaspar, Melchior, and Bal- thasar |
| 5. Epiphany | 6. Because they are actually called snow globes |
| 7. Gabriel | 8. Nazareth |
| 9. To be enrolled for the taxes | 10. A feeding trough made of stone. |
| 11. Politically powerful scholars and astronomers ("king- makers"). | 12. Thirty-three to thirty-four years old |
| 13. Queen Victoria | 14. Spring |
| 15. 1187 A.D | 16. Rosemary |
| 17. Commercial Christmas tree farming. | 18. 6 |
| 19. Nuremberg, Germany | 20. Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean |



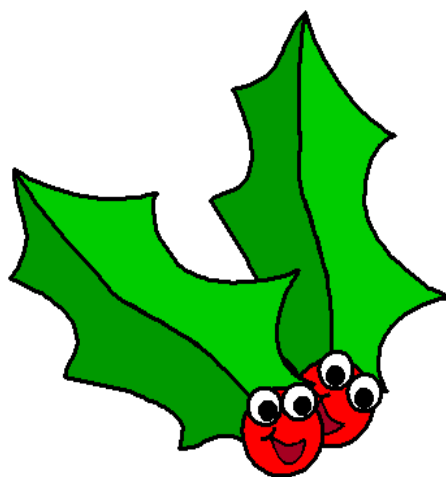
(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-23-2004

EACH YEAR AT XMAS THOSE XIANS CELEBRATE
THE BIRTH OF X

Christmas Word Search

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | B | E | A | Y | H | A | R | E | E | S | P | G | L | R | T |
| F | R | Q | N | G | L | E | T | O | B | A | R | N | R | V | I |
| C | W | N | I | A | I | I | T | N | Y | M | E | I | U | S | N |
| M | O | E | A | N | C | E | M | E | A | T | S | F | D | T | S |
| Y | L | O | D | M | L | Y | N | A | U | S | E | F | O | H | E |
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| S | E | I | R | R | E | B | N | A | R | C | S | E | V | L | E |



candycane
 chimney
 Christmas
 cookies
 cranberries
 elves
 family
 holly
 lights
 mistletoe

ornament
 presents
 reindeer
 Rudolph
 Santa
 sleigh
 stockings
 stuffing
 tinsel
 turkey

Last Writes

From the Editor's desk

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."
— Charles Dickens

"When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things - not the great occasions - give off the greatest glow of happiness."
— Bob Hope

"Christmas embodies everything that I need. However, everything that I need is often made up of a lot of stuff I don't want."
— Craig D. Lounsborough



**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:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Rector | Vacancey |
| Asst. Priest | Revd. Sandy Montgomerie, 105 Sharphill Rd, Saltcoats KA21 5QU <i>e-mail: sandy.montgomerie@btinternet.com Tel/Fax: 01294 465193</i> |

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