

The monthly newsletter from St Kentigern's Church

# Outreach

December 2011  
January 2012



**St Kentigern's Church**

people together following Jesus



# God is with us!

There is, at the moment, some fashion for saying that 'we are all in it together', not least in the face of current economic difficulties. There's equally a sense of resentment that whilst these things are being said, top executives are paid over two hundred and thirty times average earnings, and it is difficult to imagine the differential between the lowest and the highest paid in our society.

The idea of being in it all together seems to strike a chord with us. Even in the apparently individual-centred world in which we live, people still get together. They do so particularly at times of great happiness or sadness: think of weddings, birthdays, or times of bereavement and grief. People gather to celebrate and they gather to remember. They often do so together. It is as though there is something within us each which needs others. You might say we were built to be together, a sense that is stronger than all the forces which encourage us to live life on our own.

In theological terms we understand God not only to tell us, but to put into practice, the idea that 'we are all in it together.' In our Old Testament, God calls a people together out of Egypt, not simply individuals who choose for themselves. The Lord Jesus calls not a crowd of individuals and forms them into a group of disciples. They come from very different backgrounds, they probably have a range of political and religious beliefs, yet they find not only common ground but a focus in the person of Christ.

And Jesus himself is the pre-eminent example of 'being in it' together with others. The only Evangelist to use the title 'Emmanuel' for Jesus is Matthew, the first of the four Gospels in our New Testament. That title is Hebrew for 'God is with us' and carries the central message of Advent and Christmas.

We shall study Matthew's Gospel throughout Advent and beyond, up to Easter. As we do so, we will see that the truth that God is with us touches many parts of our lives and our world. We do not worship some deity far-off and distant, who does not care for us and only wants our dutiful worship. Instead, our God is revealed to us as a living, breathing, human-like-us while at the same time remaining fully and truly God. It is God in Christ who feeds the hungry, who offers water to strangers, who restores life to an abandoned madman living among tombs, who raises Lazarus from death, speaks about new life and then meets his friends risen from death, telling them not to be afraid. All this he does while he is with us, right in the midst of humanity.

We have an opportunity to celebrate and explore this mystery in these weeks. We also have opportunity to see where we are challenged by example. We worship the Lord of Glory who for our sakes took on human form, and we hear the human Jesus telling us to go and do as we have seen him act.

This Advent and Christmas, may you sense again the power of the truth that God is with us in Emmanuel, Christ the Son. May this sense give you peace, hope and courage to continue as one of his followers today.



# Jesus is the reason for the season!

As I write this it is twenty nine days till Christmas and this year I'm going to be **organised**. Well that's the plan. For the last four years the lead up to Christmas has been filled with writing essays and studying for exams then, a couple of days before Christmas I found myself rushing around looking for presents, spending more money than intended and getting frustrated as I got caught up in the Christmas shopping frenzy – I then found myself declaring "this shouldn't be what Christmas is all about". Yet, the next year I found the same story, I felt like I'd blinked and missed Christmas. Well not this year.

This year I want to enjoy Christmas as it should be – celebrating the birth of our Saviour and remembering the reason why He came into the world. So last week I took a few days off, got the Christmas cleaning done ready for the decorations, and then on Friday and Saturday John and I hit the shops at Silverburn and Troon armed with our **big** list and started on the pressies (and surprise surprise not even a wee domestic was had).

As I was reflecting on how easy it is to get caught up in the commercialism of Christmas and miss out on celebrating Christ's birth, I came across a poem by Sadie Mclean; it's funny, true and reminds us that **Jesus is the reason for the season**. Should you get the chance, I would urge you to read it. I hope this year we can all take the time to enjoy and celebrate Christ at Christmas.

Isobel

## On Screen Christmas Messages

Once again we will be doing on-screen Christmas messages on 11 and 18 December. The usual donation of £5 would be appreciated. Contact Ann or Sandy Brown with your message and donation. The Board will decide where the money will be donated to.

## Pantomime

It is with regret that we have had to postpone Cinderella for the time being. We will have a meeting in January to discuss when we can put it on. We are sorry for the disappointment this has caused.

## Jars of Grace

We will collect your jars in mid- December and send what we have collected to UNICEF at the end of the year.

Thank you - Cathie Brodie.

# Who's doing what in coming weeks

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## Welcoming people and uplifting the offering

**December** Mrs I Rennie Mr W Craig, Mr G Calderwood, Mrs A Brown

**January** Mrs J Craig, Miss S Hamilton, Miss T Hamilton, Mrs J Burnett

## Making a welcoming cuppa (and washing up!)

### December

4th C Allan, A Black, J Anderson

11th J Burnett, C McHardy, A Hogarth

18th J & D Hamilton

25th NO TEA

### January

1st NO TEA

8th V Anderson, E Watson, M Murray

15th S Wilson, C Brodie, C McGhee

22nd M Niven, N Chisholm,  
N Michael

29th H Tomlinson, M McGregor,  
T Calderwood

## Looking after our youngest ones in creche

### December

4 Tracy Calderwood 01563 - 535477

11 Irene Rennie 01563 - 538932

18 Gemma Erskine 07540037511

25 HOLIDAY

## Flower List

### December

4th Joan Dykes

11th Betty Bell

18th Margo Dregghorn

25th Margaret Mercer

### January

1st Betty Kerr

8th Helen Tomlinson

15th Mary Hyslop

22nd Anon

29th Cathie Brodie

Thanks go to those who contribute to flowers in church and who donate through the Flower Box.

## Organising Flower Deliveries

**December** Margaret Murray

## Leading Sunday Prayer Times

### December

4 Our Church

11 Church and the Community

18 Other Churches

### January

8 Church in the Wider World

15 Our Church

22 Church and the Community

29 Other Churches

*Our prayer times start at 10.30*

*each Sunday for 15 minutes.*

*All are welcome.*

## Exploring Advent

In church, there's more to November and December than Christmas - which doesn't properly start until 25th December. This period of four weeks is traditionally a time of preparing and looking forward. However, to do that we often look back (in the Old Testament) to people who were looking forward (the prophets). What were they looking forward to? Well, the coming of God's Messiah - and other things, too.

It can be tricky to understand some of this, but the more you know the richer it will be! If you would like to learn a bit more about Advent then get in touch with the Minister (571280 or [minister@stkentigern.org.uk](mailto:minister@stkentigern.org.uk)) and, if there's enough interest, we'll arrange an hour's extra meeting very soon where you can discover more.

## Moderator in New Farm Loch

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Right Rev David Arnott, visited two local schools in New Farm Loch recently as part of his tour of our Presbytery. Accompanied by his wife Rosemary, David saw some of the work of pupils and staff in Newfarm Primary and was treated to a short play re-telling the story of Zacchaeus very creatively! He also visited James Hamilton Academy where he was shown round the school by the Head Boy and Head Girl. He was impressed by the passion and enthusiasm shown by staff and pupils and the compassion and care for pupils.

This was part of a ten day visit by the Moderator to the whole Presbytery area which stretches from Darvel to Irvine. The Moderator visits each Presbytery once every seven or so years.

We are having another Moderator visit St Kentigern's in February. Rev Geoff Redmayne, Moderator of our Presbytery, is coming to lead worship in St Kentigern's on Sunday 26th February.

## Science and Faith

The room which we had booked at the Park Hotel was full as people, some from a church background and a number with no faith commitment met to hear Professor Peter Brand speak about issues which science and belief share. There was a good-going discussion afterwards and, following the meeting, resources are available on-line as well as a discussion space. Further meetings are likely. All this was made possible through the Presbytery's Primer Fund.

# Services and events at Christmas and New Year

## **Tuesday 6th December 2.00pm Advent Afternoon Worship**

Worship with pupils from James Hamilton Academy  
followed by Christmas afternoon tea

## **Sunday 11th December 6.30pm A Quiet Christmas**

Readings and reflections, supporting the Ayrshire Hospice

## **Sunday 18th December 11.15am Sing about a King!**

Children from Junior Church join us for worship

## **Sunday 18th December 6.30pm Christmas Meditation**

Music, readings and prayer for the festive season

## **Thursday 22nd December 7.00pm A GB Christmas!**

Our Girls' Brigade company lead us in a mixture of modern and traditional  
Christmas songs.

## **Christmas Eve 6.30pm Messy Christmas!**

A Messy Church time with food, crafts, stories and songs,  
especially for preschoolers and early primary years

## **Christmas Eve 11.30pm Watchnight Service**

## **Christmas Day 10.15am Welcoming the King**

## **New Year's Day 10.15am Welcoming the new year**

There shall not be tea on Christmas Day or New Year's Day and our services  
return to their usual time on Sunday 8th January.

If you felt able to donate Christmas nibbles such as shortbread for us to share  
with friends who gather with us, that would be great.

Grant and Isobel are also leading services in Silverwood and Newfarm Primaries, in  
James Hamilton Academy and Witchhill School in the lead up to Christmas, and  
are involved in other events, and value your prayers for this work.

## Posada

During Advent we pass round little figures of Joseph and Mary from one household to another. Shaona took the figures from church at the beginning of Advent and the figures will travel from home to home until they return to church on Christmas Eve. Here's where they are travelling, in case you're uncertain. If you need contact details for anyone here, contact the Minister or the Church Hub Tuesday to Thursday mornings (571693 or [office@stkentigern.org.uk](mailto:office@stkentigern.org.uk)).

27 Nov Bill and Shaona Wilson

28 Nov The McDonalds

29 Nov Isobel Beck

30 Nov Cathy Shearin

1 Dec Veronica Hurford

2 Dec Wilma Gilmour

3 Dec Joanne Murdoch

4 Dec Lyn Archibald

5 Dec Carolynn and Gavin Raleigh

6 Dec Tracy and Greig Calderwood

7 Dec Grant and Karen Barclay

11 Dec Martin and Aileen Butters

12 Dec Ian and Irene Rennie

13 Dec Margo Dreghorn

14 Dec Helen and John Tomlinson

15 Dec Margaret Murray

16 Dec Cathy Brodie

19 Dec Cassie Connell

20 Dec Mhairi Macnee

21 Dec Archie and Liz McDonald

22 Dec Irene Kerr

23 Dec Sandy and Ann Brown,

who will bring the figures back to church at our 6.30 service on Christmas Eve.



## News about Uganda

### *Africa trip*

The four of us who went to Uganda, Ian , Archie , Sandy and myself took with us the money collected from the various projects, but what we received in return was something much more valuable.

One of the outstanding things that struck us was the faith that people had and their contentedness with their lot. People didn't have anything in terms of this world's goods. Prayer is so much part of their lives that it is a natural part of almost every conversation. Their enthusiasm in worship was infectious.

### *Twinning*

As part of this process, photographs and questions from the various groups in St Kentigern's Church were put to comparable groups within St Peter's Church. We obtained answers to our questions and also questions from various groups at St Peter's. Photographs we took will be shared and these including response about what is like to share your husband with another wife and questions about our weather and our food, and about marriage here and "Is there an age by which a man is supposed to be married?" They were also very interested in the question that has been raised at General Assembly regarding homosexual clergy in the Church of Scotland.

### *Building project*

The £2300 raised for the building project resulted in the foundations of the guest house being laid and an outside wall begun. Next to be installed are beams inside the guest house followed by a tin roof and refurbishment inside, which will require some financial help. Many projects are started in Uganda but never finished, walls being built but lying vacant for many years awaiting further funding. Our hope and prayer is that together we can help them finish off this guest house so that regular income can be obtained to help support the church in its work. People are poor and most have no employment, so church offerings are small. A typical salary for a pastor is £15 per month and for teacher in a secondary school £28 per month. Yet manufactured goods such as watches, tools, etc. cost the same as here. Also, if one falls sick, medicines have to be paid for. Each person has a plot of land in which they grow their own food so they do not suffer hunger.

We came home realising afresh how privileged we are having been born and brought up in the UK, in spite of all the protests and unrest in our news almost daily.

### *Reuben*

We met Reuben and his sister while in the Kampala area, en route to Arua, and were helped by his taking us round the relevant shops and offices to obtain some essentials. He is preparing for exams just now.

Prim's school fees for next term (January to April 2012) have already been raised, thanks to the 'Smartie' tubes project instituted by Liz McDonald.

### *Benson*

Benson's father died recently and he received an urgent message from family members to say that they would not allow the funeral to proceed until he arrived. Normally people are buried the day after death. About 1000 attended, and Benson expresses his gratitude to all who helped fund his fare. He was 92 and had 60 grandchildren and 36 great grandchildren. Benson asks prayer for his mother as the loss of her husband has affected her greatly. She is being cared for by his brother and sister.

### *Apology*

On Sunday 20 November I expressed grateful thanks to so many folk in our church for their kind donations towards the purchase of mosquito nets. I inadvertently said 300 had been distributed but this should have been **600**. The impact that these nets will have on the lives of so many people in Arua is immeasurable. A number were given to the hospital, some to a clinic and the remainder distributed to the very poor and needy. The Health Officer was delighted and explained the major affect this will have on the area. I'm sorry for my mistake.

Ian Rennie

Jim McHardy, on behalf of the Church in the Wider World Group  
(Archie & Liz McDonald, Margaret Murray, Veronica Hurford, David Hume & Noreen Gray)

# Letter from Arua

St Peter's Church of Uganda  
Ochiba Parish  
PO Box 426 Arua  
Uganda  
13th November 2011

The Reverend Grant Barclay  
St Kentigern's Parish Church of Scotland  
Kilmarnock

Dear Reverend,

Re: Letter of Appreciation

Warm greetings to you and the entire congregation of St Kentigern's Parish Church in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Council is pleased that the planned visit has taken place.

The Council greatly appreciated that our church has been chosen by your Council for partnership. The visit has really proven your genuine desire and willingness to establish a lasting friendship.

The programmes were successfully conducted or carried out. However, we are sorry that Dr Jim McHardy had a bit of stomach problem and Ian Rennie had eye problems and we have been praying for their quick recovery.

We are thankful for the friendship between our member Mr Akile Matthew and Dr Jim which has grown to join the two churches..

While we appreciate Matthew being our link we would be happy to have direct contact of address and e-mail.

We pray that the friendship established will go from strength to strength for the benefit of both communities.

We thank God for all that has happened and may the Good Lord bless you as you continue to serve him.

Rev Etonia Mathias, Parish Priest Ochiba Parish.

## Messy Church

Rocket balloons flying through the air, volcanoes erupting, lantern making, candles decorated, these were just some of the activities taking place in our Bonfire Messy Church.

The small hall was packed with families enjoying a sausage and mash tea before participating in the craft side of Messy Church. It was encouraging to see so many families within the church and the community joining in the fun and fellowship together. Our theme for the evening was 'Jesus is the Light of the World' and we shared in a short time of praise and worship together.

We concluded the evening with our own 'Spraklers' celebration before people either went to the Kay Park or just stood beside the church to watch the main fireworks display.

"Best evening I have had for a long time," "Fantastic Night," "Fabulous Evening," were just some of the comments posted on Facebook.

Messy Church continues to grow in so many parts of the country and its through this relaxed and friendly approach to the Gospel that many people are showing a desire to find out more about Jesus.

Our Tuesday afternoon pre-School Messy Church continues to attract a good number and this session we have been learning about some of the Parables Jesus told and several Old Testament characters. The children enjoy singing and story time, as well as crafts and games and look forward to snack time.

We finish our session on 13 December and will resume on Tuesday 17 January.

Irene Rennie

Christmas Eve

There is a Christmas Eve Messy Church on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6 pm. There will be a light meal, followed by crafts and a short time of worship together. All families will be made most welcome. Look out for sign-up sheet in foyer for catering purposes.

Ann Brown

## **Ladies Retreat**

I would like to thank all who arranged and took part in the Retreat in Gowanbank House on 12 November. This was the first time I have managed to go to the Retreat and hopefully not my last.

The venue was perfect, the food delicious, the company excellent and even the weather shone on us. The theme for the day was 'Jesus the Gardener' and being a gardener's daughter I found it very apt. The speakers (Nicola and Clarinda) spoke well and wittily of how Jesus has pruned them in recent months.

We had a time of silence (yes silence!) when we could take part in crafts, read, write, sit quietly in a prayer room or walk in the grounds. There was also a time to choose an item which meant something to us and a few brave ladies stepped forward to tell their stories. There was a selection of beauty treatments to try from Bodyshop and Lush. The finale was 'Bind us together'.

All of this served up with home made food, made it a day to remember. Well done ladies. Roll on the next one.

Sadie Speirs

## **Leprosy Mission**

A small and faithful group within our congregation continue to support the work of Leprosy Mission Scotland. So far this year slightly over £300 has been sent and this money helps to bring justice to people affected by leprosy, to break down stigma, provide treatment, rehabilitation, education and training opportunities which help people turn their lives around.

One such story is Ghanash Yam and his family who live in the Khatmandu Valley, Nepal. There are 20 members in Ghanash's self-help group. They meet monthly and contribute 100 rupees every month to a joint savings account. Together they are setting up a micro-credit programme which will allow them to lend each other small sums to start or build small businesses and improve their standard of living. Taking control of one's own life is incredibly important and schemes and groups like these exist to help people do that in the supportive environment of a group whose members understand and encourage each other.

Many thanks to those who support The Leprosy Mission.

Irene Rennie

## **Girls' Brigade** **Thursdays at 6:00**

Contact Tracey on (01563) 529949

We start with brilliant news that our swimming gala team of girls and leader returned triumphant with 10 medals between them and an overall 2nd place in the whole Division. Its the best we have done and they were so close to winning with only 3 points in it. Look forward to next years team.

Thanks to Isobel for judging the girls at the Fancy Dress party. We came close to needing the emergency services when everyone got a little carried away with the Pinata but they all enjoyed themselves. Thanks also to Sadie Speirs for helping with the company bag pack in Morrisons. We did brilliantly, raising just below £900 which gave us enough to pay HQ and some left over to pay for the Christmas activities.

The girls will be celebrating Christmas by having Craft Daft from Ayr up to show them how to decorate porcelain and give them the chance to pick a piece of porcelain and paint it themselves on Thursday 15th Dec. This will be their Christmas treat. The girls and leaders have decided to put on a Christmas Sing-Along on Thursday 22nd December at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to come and join us as we sing a selection of old favourites of the girls and leaders.

The girls and leaders will have 2 weeks off before returning for the second half of our year. On behalf of the girls and leaders I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

## **Pathfinders** **Fridays at 6:30**

Contact Greig on (01563) 535477

Hi Folks I am typing this and can't quite believe that its only 4 week till Christmas!!

We have had a busy month with an average of 30 boys each week with new faces too which is good. The boys have been busy helping to make hand puppets which you will see at our display.

We now have our Christmas social calendar organised. Friday 16th Dec is our Christmas party, where we hope to have a visitor from a certain man in a red suit. We are having a joint party with Pathfinders and Pathfinders +. the day after this, 17th Dec, We are taking the boys to the garage for a game of bowling and a wimpy meal.

From myself, and the rest of the leaders, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year!!!!

And on that note, over and out till next year.

## What we're doing

These are the main activities which run weekly or monthly in St Kentigern's. You're welcome to join in!

### **Sunday worship**

**Sundays 11:15**

Tea and coffee from 10:45

### **Women of Worship**

**Sunday 4th December at 6.30pm**

and the first Sunday evening of each month, with worship, teaching and friendship for women.

Contact Carolynn on (01563) 539377

### **Creche**

**Sundays at 11:15**

Caring for youngest ones so parents can take part in worship.

Contact Noreen on (01563) 533394

### **Woman's Hour**

**Mondays at 7:30**

Contact Margo on (01563) 544162

5 December Cumnock & Doon Valley  
Bell Ringers

12 December Candlelight Tea

19 December Christmas Dinner

The ladies are then on holiday until the 9th January.

### **Congregational Board**

**Tuesday 13th December**

**7.30 pm in the Library.**

### **Messy Church**

**Alternate Tuesdays at 1:00**

having fun learning with our children.

Contact Irene on (01563) 538932

### **Evening Study & Prayer**

**Alternate Thursday**

**evenings at 7:30**

Contact Bill on (01563) 526066

### **Junior Church**

**Sundays at 11:00**

learning about trusting Jesus.

Contact Heather on (01563) 536730

### **First Tuesday Afternoon**

**Tuesday 6th December at 2:00**

with tea and conversation after.

Contact Grant on (01563) 571280

### **Coffee & Company**

**Wednesdays at 2:00**

for coffee and company

(and cakes, too!)

Contact Janey on (01563) 520511

### **Meditation Evening**

**Sunday 18th December at 6.30 pm**

An evening of quiet reflection with readings, music and prayer to help concentrate on the true meaning of Christmas.

## **Thank you!**

Grateful thanks have been received from people who have received church flowers, including Willie & Pat Fisher, Matt & Irene Fulton, Maureen Conway, Cathie Goodall, Audrey & Arthur Frazer, Joan Dearie, Tracey & Sharon Hamilton and Duncan & Jeanette Hamilton.



We also received thanks from Blythswood Care for a great tally of 40 shoeboxes from our church. They were part of a wider total of over 6,000 boxes that are being sent to Pakistan this year.

## **Hospital and home visiting**

Please let the Minister know of members who are at home or in hospital (or are awaiting admission) and who would value a visit. You can write names on cards in the foyer or phone (01563) 571280 or e-mail [minister@stkentigern.org.uk](mailto:minister@stkentigern.org.uk).

## **Gathering Update**

We all remember having our Gathering on 8 October, when we were asked to review our giving. I have to report that to date we have had a very poor return for the response cards and Gift Aid/Standing Order forms. I would encourage all those who haven't returned their responses to Irene Rennie, to do so as soon as possible, as we require to collate these. This will assist the Stewardship Committee in formulating next year's budget.

Thank you

Sandy Brown, Stewardship Advisor.

## **Church Register**

### **Baptism**

Blake Duncan Parker, infant son of Alan Parker and Natalie Cree of 9 Armstrong Road, was baptised on 27th November 2011.

### **Deaths**

Pete McGregor, late of 8 Mossgiel Avenue, died on 14th November 2011.

Alexander McCrae, late of 30 Kerr Road, died on 19th November 2011.

Jessie Chestnutt, late of 70 Kennedy Court, who was a member of St Kentigern's, died on 21st November 2011.

# How we're organised

**Kirk Session** (*Grant Barclay, Moderator; Ian Rennie, Session Clerk*)

Our church group: Contact Ann on 532527

Our community group: Contact John on 536422

Our world group: Contact Jim on 527786

Other churches: Contact Sandy on 532527

**Congregational Board** (*Ann Brown, Chair; Bill Wilson, Clerk*)

Stewardship Advisor: Contact Sandy on 532527

Gift Aid convener: Contact Norreen on 533394

Weekly Envelopes: Contact Sandy on 532527

Fabric Committee: Contact Willie on 522764

Treasurer: Contact Shaona on 526066

Church Officers: Contact Sadie on 531598

## **Specific responsibilities and tasks**

Safeguarding: Contact Alastair on 530300

Praise and worship: Alastair 530300 Arthur (01563) 821822

Cleaning team: Contact Sadie on 531598

Media Group: Contact Sandy on 532527

First Tuesday teas: Contact Vera on 531954

Flowers in church: Contact Betty on 520464

Pastoral visitors: Contact Grant on 571280

## **Useful contacts**

Grant Barclay, Minister. 571280.

minister@stkentigern.org.uk

Ian Rennie, Session Clerk. 538932.

Bill Wilson, Clerk to Board. 526066

Shaona Wilson, Treasurer. 526066

Sandy Brown, Stewardship. 532527

Noreen Gray, Gift Aid. 533394

## **Church Officers**

John Anderson (532889)

Sandy Brown (532527)

Leo Bryson (07928 943 369)

Willie Littlejohn (534325)

Andy Roney (543444)

Jim Templeton (536233)

Sadie Speirs (531598)

## **Email addresses**

### **On-screen announcements**

advert@stkentigern.org.uk

### **Weekly service sheet**

tellusall@stkentigern.org.uk

### **Outreach newsletter**

outreach@stkentigern.org.uk, or  
place items in pocket in foyer.

### **Church Hub**

office@stkentigern.org.uk

### **Kirk Session committees:**

other.churches@stkentigern.org.uk

our.church@stkentigern.org.uk

our.community@stkentigern.org.uk

our.world@stkentigern.org.uk

St Kentigern's Parish Church of Scotland, Dunbar Drive, Kilmarnock. Scottish Charity SC001324