



December 2011 / January 2012

MEARNS KIRK

NEWS

Letter from our Minister

Hi Folks,

Tis the Season to be Holy, tra la la la la, la la la la ! No it isn't a misprint, you did read it correctly : HOLY. Of course that doesn't exclude being Jolly but it is about much, much more.

The word holy in the Bible speaks of being apart, dedicated to God, being different. God's holy people are those who live with and for God, not really those who are perfect or even very, very nice ! So what I am suggesting by saying tis the season to be holy, is that the way we celebrate Christmas should be more in keeping with what is at the heart of it.

In a mysterious way Christmas stands apart from normal celebrations. At the heart of it is God coming to share our humanity in Jesus. It is God revealing His heart for all people in a very down to earth way. I don't understand how this is possible but I do know that in Jesus I meet with God, the God who made me and loves me, and of course everyone else. And embracing this

God, Christians have discovered that God is bound up with every aspect of their lives, having embraced Himself, all that we know as life.

I believe this to be such an important aspect of our Faith for it tells us that God is no stranger to our joys and sorrows, our struggles and our challenges. He has been where we are and can sustain us and lead us through life which He has experienced for Himself. In other words, God is no stranger to our life and will not be a stranger to us in the midst of ours.

So have a Holy Christmas, one which is different from the one given to us by those who don't believe what we believe. Make your focus God. Take time for worship, prayer, reflection. Come and join the Celebration. If we have a Holy Christmas then we can journey on into the New Year knowing that we do so with God, the God who comes to us in Jesus to love us forever.

A Holy and Peaceful Christmas to one and all. Joe

Mearns Kirk - Charity Number SC007125

Church Services

Sunday 4 December

Traditional Early Service at 9.30

Christmas Gift Service at 11.00

Wednesday 7 December

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Sunday 11 December

Traditional Early Service at 9.30

Main Morning Worship at 11.00

Candles, Carols and Communion at 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday 14 December

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Sunday 18 December

Christmas Family Service at 10.30 a.m. with Nativity Play

Tuesday 20 December

Worship with the Senses from 7 to 8.30 p.m. in the Church

Wednesday 21 December

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Saturday 24 December

Watchnight Service at 11.30 p.m.

Sunday 25 December

Christmas Morning Service at 10.30

Wednesday 28 December

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Sunday 1 January

One Morning Service at 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday 4 January

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Sunday 8 January

Traditional Early Service at 9.30

Main Morning Worship at 11 a.m.



Wednesday 11 January

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Sunday 15 January

Traditional Early Service at 9.30

Main Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

Wednesday 18 January

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Sunday 22 January

Traditional Early Service at 9.30

Main Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

Wednesday 25 January

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Sunday 29 January

Traditional Early Service at 9.30

Main Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

Tuesday 31 January

Worship with the Senses at 7.30 p.m. in Hall

Wednesday 1 February

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Friday 3 February

Preparatory Service in the Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 5 February

Communion Services at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

At the Font

Baptisms: Jesus said: "Baptise in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

27 November Megan Betty Brenda Jackson, daughter of Louise and Craig, Giffnock

At the Altar

Weddings: Jesus said: "And the two shall become one."



28 October Judith Kavanagh, Mearns, and Craig McDonald, Paisley

At Rest

Funerals: Jesus said: "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

2 November Alex Laird, Mearns

Worship With The Senses

On Tuesday 20 December we have our Christmas Worship With the Senses. This takes place in the Church and embraces the way in which the Church is prepared for our celebrations. Added to this is the lighting of the Church by candlelight. We flood the Church with candlelight which brings out the warmth, beauty and mystery of Christmas

itself. So why not come to the Church on the Tuesday anytime between 7 and 8.30 p.m. and take time to find peace, to prepare your heart for Christmas, and just to spend time with God.

Our January 31 service will be held in the Hall at 7.30 p.m. and will focus on Letting Go and Journeying On with God.

Pastoral Needs

Please inform the Minister if you are ill, in hospital or facing particular difficulties. If the Minister knows about your needs he will endeavour to offer every possible assistance. Contact him at the Manse or by phone on 616 2410.

The Pastoral Group makes visits to the elderly, infirm, housebound, those in a care home etc. Please call Jean Henderson on 639 3607 if you know of anyone who should be on our list. We will be delighted to visit them.

Church Flowers

Dec	4	Mrs A. Howarth & Mr A. Milroy
	11	Christmas Decorations
Jan	8	Ladies' Keep Fit
	15	Mrs J. Dunning
	22	Mrs M. Gilbert & Mrs L. Deakin
	29	Mrs L. McMaster



Arrangers' Rota

Dec	4	Louise		
	11	All arrangers help please - Friday 9th at 10 a.m.		
Jan	8	Margaret	15	Jessie
	22	Joan	29	Rosemary

We are very sorry to be losing the wonderful flower arranging talents of Louise Macaulay as she has decided after many years to hang up her scissors. Thank you Louise for all your hard work over the years and your willingness to do whatever was asked. Happy retirement!

A big "Thank You" also to all the other flower arrangers who make sure we have a lovely pedestal arrangement each Sunday. I know the flowers are always greatly admired. Another big "Thank You" to the volunteers who turn up without fail on their chosen Sunday to deliver the flowers after the 11 a.m. service. It is very much appreciated.

Finally many thanks for donations totalling £25 left for the Flower Fund during the last month.

Rosemary Baillie 01560 600322 Margaret Withycombe 638 0672

Bereavement Support

The Support Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the New Hall, so the next meetings are on 6 December and 3 January. These are very down to earth meetings where folks come together and offer friendship in and through the difficult experience of

the loss of a loved one.

Please, if you know of anyone who would benefit from spending time with folks who are going through a similar experience, tell them about it. People have found the Group to be very helpful. Any questions, phone Joe.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 4 December

Traditional Early Service at 9.30

Christmas Gift Service at 11 a.m.

Sunday 11 December

Candles, Carols and Communion at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 18 December

Christmas Family Service at 10.30 a.m. with Nativity Play

Tuesday 20 December

Worship with the Senses from 7 to 8.30 p.m. in the Church

Saturday 24 December

Watchnight Service at 11.30 p.m.

Sunday 25 December

Christmas Morning Service at 10.30

Sunday 1 January

One Morning Service at 10.30 a.m.



Tuesday 10 January

Kirk Session meets at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 19 January

Contributions required for February 'News'

Tuesday 31 January

Worship with the Senses at 7.30 p.m. in Hall

Friday 3 February

Preparatory Service in the Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 5 February

Communion Services at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Christmas Arrangements

Our Gift Service is on 4 December, when folks are encouraged to bring a gift, marking on the gift tag whether it is for a boy or a girl and for what age. The following Sunday (11th) has our normal advent services in the morning but in the evening we have our Candles, Carols and Com-

munion at 6.30 p.m. The Nativity Play is on 18th at 10.30 a.m. This is always a wonderful service! Watchnight as usual takes place on 24th at 11.30 p.m. and the Christmas Day service at 10.30 a.m. There will be one service on Sunday 1st January at 10.30 a.m.



Sunday Duty Rota

Dec 4	9.30	Isabelle Dyer, Ronnie Sinclair, Des Young, Bea Young, <u>Bill Jenkins</u>
	11.00	Lindsay McKendrick, Anne Scott, Campbell Scouler, <u>Beth Seymour</u> , Elspeth McDougall
Dec 11	9.30	<u>Jimmy Brown</u> , Gordon Wilson, Kay Galloway, Tom Greig, Margaret Anne Sutherland
	11.00	Marianne MacGregor, Irene McKerral, Jim McKerral, <u>John Skinner</u> , Marie Andrews
Dec 18	10.30	Heather Anderson, Norman Anderson, Robert Paton, <u>Taylor Stewart</u> , Mary Paton
Dec 25	10.30	Marje Gillies, Jim Milroy
Jan 1	10.30	<u>Roger Eason</u> , Fiona Macleod, Margaret Paul, Liz Ronald, Gillian Eason
Jan 8	9.30	Stewart Lothian, <u>Ian Stubbs</u> , Lesley Anne Sutherland, Heather Gilchrist
	11.00	Shona Clark, Marje Gillies, <u>John Henderson</u> , Laura Reid, June Templeton
Jan 15	9.30	Mary Deas, Bryan Robertson, <u>Marshall Wyllie</u> , Harriet Reid
	11.00	David Arthur, <u>Isobel Dawson</u> , Jane Dunning, Liz Gourlay, Jim Milroy
Jan 22	9.30	Eleanor Boyd, Barbara Bremner, <u>Ramsay Withycombe</u> , Sandra McFarlane
	11.00	Donald Fraser, <u>Elizabeth Harris</u> , Violet Kimble, Alan Wilkinson, Arthur Gardner
Jan 29	9.30	<u>Isabelle Dyer</u> , Ronnie Sinclair, Des Young, Bea Young, Bill Jenkins
	11.00	Ann Campbell, Arthur Croall, Stewart Drummond, <u>Louise Macaulay</u> , Sandy Watson

Names underlined are scheduled to read the lesson.



Mission Group

I want to begin by thanking all of you who have been responding so generously to our appeal for food and drink for the Lodging House Mission. It has been excellent so far and will continue until just before Christmas. We are so well received when we take your gifts to the haven which the Church of Scotland has been supporting in the east end of Glasgow for over a century. Our friends there will be holding special services over Christmas and the New Year and would be thrilled to meet anyone from our congregation. Details are available from our notice board in the New Hall or any member of the Mission Group. All are welcome, as Marty Haugan's wonderful hymn reminds us.

If past history can be relied upon, by the time you read this article many of you will have been out pounding the streets of Mearns delivering the festive cards announcing and inviting responses to the Advent and Christmas services to be held in our Kirk through November and December. To all who did so, again grateful thanks to you.

Family Event

On Saturday February 4 we'll be holding a family event from 4 - 6 p.m. There will be games, prizes, nibbles and drinks, so come along and join in the fun. Look forward to seeing you there.

Now we are going for a hat trick in soliciting your support. As we promised you, the Mission Group is planning to mount a fresh project in the new year. We are preparing a series of cards which will be placed in a box in the church. Members of the congregation will have an opportunity to select a card at any time from this box and make a response to it anonymously in another box nearby. The donations which accrue over time will be devoted entirely to a cause, or series of causes, of an Eco nature and may, if the congregation so wishes, be aligned to our efforts to celebrate the joy of continuous worship here in this place which will be remembered in 2013. We are calling it the "Count Your Blessings Project", as you will already know from reading the MK News, and we will keep you posted on its progress. Meantime, all of us at the Mission Group wish you the joy and peace of a Christ-filled Christmas, and health and spiritual fulfilment in 2012.

Tom Greig

Social Committee

The Social Committee is looking for more members to help with ideas and organisation of 3 - 4 social events every year. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11 January at

7.30 p.m. at Liz Gourlay's house - Tel. 639 8894. Transport to the meeting is available - no problem to pick up and drop off.

Thank You

I would like to thank all the many members of the congregation who sent me good wishes for my recent surgery and convalescence. These included numerous cards, telephone calls, visits and outings which I

greatly appreciated. I also wish to thank the church for the lovely flowers. My recovery is progressing well and I hope to be back among you all very soon. Thank you again.
Isabelle Dyer.

Friendship Club

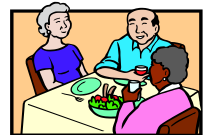
6th December Christmas Party – Jean Binning and Friends

17th January Exercise after Excess – May MacIntosh

31st January Fiddle Music – Hugh McGilp

We meet every second Tuesday from 1.45 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.

Louise Macaulay - Secretary (639 1396)



Minibus Rota

The following are scheduled to drive the minibus to the Main Service each Sunday. It would be greatly appreciated if regular users of the minibus could contact the driver if they will

not be at Church on a particular Sunday, as this will help to avoid the drivers waiting at pick-up points for passengers who are not coming.



December

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 4 | Alistair Fyfe (639 6444) | 11 | Peter Boyd (639 7544) |
| 18 | Stewart Lothian (639 7091) | 25 | Ian McIntosh (639 7218) |

January

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Jim Milroy (639 5971) | 8 | Ken Mitchell (639 3356) |
| 15 | John Finlay (639 7438) | 22 | John Finlay (639 7438) |
| 29 | John Finlay (639 7438) | | |

2013 Celebrations

Comments Box

Thank you to everyone who has filled in the reply card and dropped it in one of the comments boxes. We need to hear from many more - please take a few minutes to tick the boxes on the little questionnaire and return it to the boxes in the Church vestibule and the hall entrance. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Any Anecdotes?

We are currently preparing an updated booklet covering the history of our Church, and to bring this publication to life we would like to include some personal stories and anecdotes. For example can you remember what your Sundays used to be like 50 / 60 / 70 years ago?

What was Sunday School like? Are there any stories about what the Minister, Elders or church members got up to? What were the highlights of the Church year? If you can assist please contact Marianne MacGregor (639 6972).

Fund Raising

A fund raising appeal will be going out next spring for donations to cover upgrading of our church building for 2013. Some of the improvements necessary to bring us up to date with technology will be a worthwhile investment for the future but also quite costly.

If you wish to make a donation or find out more details, please contact Joe.

Afternoon Bible Study Group

The next meetings of the Afternoon Bible Study Group are at 10 Meadowburn Avenue at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesdays 6 December (John 7: 25-

53), January 17 (John 8: 1-59), January 24 (John 9: 1-41), and January 31 (John 10: 1-42).

Blythswood Care

The Blythswood Care Round Scotland lorry will be stopping at our church car park from 1.30 to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays 14 December and (provisionally) 11 January to uplift donations of clothing, bric-a-brac and small items of furniture. Soft furnishings must be labelled with a

BS7177 coded tag, and Blythswood Care are sorry they cannot accept books, bikes, carpets, coat hangers, gas or small electric appliances, prams, tvs, exercise equipment and wall units.



Ladies' Walking Group

Well we did indeed manage a dry day this month - in fact it was a perfect day, mild with even a glimpse of sunshine.

Six of us set out from the church car park and drove to a car park in Paisley, which gave us access to one of the Glennifer Brae Walks. The access road is quite a climb but once out of the car the walk actually traverses the braes offering spectacular views all over Paisley, the airport and also the hills and mountains far beyond. As is our wont we all so-journed to Dykebar Garden Centre

for our usual teas and coffees and, of course, lots of chat.

December's walk is replaced by our Christmas lunch at Parklands; there is no walk in January but February sees us resume our normal schedule. The group meets at the church car park on the first Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm. Contact Celia Corbett (639 8366) if you wish more details.

Diary Dates

Dec 7	LUNCH, Parklands, 1 p.m.
Jan	NO WALK
Feb 1	Clyde II

New Bible Study House Group

Hello everyone. I would like to extend a friendly invitation to everyone at Mearns Kirk to come along to a new Bible Study that is starting in the Church. It will run alongside the established group that meet weekly at Eleanor Boyd's house on a Tuesday afternoon. We are going to start meeting at Susan Fraser's house on Thursday 1st December at 7.30 p.m. and we will then meet every fortnight. The subject we will be looking at is the letters of the apostle Paul. We are going to start with what is regarded as the earliest letter in the New Testament, Paul's

first letter to the church in Thessalonica.

So I hope that you will come along for a very informal Bible Study and if you have never been to one before, then I warmly encourage you to come along to meet with us for lively discussion and friendly fellowship. If you need any further information regarding the new group then please do not hesitate to contact me on either 07912 534280 or e-mail me at s-crawford2@sky.com and I look forward to meeting you on 1st December.

Stuart Crawford



Woman's Guild

On **Wed 7th December** we look forward to Christmas Lunch in the Uplawmoor Hotel. Coach pick-up is at Fairweather Place at 11.50 a.m. and the Church car park at 12 noon.

An 'Old Time' Christmas on **14th December** allows us the chance to 'dress up' from any period during the last hundred years. Mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread is the order of the day as the Church Choir joins us with a programme of music and carols.

We resume on **11th January** with a talk on 'Security' by Chief Inspector Alan Murray.

Appropriately on **25th January** our good friend Jean Wardrop gives us a 'Taste' of Scotland.

In the meantime we bid farewell to our memorable centenary year and wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas, and peace, good health and fellowship in the New Year from all of us to all of you.

BA

Mearns Kirk News

Contributions for the next issue of the Church Newsletter should be handed to Gordon Wilson or e-mailed to him on gwilson@giffnock128.fsnet.co.uk by Thursday 19 January. Magazines will be available for uplift by distributors on Sunday 29 January. Distributors should contact the Church Secretary if they require to alter the number of magazines allocated to them.