



Concord

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



Christmas 2018

Dear Friends

Advent and Christmas have come around again it's one of the eventualities of the church's calendar and of course we should greet this time with reflection and joy and happiness. Advent needs a certain amount of patience and it can be so easily misunderstood. There is a story of a young boy who was attending school for the first day and as he entered the hustle bustle of the classroom he was told by the teacher to 'sit here for the present' which he duly did but goes home disappointed. When his mother asks how was school his reply was unexpected, 'I am not going back there tomorrow'. His mother was surprised and asked, 'why ever not'? 'Well they told me to sit there for the present then I waited all day, but no one ever gave me a present'.

We could simply put that down to adults and children's understanding of language, but adults can take disappointment badly as we might see at film and television awards someone must win and receive the honour as they give a speech with emotional words such as 'I've waited all my life for this' they are rewarded but not everyone receives that accolade and their time of waiting continues. Advent does not offer rewards, but it should meet our expectation and anticipation of something wonderful to prepare for if we can find our home there maybe the commercial Christmas extravaganza becomes second place.

However, we do have an inner reaction to waiting too long for an event very often we don't have time to waste by waiting particularly when in a queue of people and how we react if someone tries to jump the queue. There are times when being in a queue can be an opportunity for 'waiting conversation'

which gives another story of a mother in a supermarket as Christmas approached, she found herself standing next to a man and his wife in a supermarket checkout.

The queues were long, and the trolleys piled high. Grinning at each other, they began to chat. Then, acknowledging both the queues and the trolleys, the man gestured at the situation and asked, 'What's all this Christmas lark for, then?' The mother decided that she could not miss an opportunity to speak up, took a deep breath and began: 'Well, actually...' so she shared simply why Christmas and the gift of Jesus were important to her and to her family. By the time they had reached the checkout, she had invited this couple and their family for mince pies at a church Christmas social event. Hopefully that couple viewed their wait in a supermarket queue very different from then on! We might not always find that our waiting conversations have such happy and productive endings—but perhaps we should hope for them more often.

We call that evangelism a word that strikes fear into some folk yet look at that word closely because it contains the word 'angel' and as the Christmas story tells us angels came to bring good news of great joy to all people and that is what we continue to follow in our churches. Advent is the time for Preparation and Christmas is the time for Celebration that seems to me a good way of understanding this time of year and its how we approach the reason for the season that makes a difference in our lives.

May the joy of the angels, the excitement of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be with you all and those you love this Christmas and the New Year bring peace and happiness.

Canon Sandy

The Journey to Christmas 2018

Christmas is coming soon, such a special time of year,
A time for sharing and caring and certainly not for fear.
A time for love and a time for hope,
A time to help those who cannot cope
And are not content with the life they live.
Many give nothing throughout the year,
But at Christmas they may decide to give
To others less fortunate than themselves,
A bit of love and hope and Christmas cheer.

What is so special about this time?
Well I will tell you now my friends,
A certain gentleman at Christmas was born,
To give us life without end.
He came to save, to show us the way,
Which for many is sadly lost,
From the lives we lead today.
He taught us to share, to care and love one another,
But how many today don't heed His teachings
And constantly fight with each other.

Christ taught us to worship and taught us to pray,
Why do so many not follow today?
Many constantly try to push Him away
But we remember Him each year at Christmas time.
His birth at Christmas comes to many minds.
Most accept that He lived and died for our sake,
But again for many, no difference it makes.
They still will not try to follow His ways,
Until they are coming to the end of their days.

Maybe this Christmas people will change,
Maybe they will not spend all their money
On presents and give some to the poor,
Maybe this time they'll remember His teachings,
And have an always open door,
And remember the man who was hung so high,
And the people around Him who heard Him cry.
Who laughed at His ragged array, on the day that He did die.
Each Christmas shows us His teachings are still here
And our duty is always to follow His ways,
Till the end of our lives is near
And we will know not the end of our days.
For those whose views vanish like a night time sun,
They will find themselves out on a limb,
In fear of what is to come.
They wonder what they will see,
What happens and what the end will be.

Let's make this Christmas count for all,
Let our good intentions not suffer a fall,
Let's share love, caring and sharing
With those who are old, ill or worn clothes wearing.
Those who are homeless and those who are lost,
And those who don't care or just think of the cost.
Let's show them how love can help everyone,
We should share warmth like we are the sun.
And have a wonderful Christmas and remember the One
And only Christ the Son.

Written by and copyright to Patricia J Steed

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? **It's Christmas, Eve!**
Which of Santa's reindeer needs to mind his manners the most? **"Rude Olph"**.

The 12 Days of Christmas



BIRDS
CALLING
DANCING
DOVES
DRUMMERS
DRUMMING
FRENCH
GEESE
GOLDEN
HENS



LADIES
LAYING
LEAPING
LORDS
MAIDS

MILKING
PARTRIDGE
PEAR
PEPPERS
PIPING
RING
SWANS
SWIMMING
TREE
TURTLE



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Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? **They always drop their needles!**

What happened to the thief who stole a Christmas Advent Calendar? **He got 25 days!**

Prayer Support



The Prayer Support Team

In January, please remember in your Prayers
Angela Churchill, Kit Still, David Williams

As they pray for members of their Congregation

Remember also this month
Vestry Members



The Prayer Support Team

In February, please remember in your Prayers
Susan Garner, Helen Ternent, Susan Barlow

As they pray for members of their Congregation

Remember also this month
Eucharistic Assistants



The Prayer Support Team

In March, please remember in your Prayers
Eveline Gray, Carolyn French, Mary Coutts

As they pray for members of their Congregation

Remember also this month
Readers

Christmas Services

Sunday 23rd—Normal services.

Monday 24th—Watch Nights Service at 11:15pm, St Andrew's, Ardrossan.

Wednesday 26th—NO service at Ardrossan.

Tuesday 25th—Christmas Day Service at 9:30am, St Andrew's, Irvine.

Sunday 30th —Normal services.

Wednesday 2nd—NO service at Ardrossan.



Christmas Number Ones

How well can you remember the last ten Christmas number ones. Can you put the correct year to each of these songs, from 2008 to 2017.

"When We Collide" by Matt Cardle

"He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" by The Justice Collective

"A Bridge over You" by Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir

"Rockabye" by Clean Bandit featuring Sean Paul and Anne-Marie

"Perfect" by Ed Sheeran

"Something I Need" by Ben Haenow

"Skyscraper" by Sam Bailey

"Wherever You Are" by Military Wives with Gareth Malone

"Hallelujah" by Alexandra Burke

"Killing in the Name" by Rage Against the Machine

What happens to elves when they behave naughty? **Santa gives them the sack.**

What kind of music do elves listen to? **Wrap.**

What is a snowmans favourite breakfast? **Ice Crispies.**

Why didn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party? **He had nobody to go with.**

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? **A Mince Spy!**

Speedy Santa

US scientists calculated that Santa would have to visit 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, travelling at 650 miles a second.

Carols

Carols weren't sung in churches until they were introduced by St Francis of Assisi in the 13th century.

Stockings

Hanging stockings out comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for St Nicholas's donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.

Angels Singing?

There is no reference to angels singing anywhere in the Bible.

Noel

The word Noel derives from the French expression "les bonnes nouvelles" or "the good news".

Xmas

The abbreviation Xmas isn't irreligious. The letter X is a Greek abbreviation for Christ.

2007 "When You Believe" by Leon Jackson

2008 "Hallelujah" by Alexandra Burke

2009 "Killing in the Name" by Rage Against the Machine

2010 "When We Collide" by Matt Cardle

2011 "Wherever You Are" by Military Wives with Gareth Malone

2012 "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" by The Justice Collective

2013 "Skyscraper" by Sam Bailey

2014 "Something I Need" by Ben Haenow

2015 "A Bridge over You" by Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir

2016 "Rockabye" by Clean Bandit featuring Sean Paul and Anne-Marie

2017 "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran

An **E**
X of
P
Light
Love
Sand
Liberty
O
N

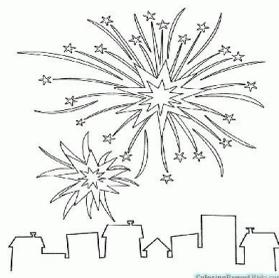
Diocese of
Glasgow and Galloway
**ADVENT QUIET
DAYS**

Saturday 8th December
10.30 – 3.00pm
(Tea/coffee from 10am, bring own
sandwiches for lunch.)

Holy Trinity & St. Barnabas,
St. James' Place,
Paisley. PA3 2AF

Contact:
office@glasgow.anglican.org

St. Ninian's Church,
Whitepark Rd,
Castle Douglas. DG7 1EX
Contact:
s.dewhurst23@gmail.com



Mince Pies

Although now mostly vegetarian, in Victorian times, mince pies were made with beef and spices.

SPECIAL NOTICE - EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Due to the excessive number of absences during the past year, it has become necessary to put the following new rules into operation immediately:

1. SICKNESS No excuse. The department will no longer accept your doctor's certificate as proof We believe that if you a/e able to attend the doctor's you are able to come to work.

2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR AN OPERATION We wish to discourage any thoughts you may have of needing an operation and, henceforth no leave of absence will be granted for hospital visits, the department believe that as long as you are an employee here you will need all of what you have, and should not consider having any of it removed. We engage you for your particulate job with all your organs, and having anything removed would mean that we would be getting less than we bargained for,

3. VISITS TO THE TOILET AND CIGARETTE BREAKS Far too much time is spent on these particular practices. In future this procedure will be that all personnel will go in alphabetical order for example; Those with the surname beginning with the letter 'A ' will go from 0930 to 0945 'B' will go from 0945 to 1000 hrs etc.

NOTE those of you who are unable to attend at your appropriate time of day will have to wait until the following day when your turn comes again.

DEATH (Other than your own). This is no excuse there is nothing you can do for them and henceforth no time off will be allowed for funerals. However, m case this should cause some hardship to some of our employees, there are those who might care to note that on your behalf the department has a special scheme in conjunction with the local council for lunchtime burials, thus ensuring that no time is lost from work.

DEATH (Your Own). This will be accepted as an excuse. We should like two weeks notice; however, we feel it is your duly to train someone else for your job.

Last Writes

From the Editor's desk

Why did the elf push his bed into the fireplace? **He wanted to sleep like a log.**

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? **Claustrophobic**

What do snowmen eat for breakfast? **Snowflakes**



**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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