



Concord

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



Christmas 2017

Dear friends,

The year seems to have flown by and now we are in Advent and following on will be Christmas. We think of Advent as a preparation for Christmas often for some folk it means how many shopping days are left which can put pressure on what gifts to buy that are different from last year and without breaking the bank.

Another way of experiencing Advent is having time and space for reflection on the wonder of God's love for us and God's world.

Many of you will watch TV programs over the festive season but one I have already found amazing is Blue Planet II by Richard Attenborough. Much of the photography will leave you speechless as a dark underwater world hidden from our eyes becomes a place of beauty as many creatures gracefully swim in and out of the picture in the depths of the dark oceans.

There is a real mystery here a life beyond our ken as it were, and it often leads us wanting to know more just as Attenborough presents us in these programs.

In many ways our curiosity becomes a vehicle for wanting more, adding to the knowledge that we already possess. Yet the mystery is still there we just can't take hold of it and perhaps that's the mystery reminding us that we can never know everything because the source of what we see in creation is the power we call God.

Our God whom we believe is revealed to us in Jesus Christ and even there a mystery remains, whatever we do know much more can be learned and experienced.

Darkness of the world is another feature in our habitation so when Jesus claims to be 'the light of the world' it surely gives us hope and holding up the truth for us to see and helping us understand things better and dispelling the darkness from our path. We must all hope to eliminate darkness especially in the many social issues of our time.

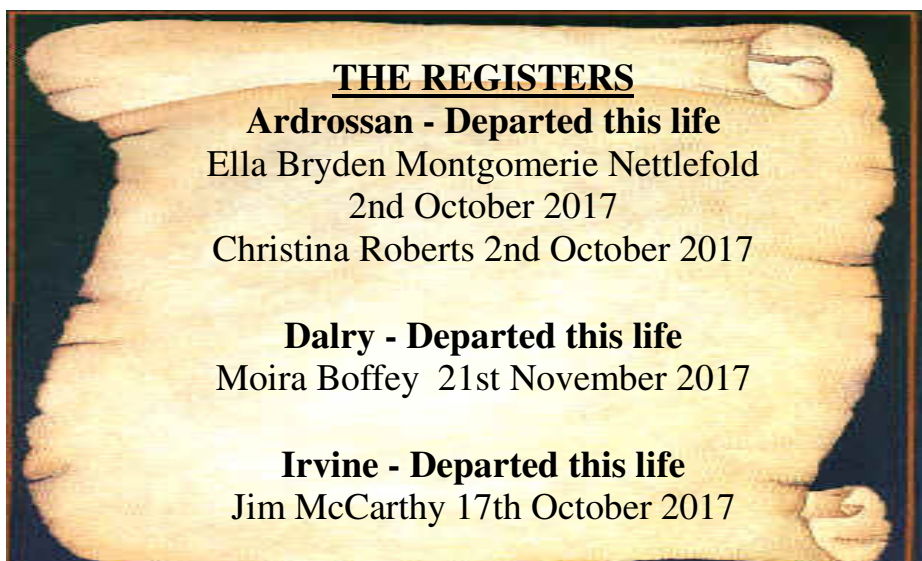
We would I'm sure hope to eliminate world hunger or even stop wasting the earth's resources on armaments even see a world that would stop killing people from womb to tomb. The light we seek is a transforming light it is the light we find at the beginning John's gospel which we use at Christmas, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it'. (John 1. 5)

Yes, we know only too well that evil is real, but we also know that goodness is real, and we are promised a time when goodness will prevail and longing for the time when outbursts of love are all around us similarly to the wonderful scene that shone from the stable in Bethlehem when the birth of a child brought hope to the whole of humanity as the Saviour of the world.

May you all join that celebration once more in the wonder and mystery of Christmas and hope for a peaceful and blessed New Year.

Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas.

Canon Sandy





Christmas.

A special child was born
Arriving in a manger,
He came on Christmas morn
And knew not of any danger.
As He grew a little older
It became crystal clear,
That turning so much bolder
He knew not of any fear.

The trials and tribulations
He was to go through,
Would have worn down many nations
Never mind me or you.
He told us the good news
And helped all in need,
The people formed great queues
And to Him they paid heed.

No wrong had He done
But from that cross He was hung,
With the blackening of the sun
To the last breath He clung.
Knowing what His end was to be
He knew His father's mind,
He would die for you and me
And the good of all mankind.

We should stop, listen and heed
Be not sad but joyous of heart,
Worship of Christ is our greatest need
And God gave us Christ right from the start.
This wonderful gift He gave us all
At that Christmas so long ago,
Hoping that we would respond to the call

So eternal life we would know.

He died to set us free from sin
But many set their own goals,
Never letting Him find a way in
To those hearts, minds and souls.
Christmas should last throughout the year
Our joy and love should not falter,
But often at Christmas there is the fear
That attitudes really won't alter.

Come on, come on let's shout and sing
For the greatest gift of all,
Let us give loud praise to Christ our King
To that babe in a manger, born in a stall.
We should always remember
That Man who set us free,
The child born for us in December
For the rest of eternity.

Written by

Patricia J. Steed

Church Mice



Christmas: The time when everyone gets Santamental.

On Saturday 28th October the annual service of Celebration of Lay Ministries took place in Holy Trinity, Kilmarnock. This year the service focussed on Lay Reader ministry and included our re-Licensing. Ros Brett, who did a placement in North Ayrshire as part of her training, preached the sermon. The photo shows Bishop Gregor with the Lay Readers of the Diocese, including Linda Whitby and myself.

Margaret Williams



Q: What do the elves call it when Father Christmas claps his hands at the end of a play?

A: Santappliance!

Q: Who is Santa's favourite singer?

A: Elf-is Presley.

Q: What do you say to Santa when he's taking attendance at school?

A: Present.

Prayer Support



The Prayer Support Team

In January, please remember in your Prayers
Stuart Mitchell, 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
Mary Stewart, Carolyn French, 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
Angela Churchill, Helen Ternent, Susan Barlow

As they pray for members of their Congregation

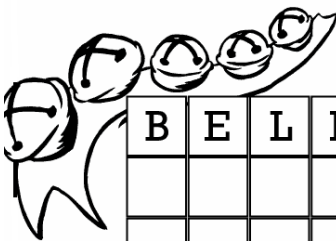
Remember also this month
Worship Leaders

Christmas Number Ones



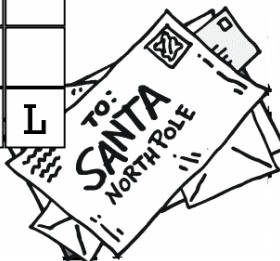
How well do you know your Christmas Number One's. Can you identify which the following songs were number one ?

No	Song	Artist	Year
1	Saviour's Day	Cliff Richard	
2	Do They Know It's Christmas?	Band Aid 20	
3	Return To Sender	Elvis Presley	
4	Lonely This Christmas	Mud	
5	Mary's Boy Child	Harry Belafonte	
6	Stay Another Day	East 17	
7	Mistletoe And Wine	Cliff Richard	
8	Do They Know It's Christmas?	Band Aid	
9	Mull Of Kintyre/girls' School	Wings	
10	Merry Xmas Everybody	Slade	



B	E	L	L
M	A	I	L

Change one letter on each line to change "Bell" to "Mail"



Q: Why does Santa go down the chimney?

A: Because it soots him!

Q: What's Santa's dog's name?

A: Santa Paws!

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

A: Claustrophobic.

Merry Christmas Word Search

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.



tinsel

sack

lights

Rudolph

glitter

angel

stocking

presents

Santa

tree

sleigh

Christmas

twinkle

star

www.superduperkidsblog.com

Q: What do you get if you cross Father Christmas with a detective?

A: Santa Clues!

"Every gift which is given, even though it be small, is in reality great, if it is given with affection."

Pinda

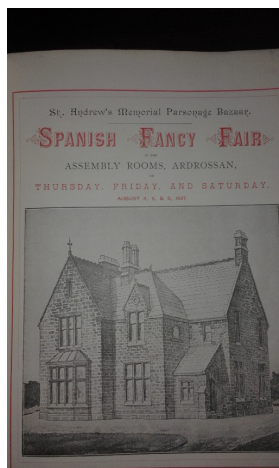
Walks Down Memory Lane Part 2 -

By Heather Upfield

Following the recent passing of Ella Nettlefold, we were delighted when the family handed in a folder of some of her papers, relating to the history of St Andrew's, Ardrossan. It contains her notes on the windows, plaques etc, which I am sure is information we already have. I will, though, scrutinise this archive to make sure nothing is overlooked! However, there are two little gems in this collection. The first is the St Andrew's, Ardrossan brochure, outlining the details of the Scottish Episcopal Church Stewardship Campaign of 1963. I will come back to this in the next magazine.

The second is the star of the show: a Programme dated August 1887, for a **Spanish Fancy Fair** to be held in the Assembly Rooms Ardrossan, to raise funds to build St Andrew's Parsonage (Rectory). It was a 19th Century themed event with 9 stalls named after towns in Spain, selling a variety of goods and food. The Programme lists them all, and adds a short story at the end "*The Child of the Cumbraes*", written especially for this publication, by Rev J Howard Crawford.

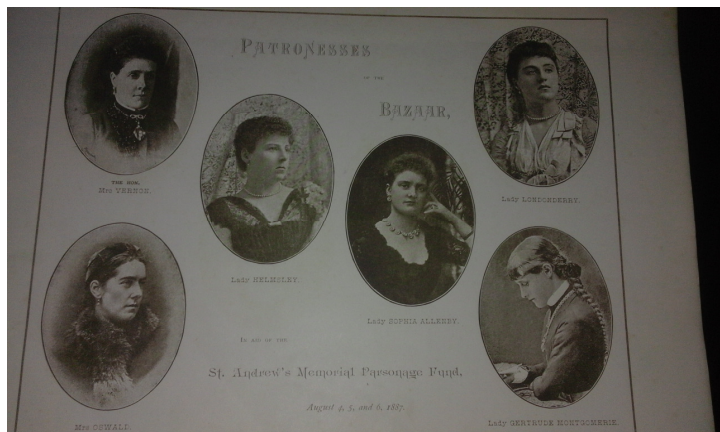
The fair was organised by 12 Patronesses of the Parsonage Fund and the Programme contains a photographic portrait of each lady: Lady Gertrude Montgomerie, Hon Mrs Geo A Montgomerie, Lady Oxenbridge, Lady Gwendoline Chaplin, Lady Shrewsbury, Lady Helmsley, Lady Sophia Allenby, Lady Londonderry, Mrs



Boyle, Mrs J Cuninghame, Hon Mrs Vernon and Mrs Oswald.

Several of these ladies also ran stalls. The Ladies Montgomerie, were on 'Stall Barcelona' and, dressed as "*Spanish Contrabandiere*", were selling "a Choice Variety of Goods from Algiers and other parts of Africa". All stalls were run by a team of ladies in Spanish dress - formal costume with mantillas and lace, or more down to earth peasants and smugglers' daughters.

The whole event looked as though it was enormous fun! There is more work to be done to transcribe the short story, establish more about the Patronesses and find out how much the Fair made! The fact that the Rectory was eventually built, is a testament to the dedicated fund raising of these and other Victorian members of St Andrew's, Ardrossan.



"Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection."
Winston Churchill

Christmas Number One Answers.

1 – 1990	2 – 2004	3 – 1962	4 – 1974	5 – 1957
6 – 1994	7 – 1988	8 – 1984	9 – 1977	10 - 1973

Last Writes

From the Editor's desk

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand."
Mother Teresa

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

George Burns



**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,
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:

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

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