

Clark Memorial Manse, Largs  
December, 2016

Dear members and friends of St. Cuthbert's,  
Saltcoats,

Advent - the four-week period before Christmas - is traditionally a time of preparation and waiting. Advent comes from the *Latin* word *adventus*, which means 'coming'. In Advent, we wait to celebrate the birth of Christ. When my daughters were small children they used to count the number of "sleeps" until Christmas; even now, they still like to count down to Christmas with an Advent calendar.



Waiting isn't always pleasant; we don't really like to be kept waiting. Even though many of us are used to ordering things on the computer with the click of a switch, we still have to wait in to sign for the delivery. It is guaranteed that, if I decide to nip out for a couple of minutes to do something else, the delivery will arrive while I am out!

Having to wait is a recognition that we aren't always in control; we have to rely on other people. Waiting reminds us of our powerlessness. Waiting for a doctor's appointment or for a surgical procedure makes us painfully aware that we are not always in control of important matters which affect us. There are times too when we have to wait for God. Our prayers are answered but not always as quickly or in the way that we might want. God give me patience and give it to me right now! I'm sure that the congregation of St. Cuthbert's would like to get on with their search for a new minister, but it takes time and we need to be patient. Having to wait is not necessarily a bad thing and waiting time is not necessarily wasted time. We can use our waiting time constructively. The apostle Paul must have been frustrated to

have been placed under house arrest while he was awaiting his trial before the emperor. He wasn't able to visit the fledgling churches as he would have wished; instead, because he was "grounded", he had to content himself by writing letters. I'm sure he would much rather have been there in person but, luckily for us, he wrote letters. Sometimes waiting time can be productive in ways which we don't anticipate.

In the meantime, I am delighted that Mr. Bert McCool has agreed to act as locum, conducting services and providing pastoral care. Don't hesitate to let him know of anyone who requires a pastoral visit. I hope that Advent and Christmas will be a time of blessing for you and your family and for all the members of the St. Cuthbert's church family.

Rev. David Watson  
(Tel. 01475 672370)

[dwatson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:dwatson@churchofscotland.org.uk)



## *The Choir*

### Anthems for December

4 <sup>th</sup>	- Hurry, the Lord is near	Hymn 280
11 <sup>th</sup>	- The Angel Gabriel	Hymn 285
18 <sup>th</sup>	- Who would think that what was needed	Hymn 295
25 <sup>th</sup>	- Jesus is born	Hymn 311

*Rosemary Smith*



# *From the Treasurer*

In a year in which our minister retired, we have been in a state of flux with visiting ministers for most of the year. We now have appointed a locum, Mr. Bert McCool, as of the end of October and we hope to have a more settled time in the months during our search to find a new minister.

We expect that there will be a surplus for the year of between £5000 and £7000 which could be taken as satisfactory. This, unfortunately, is not the case. Our income has remained static for a few years and, although this is gratifying due to the gradual decline in the numbers in the congregation, this will not continue to be maintained.

As we go forward in our search for a new minister, we must be able to demonstrate that we are - and continue to be - a viable congregation, both in numbers AND income.

It is concerning that there a number of our members who contribute nothing to our finances but expect the church to be there when it is needed. Unless everyone works together for our future, we cannot survive.

Additionally, there are costs (between £4 and £5 annually) based on the number of our members which we have to pay whether or not these members contribute.

The projected deficit has been turned around because we do not pay Council Tax in a vacancy, and ministerial costs, including telephone and travelling, are reduced. Additionally, there has been less spent on repairs than budgeted due to a lot of small items of maintenance being undertaken by Archie Kerr and his small team of volunteers.

There are some items which cannot be left for much longer – for example, outside painting work and stonework repairs which could have a considerable cost.

Thanks should also be given to Nan Smith and the fundraising team for their fantastic work in raising such a large sum for church funds.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the church throughout the year and have given so generously in so many ways as, without this support, the church could not hope to survive.

The proposed budget for 2016 shows a deficit of over £5000, including repairs at £10000 and maintaining income at our current level.

We would, therefore, ask all of you to consider the level of your giving and, if at all possible, increase this even by a small amount as it is vitally important that we can demonstrate that we are - and can remain - financially viable. The future of this church depends on us all.

As this is written, almost £1500 has been raised at the Christmas Fair, which is very gratifying, and thanks are extended to all those who helped in any way.

With every good wish for a blessed Christmas to you all,

On behalf of the Congregational Board –

*Maureen Crilley* - Clerk  
*Evelyn Slater* - Session Clerk  
*Ann Turner* - Congregational Treasurer

The Budget for 2017 is as follows:

Saltcoats St. Cuthbert's Parish Church of Scotland

<b>Budgets and outcome</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	<b>2016</b>	<b>Figures</b>	<b>2017</b>
		<b>2016</b>	
<b>Income</b>			
Gift Aid Tax	12500	12907	12500
Rentals, etc	2000	2065	2200
Legacies	0	0	0
Organisations	2000	1800	2000
Fundraising	6000	6000	6000
Other income	800	560	800
Weddings / Funerals	1800	910	1200
	<hr/>		
	25100	24242	24700
Offerings	<hr/>		
	58000	57750	58000
	<hr/>		
	<b>83100</b>	<b>81992</b>	<b>82700</b>
	<hr/>		
Interest		<hr/>	
		300	
Total income		<hr/>	
		<b>82292</b>	

## Expenditure

Ministries and Mission	50094	46521	49671
Presbytery	1000	924	1000
Pulpit Supply	500	643	500
Travel	1800	1675	1800
Salaries	6500	6592	7000
Repairs	10000	3350	10000
Council Tax	2400	763	0
Insurance	7000	7052	7000
H & L	7000	5820	7000
Choir organ music	650	847	900
Print stationery	650	720	750
T/Phone/ internet	1100	585	600
Outreach	1000	46	1000
Cleaning	200	180	200
Governance	300	300	300
Other	300	250	300
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>90494</b>	<b>75693</b>	<b>87721</b>
Surplus		<b>7429</b>	
Shortfall		<b>7394</b>	<b>5021</b>

*Ann Turner*

## *The Guild*

We had a very interesting talk on homoeopathic medicine and were given some remedies for everyday ailments.

On Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, some of the pupils from Caledonia School will be coming to entertain us with their Christmas presentation.

Our last meeting before the holiday is to be on 7<sup>th</sup> December when we will have Rosemary to put us in the mood for the festive season!

There is to be a service of *Nine Lessons and Carols* at 2 p.m. on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, in Kilwinning Abbey. This is organised by the Council for all Guilds in the Ardrossan Presbytery, and everyone is welcome.

After the holidays, on 18<sup>th</sup> January, the Guild commences with *Court Tales*.

*Sheila Sarginson*



## *Sunday School*

Our Gift Service will be on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, when children are asked to bring along a small gift which will then be given to the Social Work Department for distribution in the community.

As you will be aware, our numbers are small this year but we are still hopeful of having a Nativity Play, involving the Youth Group, which will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

We will be having a three-week break over Christmas and will return on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

*Sunday School Teachers*



## *Church Flowers*

### December

4 <sup>th</sup>	-	Jenny Horwood
11 <sup>th</sup>	-	Margaret Sommerville
18 <sup>th</sup>	-	Mary McGonagle
25 <sup>th</sup>	-	John Gray

Many thanks to all who have donated flowers for the church.

Once again we would like to place poinsettias on the church windowsills during the festive period. Any small donation towards the purchase of the plants would be much appreciated and can be given to Elsa or Annita.

*Annita Gillespie and Elsa Kirk,*  
Flower Conveners



# *Girls' Brigade*

We would like to thank all members of the congregation and GB family who came along and supported our Lunch after the Enrolment Service. Company funds are now £255 better off, and this will help to pay capitation fees, Christmas and materials for badge work projects, etc. We hope you all enjoyed the lunch. A big thank you goes to Shona Turner for keeping things running smoothly and donating the sausage rolls; to the ladies who provided the home-baking; and to the gentlemen present who helped put the chairs and tables away - all of which was greatly appreciated.

The following girls took part in the Division Swimming Gala at Troon Pool on Saturday, 29th October, and won the following medals: Emma McKechan - two individual gold medals and one gold relay medal; Olivia Dougal - two individual bronze medals and one gold relay medal; Katie McQuistin - one gold relay medal; and Gillian McQuistin - one bronze medal in the leaders race. The Company came third overall.

On Sunday, 13th November, a few of us joined the Remembrance Day Parade to the War Memorial, Saltcoats to remember those who gave their lives so we could be free.

We are continuing to complete badgework before the festive holidays, the Explorer/Juniors are studying bees and the Brigaders are making individual Pinata's for Christmas.

Season's greetings to one and all, and thank you for your support.

*Lorna Hamilton, Captain*

## *Guild Cross*

On Sunday, 20th November, the Guild Dedication Service was held, at which a Cross, donated by the Guild to the Church, was dedicated. The Cross was hand-crafted in Palestine from wood of the olive tree - maybe from the Garden of Gethsemane.

This Cross will sit on the Communion Table in the Chancel.

*Evelyn Slater*



## *Exercise Class*

The Exercise Class has been very well-attended over a considerable number of years and has obviously been enjoyed by many. I have to advise, however, that, in recent weeks, the numbers attending have dropped considerably which means that it is not a viable proposition to continue to make the class available if the numbers remain at the current level.

Perhaps personal circumstances have prevented some people attending on a temporary basis and they intend to return in the near future. To assist with reaching a decision on the future of the class, it would be helpful if those in favour of its continuation could let me know as soon as possible.

*Ann Turner*

## *Evening Outing*



### **A “Christmas” Night Out?**

We had a successful summer outing when a bus was organised in June to attend the “A Choired Taste” Summer Concert.

Their Winter Concert, entitled “Peace on Earth”, is being held in the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, at 7.30 p.m. The choir will be performing the same programme in St. Giles Cathedral a week later. The choral items will be accompanied by a full orchestra. Tickets, as last time, are £7, plus £5 for travelling by bus.

Anyone interested should contact William (Tel. 471207) or Ena (Tel. 464437).

*William Parker*



## *Christmas Fair*

The fundraising team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported this event in any way: to those who donated baking and other items for the various stalls; to those who worked hard on Friday night setting up and on the day as well.

It was a very successful morning and all monies raised will help church funds. The amount raised so far has reached £1,700.

Thank you, Santa, for taking the time from your busy schedule to come and visit the children!

*Fundraising Team*



## *Afternoon Club*

The Afternoon Club will stop for a short holiday after the Christmas Lunch on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, and recommence on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, when new members are welcome to come along.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Nan Smith*



## *Cleaning Rota*

- |              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Fri. 2 Dec.  | - Sheila Hanlon, Elizabeth Murray   |
| Sun. 11 Dec. | - Gillian Morrison, Shona Turner    |
| Fri. 16 Dec. | - Ena Grove, Muriel Parker          |
| Fri. 23 Dec. | - Sheila Hanlon, Christine Saunders |
| Fri. 30 Dec. | - Volunteers                        |

2017

- Fri. 6 Jan. - Sheena Love, Agnes Algie  
Sun. 15 Jan. - Annita Gillespie, John Campbell  
Sat. 21 Jan. - Elizabeth Barclay, Liz Sutherland

If any of the above dates are not suitable, please feel free to swap with someone else or, alternatively, contact me.

*Ann Turner*



Yesterday is history, Tomorrow is the future, Today is a gift from God - that is why it is called the Present.

*Printed in Cowdenbeath Trinity Church Magazine*



## *Church Register*

Funeral

October - Fiona Scott, Meikle Ittington Farm, Ardrossan .

**Material for the FEBRUARY edition of the magazine (there is no issue in January) will be due on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY, 2017.**

# *Weekly Calendar*

- Sundays: 10.45 a.m. - Morning Service and Sunday School
- Mondays: 2.00 p.m. - Afternoon club for beginners', improvers' bridge, crafts, etc.  
7.30 p.m. - Country Dancing (a social dancing class)
- Tuesdays: 10.30 a.m. - Informal mid-week service  
6.00 p.m. – Girls' Brigade
- Wednesdays: 10.30 a.m. - Keep Fit Class  
2.00 p.m. (fortnightly) – The Guild
- Thursdays: 9.30 a.m. - Mother and Toddler Group
- Fridays: 6.00 p.m. – Boys' Brigade

# *Christmas Services*

## December

- 11<sup>th</sup> - 10.45 a.m. - Sunday School Gift Service.  
Gifts from congregation also welcome.
- 18<sup>th</sup> - 10.45 a.m. - Sunday School Nativity Play in Church.
- 24<sup>th</sup> - 11.30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Watchnight Service  
Tea, coffee, mince pies available from  
11 p.m.
- 25<sup>th</sup> - 10.45 a.m. - Christmas Day Family Service

## January

- 1<sup>st</sup> - 10.45 a.m. - New Year's Day Family Service