



From the Manse

Good King Wenceslas looked out, on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even;
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

John Mason Neale

Unlike most of our best loved carols this one talks not of the Christ Child or Holy family, there's no barn or stable, no shepherds or kings and we are missing the angels too... what we have instead is the Christ effect. Christ taught us whatever we do for those most in need we do for him. Christ taught us how to love and his disciples continue his work in the world today.

The carol is set on Boxing Day and in the season of goodwill, that is when we take a gift - wrap a present - for someone in need.

The scene is set in a breathtakingly beautiful hush of winter snow that for those living in poverty means surviving another night of bitterly cold, cruel frost.

Wenceslas saw the poor man gather fuel for the fire and as Christ showed love for the poor, so Wenceslas called his page to prepare a Christmas Box for the poor man, gifts of food and drink and fuel for the fire.

This carol catches the imagination of the generations, after all it speaks of what Christmas is all about for many people – gifts of kindness and generosity – the Christ effect in action.

Have you heard about 10,000 Voices? The Church of Scotland is asking 10,000 people in local churches and in every part of Scottish society to look at Scotland today and ask is there something we would like to change to make for a better fairer society for all people.

The Church and Society Council ask us to imagine it is 2035 and that Scotland is a fairer, more equal and more just society in a fairer, more equal and more just world. Each of us is asked to imagine what this would look and feel like. And then in a sentence tell them what is needed to bring about this change. Having identified six areas that need work the Church of Scotland will work on those every day, in every part of Scotland, for at least the next ten years. A gift that lasts it speaks of what Christmas is all about – the Christ effect in action.

Rev. Wilma

BLUE DOOR - 14th—19th DECEMBER

Below is an extract from a letter sent to John Muir

“It is not too soon to start planning ahead. During your week you will need volunteers and things to sell! A raffle is also very popular and if you have good prizes, it can help increase the total money raised. Our little shop can get very busy. Groups who come with lots of stock can raise in excess of £2000 in one week. Just imagine how many items at 20p or 50p that is! Now is a good time to start rounding up members, friends and family and encouraging them to donate items. The more good quality items you bring in, the more that you will make.”

Please contact Jack McIntosh (781352), Colin Delday (741253) or Laurence Tait (876743) if you would like items for the Blue Door uplifted .



Out of The Life

Also Remembered

Ivy Garrioch	17/8/15
Pete Sparkes	10/9/15
John Rosie	3/11/15
Baptism	
Jasper Koen Dick	23/8/15

Flower Festival

With the theme of “Peace and Remembrance “and a weekend of glorious September sunshine the East Mainland Church opened its doors to a splendid display of floral art.

There were six themed displays that ranged from a more peaceful look at Japan, to packing up troubles in that old kit bag. With swags and flowers hung from the balcony, a four piece display of the Seasons and a peaceful garden decked out with butterflies and tiny garden birds, a beautiful display entitled “Peace and Remembrance” all in red and white and as you came in to the foyer of the church an arrangement to commemorate the young men who took to the skies in the Battle of Britain. There were other small arrangements and flowers dotted throughout the Kirk and pride of place was given to a tree filled with paper white doves made by the Sunday school. They fluttered about in the branches on the breeze from the heating.

In keeping with the theme the session room was decorated with bunting and flowery china. Afternoon tea and cakes were served in fine china cups and saucers. We also had a produce table with more baked delights and vegetables. All in all this was a very successful weekend and a huge thank you must go especially to the talented floral artists and also to all who baked and gave their time to help with the teas.

Jan Moar





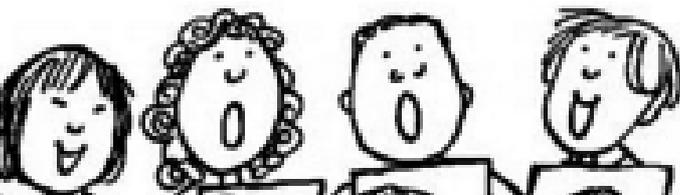
Harvest Thanksgiving 2015

There was a good turnout on Sunday the 25th of October for the annual Harvest Thanksgiving service, which this year was surely attended with even more gratitude, for the harvest gathered in after an unusually wet and uncertain year. Wilma welcomed everyone and thanked Tommy and Annabell for setting up the display of produce from the gardens of the East Mainland. The vibrant greenery stood out particularly, emphasising the seasonality of our local produce.



*Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
Cloud and sunshine, wind and rain,
Spring to melt the snows of winter
Till the waters flow again....*

The choir, Kathleen, Katrina, Morag and Ruth, with Joy at the organ, were in fine voice.



Their harmonies were especially beautiful in the second hymn, *Seek ye first the kingdom of God...*

and we are grateful to them for leading us in the songs of praise each week. The third verse of that hymn led into the theme of the address, from the words in Deuteronomy:

*You shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word*

That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord

Wilma's address reminded us too that there is less sense of thanksgiving now. There is less awareness of seasonality as supermarkets bring produce from all over the world and we have fewer experiences of the delights of each season. Unlike those of another era, as described by Marian McNeill in her book *the Scots Kitchen... Their lifestyle, like the rest of the people in Holm, depended on daily frugality, diverted by seasonal and festive good things.*

In our prayers we thanked all who bring riches of God's earth for our enjoyment, from the fields and the oceans. The Shoebox Appeal boxes were blessed as they began their journey, containing everyday items which we take for granted, but which will bring joy to those receiving them.

The service finished with the perennial hymn, *We plough the fields and scatter...*

All good gifts around us

Are sent from heaven above;

Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,

For all his love.

**This year's offering will go to the fund for our
Presbytery Partners in Malawi.**

Marlene Mainland





Sponsored Walk.

Saturday 29th August saw approximately 20 people walking together to raise money for church funds. By doing this, the participants were simultaneously boosting our funds with much needed cash, taking healthy exercise *and* meeting socially at the same time.

We were fortunate, this year, to enjoy perfect walking conditions, thin high cloud, no rain and a light breeze. After a brief hiatus as we sorted ourselves out for first one then another ‘photo opportunity’ we set off as a fairly jubilant group of adults and one young person - plus a buggy and two dogs – on a circular route past the Tieve.

In previous such events the stronger walkers tended to stride out, creating groups of two or three with distance between them, rather like a string of pearls, the whole group congregating only for the mid-way orange juice, then stringing out again; but

this year, for the greater part of the walk the group seemed to mingle with each other’s groups, swapping conversation partners more than once. By this, it proved to be an excellent opportunity to get to know a variety of people whom we may see only briefly in church without the time constraint which perhaps is the case when we meet after Sunday services.

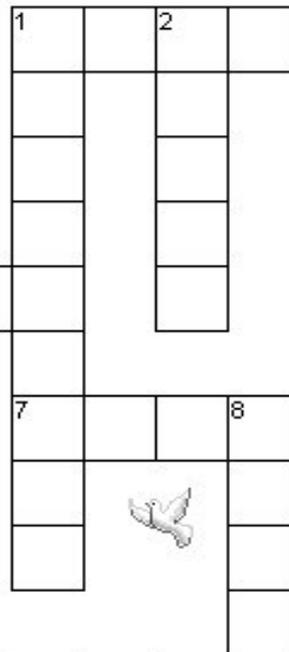


On arriving back at kirk at the end of the walk we were amply refreshed with tea and biscuits to for-

DOWN

- 1 Who were tending their flocks by night
- 2 Who announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds
- 3 The wise men bowed down to Jesus to _____ him
- 4 Jesus was born in this town
- 6 "The _____ of peace" - one of the titles of Jesus
- 8 mother of Jesus
- 9 Jesus was born in a _____
- 10 The shepherds were in the _____ when they saw an angel

Birth of Christ



ACROSS

- 1 The wise men followed a _____ that led them to Jesus
- 5 human father of Jesus
- 7 There was no _____ at the inn for Jesus
- 9 one of the gifts of the three wise men
- 11 Jesus could not stay at the _____ because it was full
- 12 and on earth _____, goodwill toward men (Luke 2:14)

tify us for the journey home. At the time of writing, the total of sponsorship money has topped £1,000 - so well done to the walkers and their sponsors – it certainly does seem to be as effective a fundraiser as ever. If you have not already tried this excellent form of social exercise, I highly recommend that you try it when next you hear that we will be undertaking a Sponsored Walk.

Gareth Williams



Flower Quiz

The Flower Quiz held in conjunction with the recent Flower Festival took in £291 to add to the total. Many thanks are due to those who sold and bought the quizzes. Only one correct solution was received. The winner was Jean Johnston, Breckquoy, Harray.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Candytuft | 16. Canterbury Bells |
| 2. Busy Lizzie | 17. Streptocarpus |
| 3. Amaryllis | 18. Kidney Vetch |
| 4. Cornflower | 19. Deadly Nightshade |
| 5. Tormentil | 20. Celandine |
| 6. Chrysanthemums | 21. Cyclamen |
| 7. Red Dead Nettle | 22. Fuchsia |
| 8. London Pride | 23. Bladder Campion |
| 9. Lady's Smock or Mantle | 24. Marsh Orchid |
| 10. Mesembryanthemum | 25. Clivia |
| 11. Carnation | 26. Grass of Parnassus |
| 12. Poppy | 27. Sorrel |
| 13. Alstroemeria | 28. Petunia |
| 14. Phlox | 29. Stocks |
| 15. Scabious | 30. Pelargonium |

Isobel Clouston

BB News

Session 2015 -16 started on Monday 26th October, so we don't have a lot of news to tell you.

We have eight boys on the roll at the moment and we have had our own Christmas card competition, a practice for the big one when we compete with boys from Aberdeen, north and Shetland. We hope to have some winners this year.

Our first Robertson Trophy Competition (5-a-side football in Dounby) will be held on the 21st November.

We look forward to a busy session as usual.

Jack McIntosh (Captain)

Shoe Box Appeal 2015

Every year Blythswood Care sends thousands of Christmas gift boxes to some of the poorest people in Eastern Europe and Asia

It's not difficult to choose gifts for people who have so little. Things we take for granted can often be luxuries for people living in desperate poverty.

The shoe boxes have been gathered over the past few weeks, and were displayed at the front of the kirk during the harvest thanksgiving service on Sunday 25th October. A total of 45 boxes have been delivered to McAdie & Reeve to begin their onward journey to **Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.**

To see the faces of people who receive shoe boxes, search for Blythswood Care 2015 Shoe Box Appeal 'What A Box Can Mean' on www.youtube.com.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated items and boxes.

Katrina Tait



July Meeting

Hymn 540, the opening praise, was accompanied by Joyce. A portion from Ephesians 2 was read by Netta and Maureen led in prayer.

Consideration was given to each of the six Projects looking for support for the next three years and the



'Street Pastors' which is under the umbrella of the Ascension Trust (Scotland) was chosen. Street Pastors affect people from every parish in Scotland, especially young folk and students from every parish when they go to any of the 21 cities and towns where Street Pastors currently operate.

Our guest for the evening, Jane Rowle, a Yoga teacher, took us through a number of exercises and yoga moves, most of which we were able to attain seated on a chair. There was some hilarity at the various degrees of fitness and everyone enjoyed the work out.

After the welcome cup of tea served by Jean and a vote of thanks to Jane, the meeting closed with hymn 286 and prayer.

Re-Dedication

The Re-dedication of the Guild took place during the morning service on Sunday, August 30th. The President, Maureen Tait, spoke about the work of the Guild this year using the new Theme material 'Go In Peace.'

Joyce Johnston, Vice-President gave the scripture reading from Psalms 122 about peace and several of the Guild ladies each gave a short text on Peace from the Bible.

Rev Wilma Johnston gave the prayer of dedication and the Guild stood to say the Aim of the Guild.

Summer Outing

The Merkister Hotel was the venue for lunch on 26th August. After the bonny run from east to west a delicious meal was enjoyed by all.

With the recent celebrations of a diamond wedding anniversary, for Eddie and Thora Craigie, the Guild presented Thora with a basket of flowers.

We then journeyed over the Lyde, by kind invitation, to visit Jane Rowle's garden. There were many interesting features to see and varied types of plants and magnificent trees. We were delighted with Jane's hospitality, making a lovely close to our outing.

September Meeting

The devotions began with the hymn 'Longing for Light' accompanied by Joyce, with the reading taken

from Romans 5 v1-5. After prayer, the business was attended to. A pattern was available for knitting teddies for children in overseas hospitals.

Mr & Mrs A Bonner were welcomed to the meeting. They gave an excellent presentation of a holiday they spent in Poland. They toured the city of Krakow on foot, bicycle and also in a horse drawn carriage viewing the many historic sites including St Mary's Basilica, a 15th century Watch Tower and sites from the German occupation during the Second World War. They included a visit to a Synagogue and a Jewish Cemetery as well as Oscar Schindler's factory which is in Krakow. It was astounding to see pictures of the Salt mine and the two camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau.

After tea, served by Mabel and Thora, the hymn 'One more step' was sung. The meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

October Meeting

The meeting opened with hymn 517, 'Fight the good fight' accompanied by Isobel Clouston and scripture from Colossians 3 v 12-17 was read by Morag Shearer. After opening prayers the business was attended to.

From the theme pack 'Go in Peace' we heard about words of peace being like seeds using Henry Kissinger's life as a Peace Negotiator.

The guest speaker David Miller spoke about his life as a pilot and also about his involvement in safety issues as a Training and Flight Operations Manager during his career with Loganair. The 'flying bug' was caught sitting next to the pilot on a light aircraft flight to Aberdeen. After much training over several years he gained his Commercial Pilot's License and has now flown Twin Otter aircraft, Air Ambulance and Saab 340. Since returning to Orkney he is well satisfied with his career change and especially pleased with his involvement in the training of two future Islander pilots.

Tea followed served by Linda and Julia. The meeting then closed with Hymn 497 and prayer.

Maureen Tait



St Andrews School News: Mr Taylor

We have had a great start this year at St Andrews Primary and I am delighted to be bringing you our school news! I have been in post for over a year now and during that time I was delighted to accept the offer of the full time permanent Head Teacher position. I have thoroughly enjoyed working here in the East Mainland and getting to know lots of new folks. Long may it continue!

The school continues to have strong links with the community and with the East Mainland Kirk. We have had several combined services last year. Sadly Rev Wilma Johnston was unable to join us for our Harvest Thanks Giving Assembly which was held on the 30th of September but we are hoping to have our Christmas Service again this year in the East Mainland Kirk.

Asha Harvest Thanksgiving

We gave thanks for the harvest we had this year and each class came forward and put an item on our Thanksgiving table which they were most thankful for.



P1 Water, P2 Friends and Family, P3 Healthy Food, P4L Food, P4B Homes and Shelters, P5 Nature, P6 Education and P7 gave thanks Sport!

This year our collection went to a charity called Asha which means hope. After an assembly the previous week, telling us about the work of the charity among poor girls in Bangladesh, the children held a collection and hosted a table sale of Asha items beautifully made by girls in Bangladesh.

As a result a total of £394 was raised and handed over to Mike and Rosey Whittles who run the charity and regularly visit Bangladesh. In 1999 both Mike and Rosey started a school to educate 12 illiterate market girls in Dhaka Bangladesh and now many of the original Asha girls are working for the project and their community. Some are now teachers and classroom assistants!

St Andrews Primary needs your handwork skills!



One of the unique strengths of our school is the continuing involvement of the community to provide a fantastic learning experience for all our pupils.

Each **Thursday afternoon** this term and next, helpers from our local community join us in the school and help our children to learn sewing, knitting, crochet and other crafts. The children really benefit from the chance to learn a variety of basic handwork skills from different people and they have a lot of fun too! If you are able to spare two hours on a Thursday afternoon and would like to come and join us, please contact the school office – we would love to hear from you. Grandparents, aunts or friends are all welcomed.

Mark Taylor



Month	Date	Time	Event
December	2 nd	7:30pm	Guild Festive Evening in the Session Room
	6 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	6 th	7:00pm	Guild Carol Service in the Holm Community Centre with Guest Artistes – Pupils of St Andrews School
	13 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	14th – 19th		East Mainland Church in the Blue Door
	20 th	11:00am	Worship including items from the Sunday School in the East Mainland Church followed by Teas provided by the Sunday School
	22 nd	10:00am	St Andrews School End of Term Service in the East Mainland Church
	24 th	07:00pm	Christmas Eve Service in the East Mainland Church
	27 th	11:00am	Service of Lessons and Carols and Remembering in the East Mainland Church
January	3 rd	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	10 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	17 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	24 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	31 st	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
February	7 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	14 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	21 st	11:00am	Worship with Thinking Day and Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	28 th	11:00am	Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Sunday School in the East Mainland Church

Editorial Team:

Sheila Eunson, Kathleen Gaudie, Laurence Tait and layout compiled by Russell Manson

Please email articles, preferably using **Times New Roman size 12**, for the next newsletter to

eastmainlandchurch@gmail.com by 8th February

