

The web Torch



Christmas 2018

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The Minister's Message

A Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends,

We recently marked Remembrance Sunday which took on an extra significance this year as it also marked the centenary of the Armistice at the end of the First World War on 11th November 1918. It was particularly moving to hear the names read from the BB Roll of Honour and to have the memorial crosses for each of those who gave their lives on display at the front of the church.



While it is appropriate that the major focus of Remembrance Sunday is those who gave their lives in military service during the two world wars and other conflicts the implication of the horrors of war go far beyond this. During the Second World War many German Christians suffered as they took their stand for the truths of the gospel.

One of the most prominent of these was the theologian and pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He was known for his staunch resistance to the Nazi regime including vocal opposition to the euthanasia program and the genocidal persecution of the Jews. He was arrested in April 1943 and imprisoned for a year and a half before being transferred to a concentration camp. He was accused of being associated with a plot to assassinate Hitler. On April 8th 1945 he faced a court-martial without witnesses, records of proceedings or a defence in Flossenburg concentration camp. He was sentenced to death and executed by hanging at dawn on 9th April, just two weeks before the camp was liberated by American soldiers.

Many of Bonhoeffer's letters from prison have been kept and published. At the approach of Advent in 1943 he wrote, "A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes, does various

unessential things, and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened *from the outside*, is not a bad picture of Advent."

For Bonhoeffer the doors of his literal prison were never opened from the outside. If only circumstances had allowed him to hold on for another fortnight his story would have been so different! And yet even in prison he was able to use his experience to see a greater spiritual truth. He understood that the door of real freedom is opened from the outside by the coming and the second coming of Jesus Christ.

We are often so keen to rush ahead to Christmas that we miss out of the importance of waiting. For centuries the prophets had promised the coming Messiah. He alone has the power to unlock us from our prisons of sin, of guilt, of fear, of lack of purpose. He alone can set us free to experience the fullness of life that we were created to enjoy.

At Christmas God proved beyond all doubt that his promises were true as he clothed himself in human flesh and came among us. Some of his promises are yet to be fulfilled. He has promised that all wrongs will be righted and evil will be banished. He has promised the perfect restoration of all things. We see so much in our world today that challenges that truth, but we have seen so many of his promises fulfilled in Jesus that we can be certain that he keeps his word, and that Jesus will come again and all things will be fulfilled.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you will enjoy the celebrations, but most of all I hope you will know that freedom that can only be found in Christ – that freedom that Dietrich Bonhoeffer knew even in prison. May he unlock any prison doors which hold you captive this Christmas.

Colin A. Strong

Hearts of Advent



For all who grieve: A time of peace to remember a family member or a friend who was treasured, and a time to give thanks for their precious life. You are warmly invited to our Hearts of Advent Service to be held in Fenwick Parish Church on Sunday 16th December, 2018 at 7pm. Bring yourself, your family and your friends.

Advent Reflection

There will be an Advent Reflection followed by refreshments at 7.30 on Wednesday 19th December in the Manse. This will be a joint event with Fenwick.

Communion Services

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, 3rd February 2019 at 11.30 am. Kirk Session meets at 11.00 am.

Please sit in the centre pews for this service.

There will be an informal evening communion service at 6.30pm in the Church Hall.



Freewill Offering

Members are reminded to use new offering envelopes from Sunday 6th January 2019.

It would be appreciated if members would bring their pledged offerings for the year ending 31st December, 2018 up to date, This is particularly important for those who participate in the gift aid scheme.

Christmas at Riccarton Church 2018

Children's Family Service including Nativity Play

Sunday 23rd December 11.30am

Christingle Service Monday 24th December 7.00pm

Watchnight Service Monday 24th December 11.30pm

Family Service Sunday 30th December 11.30am

Thank You

From Jane Ferguson

Thank you to everyone who contributed to my presentation on handing over the reins of the Caring Group to Margaret. I will still be doing a few visits.

It was such a surprise at the Caring Group Party to receive a gift for something I enjoyed doing. Thanks to the Caring Group team for all their support over the years. I am sure they will do the same for Margaret.



Used Stamps



This is a reminder to save your used stamps to raise money for Crossreach. Please either cut off envelope leaving at least quarter of an inch all round, or tear off leaving a bigger border and they will be trimmed. Please do not soak to remove from envelope.

Postcards are also of value and should be left whole. They can be left in the Church Officer's pew or given direct to me. These are very much appreciated by Crossreach who have written to thank us.

Thank you.
Ann Gilmour

Torch Distributors

Thank you all for your services again this year. There is no Torch in January so I hope you all enjoy the break and have a very peaceful and happy Christmas. Included in this Thank You are Betty and Jim Robson who compile and print the Torch each month, as well as all the other printed material we use in Church.



Thank you all
Ann Gilmour

Congregational Board

The board will meet in Church on Monday 21st January at 7.30pm

Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal

I would like to thank everyone who donated shoeboxes and money towards transport costs to this years shoebox appeal. Thirty two boxes went off to Fullarton Connexions to be custom checked. Thanks to Christine for her help and advice. Thanks also to Stuart and Carol-Anne for their assistance. Your help was very much appreciated. I am sure our gifts will be received with delight.

Thanks again everyone.

Mairi

Foodbank

We would like to sincerely thank those of you who donate items of food and money to our local Foodbank. Many people who have to use the Foodbank benefit from your kindness.



Lots of families will have to rely on the Foodbank this Christmas. Most of us have so much and will hopefully never be put in the position of having to use a Foodbank, but for many that is the reality.

As we approach the festive season, we would be grateful if you could donate items of food that could help make up a Christmas Dinner. Tinned meats, vegetables, potatoes, fruit, custard and jelly. Also Shortbread, cakes and Christmas puddings, or anything you think would be suitable.

As always bring your. donations to church and it will be taken to Foodbank.

If you are able, please help spread some love and kindness to our community this Christmas.

Thank you.

Mairi & Carol-Anne.

Boys Brigade

2nd Kilmarnock Boys Brigade

The company biannual coffee morning raised £380 for company funds. A big thanks to all who donated bottles and chocolate, did some baking, and to those who attended on the day. We also collected £40 for Children In Need.



The Anchor Boys learned about Remembrance and tried out the new game, Boccia. They also had a Halloween party, playing lots of games. They will be going to Fun Box (used to be the Singing Kettle) for their Christmas outing.

The Junior Section also had a Halloween party but are now working hard towards a Supergroup competition in February. We are learning about David and Goliath as part of the Bible Quiz. Three boys attended a craft evening at Cumnock.

The company section have started a Youth Alpha course as part of their badge work programme.

Remembrance was special this year being the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War 1. Twenty three members of 2nd Kilmarnock lost their lives in that war so we felt it only right to mark this. A small model of twenty three crosses with the names of all who lost their lives was carried into church on Remembrance Sunday along with the BB wreath. A truly emotional occasion, thinking back to events of more than a century ago, and to young men who may well have been founder members of the company.

Hope everyone has a great Christmas and a Happy New Year when it comes. Thanks to all who have supported us in any way over the last year.

Stuart McKelvie
Company Captain

Guild of Friendship

The syllabus for the next few weeks is as follows:-

December

6th Christmas Party

January

10th Rev Scott Rae

17th SMT

24th Stuart Wilson - Burns and Kilmarnock

31st Helen Hunter - Women Aglow

February

7th OLM in training - David Hume



Guild

The Syllabus is as follows:-

December

18th Candle Tea

January

22nd Rev Colin Strong

February

26th Taste and Try - Mr Charles Sim



80th Birthday

Congratulations and good wishes to Janette McEwan who celebrated her 80th Birthday on the 25th November. Well Done.

Morven Day Centre

It has been decided that the collections from Christingle and Watchnight Services will go to Morven day centre in Kilmarnock. Which is an arm of Crossreach

At Crossreach they offer loving care to people of all ages who are in need of a helping hand, supporting them to live life to the full whatever their circumstances. Today they are one of the largest care providers in Scotland with experience across a broad range of services.



They are guided and motivated by a Christian ethos of love, compassion and care for all. Those using the service do not have to be Church members church goers or even a person of Faith.

The Church's Social Care Council is accountable for work of Crossreach.

Christmas Fayre

Thanks to all who donated, attended and worked at Fayre on Saturday. A sum was raised and will be used for new heating system in Church. Anyone unable to attend can still donate to end of year.

CrossReach

Providing a Caring Future.

Thank you to everyone who supported CrossReach through their Christmas Catalogue Appeal. A sum was raised to support the very valuable work they carry out to the most needy and vulnerable people in many areas of Society.

Marion Linton

Thank You Letters



From Rose Thomson

Thank you for the beautiful flowers I received from Church. They were very very much appreciated.

From George & Mabel Easton

Many thanks for the lovely flowers they received from church for George's birthday. Nice to be remembered.

From Nan & Alex Barlow

We would like to thank the church for the lovely flowers we received on Sunday. It was a lovely surprise and very much appreciated. Also thank you to Moira for delivering the flowers.

From Nancy Wilson

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers I received from Church. They were very much appreciated.

Welcome Teams

December

Margaret Henderson

G Kirkpatrick

A Cairns

January

Tom Linton Ian Aitken

Jackie Wallace

G Kirkpatrick

A Cairns

February

Gloria Barnes

Jim Barnes

Jane Ferguson

G Kirkpatrick

A Cairns

Flower Transport

December

2nd Mrs J Ferguson
9th Mr S McKenzie
16th Miss E MacTaggart
23rd Mrs Ann Gilmour
30th Mr Alex Barlow

January

6th Mrs M Aitken
13th Mrs J Ferguson
20th Mr S McKenzie
27th Miss E MacTaggart

February

3rd Mrs Ann Gilmour

Duty Group for Offering

December

Convenor Group 5 Margaret McCluskey
Andrea Dunachie Marie Littlejohn

January

Convenor Group 1 Tom Linton
Ian Aitken Alex Hamilton Marion Linton Jackie Wallace

February

Convenor Group 2 Gloria Barnes
Jim Barnes Jane Ferguson



Flower Rota

Keep your face always towards the sunshine and the shadows
will fall behind you. Walt Whitman

December

2nd Marie Littlejohn
9th Vacant
16th Mairi Kirkpatrick & Rose Forbes
23rd Ann Baird
30th Mary Meikle



January

6th Shona Hamilton
13th Betty Minto
20th Jane Ferguson
27th Vacant

February

3rd Vacant

Thank you all and May God Bless you this Christmas and in
the year ahead.

Margaret Henderson Flower Convenor

Tea Rota

December

2/9	Beth McGhee	Jackie Wallace	Lorna McColgan
16/23	Carol-Anne McKelvie	Rose Forbes	Mairi Kirkpatrick
30	Nan Barlow	Ann Gilmour	Marie Littlejohn

January

6	Nan Barlow	Ann Gilmour	Marie Littlejohn
13/20	Myrtle McCready	Jan Miller	Rose Thomson
27	Edith Jamieson	Sandra Campbell	Margaret Fulton

Creche Rota

December

2 nd	Edith Jamieson	Margaret McCluskey
9 th	Davina Condron	Elizabeth Kerr
16 th	Beth McGhee	Elspeth Bennion
23 rd	Laura Strong	Andrea Dunachie
30 th	Edith Jamieson	Margaret McCluskey

January

6 th	Davina Condron	Elizabeth Kerr
13 th	Beth McGhee	Elspeth Bennion
20 th	Laura Strong	Andrea Dunachie
27 th	Edith Jamieson	Margaret McCluskey

Sound System

December

2 nd	Bill McCready	9 th	Eleanor McCallum
16 th	Denham Kirkpatrick	23 rd	Jim Robson
30 th	Bill McCready		

January

6 th	Eleanor McCallum	13 th	Denham Kirkpatrick
20 th	Jim Robson	27 th	Bill McCready

February

3 rd	Eleanor McCallum
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From the Editor

Material for February Torch should be given to Mrs Betty Robson, **NOT LATER THAN** Sunday 20th January
Betty Robson (Editor) 01563 532248
On behalf of Jim and myself, we Wish you All A Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. Look forward to your contributions in 2019.

