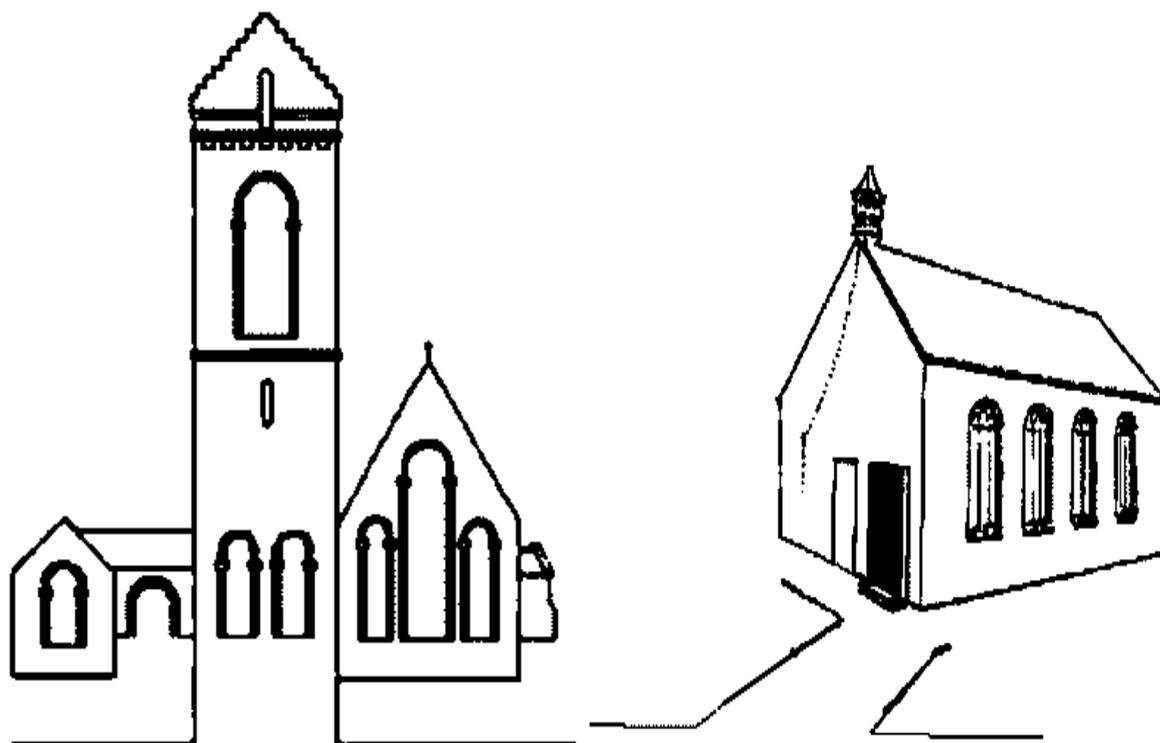


# St Leonard's and Cameron Magazine WINTER 2021/2



**Best wishes for Christmas and 2022**  
*View from the Manse, Connections,  
Christmas Services, Desert Island Discs,  
On My Bedside Table,  
Real Good, Feel Good Rice Harvest  
Favourite Christmas Songs*

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Deadline for the next issue covering March, April and May 2022 is

**19<sup>th</sup> February**

## **View from the Manse**

Dear Friends,

Perhaps it's to be expected. Perhaps it's something we all do. Perhaps it's natural but as we approach the end of a year many of us will look back, reflecting on the good, and the not so good things that have happened; those things, those events in our own lives, within the church, the community, nationally or even in the wider world; carrying the good memories into the new year, while doing our best to move on from the things that have darkened life.

So much seems to have happened in the last twelve months. Of course, COVID19 and the Pandemic have continued to dominate, and though things are definitely better than they were at this time last year there is still plenty of uncertainty doing the rounds, and that uncertainty adds to the stress of what for many is already a stress-filled time of year. If we're not careful it is easy to be caught up in the frenzy of it all and arrive at Christmas Day exhausted with little energy to reflect on much beyond how tired we are and how we look forward to the whole thing being over. On the other hand, sometimes people can get caught up in the Christmas Card image of the season: the sentimentalised, sanitised image of the nativity that so many have.

Yet if we look back at that stable, taking away the familiar cosiness, we see the reality of the situation. Just as we know that Christmas today is a difficult time for many people, so it was for Mary and Joseph, a homeless couple desperately searching for somewhere to bring their baby into the world. Yet in that baby we see God's presence. In that baby we see God's love and hope right there in the mess and muddle of a stable, the mess and muddle of the political turmoil of the time, and the mess and muddle of ordinary lives not so different from our own. Yet it is also the place where we can see God's love coming amongst us and discover the hope we need to look forward with faith.

*Continued on page 4*

*View from the Manse continued from page 3*

This Christmas we can look forward to the coming year because in that stable there is love and hope – a love and hope in this coming year for our community and for each one of us. Shepherds considered as outsiders found God's love and hope in that manger. The wise men, foreigners coming from far away to search for a king, were welcomed without question. So, let us look forward to the coming year because in it, all we do personally, as a church and as a community, whatever else lies before us, we can find God's love and hope. As the hymn says, 'Look forward in faith, all time is in God's hand'

Ailsa and I wish you and yours a joyful and hopeful Christmas; and may God bless and keep you and those you love into the New Year.

Your Friend and Pastor



*'What's your favourite Christmas Song?' It's an easier question to ask than it is to answer, at least for me it is. There are so many I like and for all sorts of different reasons. There's Ella Fitzgerald's recording of 'Sleigh Ride', and Nat King Cole's of 'The Christmas Song'. There's 'Santa Baby', Eartha Kitt's version, of course...it's got to be Eartha Kitt's version, and Mike Oldfield's arrangement of 'In Dulci Jubilo', but that's an instrumental and not really a song so I don't suppose that counts.*

*But if I had to choose, I'd go for Frank Sinatra's recording of **'Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas'**. It's been part of my Christmas soundtrack for as long as I can remember; a reminder of years gone by and the people who've gone with them.*

*Graeme*

## Christmas Services 2021

Sun 28 Nov	Advent Sunday	Cameron Kirk at 9.45 am St Leonard's at 11.15 am
Sun 5 Dec	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent	Cameron Kirk at 9.45 am St Leonard's at 11.15 am
Sun 12 Dec	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	Cameron Kirk at 9.45 am St Leonard's at 11.15 am
Sun 19 Dec	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	Cameron Kirk at 9.45 am Lessons & Carols St Leonard's at 11.15 am Lessons & Carols
Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve pyjama service Watchnight Service	Cameron Kirk at 5 pm  Hope Park & Martyrs at 11.30 pm Carols for All from 11.15 pm
Christmas Day		Cameron Kirk at 10.30 am
Sun 26 Dec	Joint Cluster Service	St Leonard's at <b>11.00</b> am

## 2022

Sun 2 Jan	Joint Cluster Service	Holy Trinity Church at 11.00 am
Sun 9 Jan		Cameron Kirk at 9.45 am St Leonard's at 11.15 am

### Gwen Mairi ~ Douze Noël's

GWEN MAIRI - DOUZE NOËLS : Harpist Gwen MAIRI presents her new album of Basque Noels and other music for Advent. **Saturday 4 December** in St Leonard's Church at 12 noon. Entry by Donation.



# The Church Family



Sadly, the cycle of life has meant that our Church Family has recently lost the following members: -

Mr. James Sampson

Mrs. Janet Lowe

Mrs. Ada Wright

Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends at this particularly sad and difficult time.

## **PRAYER**

### **Christmas Day prayer**

[christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk) Christmas worship resources for Advent 2021

'But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.'

Luke 2:19

Thank you, Incarnate God,

For the good news of Christmas.

For the news that dispels fear of the future,

News that disrupts the status quo,

That brings hope despite despair,

Amazement and wonder.

For news that is truly full of awe, we give you thanks.

May this Good News silence all other news today.

Amen, and thanks be to God.

*Submitted by Marie Robinson*

## Favourite Christmas Songs



### ***All I Want for Christmas is You*** – Jane Harrison-Smith

*My favourite Christmas song is probably All I Want for Christmas is You, as used in the film "Love Actually", my favourite feel-good film, which I have watched many times and never tire of. If you haven't seen it, I highly recommend it for people of any generation (although there is one scene which might take a bit of explaining to young children!). I can lend you a DVD or you can come and watch it with me; it would be a good excuse to watch it again. Just listening to the song fills me with the same glow as watching the film.*

*Our conscience was pricked when Graeme reminded us again last week about Christmas songs for the magazine, so we asked wonderful Spotify for a suitable playlist. We had forgotten how many great songs there were! We were regaled with "A Winter's Tale" by David Essex, "A Spaceman came travelling" by Chris de Burgh, which tells the Christmas story and Kenny Roger's "Little Drummer Boy" which always makes me cry. We had to narrow things down to come up with a favourite and nearly chose "When a Child is Born" by the wonderful Johnny Mathis. In the end our winner was **Mary's Boy Child** with the silky-smooth voice of Harry Belafonte. Thank you for encouraging us to take a trip down Christmas memory lane Editor!*

*Brian and Muriel Gray*

**"Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas"** ( by Judy Garland) *The words and melody describe precisely what we think Christmas is all about .*

*George & Jean McIntosh.*

## Real Good, Feel Good Rice Harvest campaign

As many of you know St Leonard's has been involved with the JTS 'Real Good, Feel Good' rice campaign as part of our harvest season. This has been a campaign organised by JTS to support the poverty-stricken rice farmers in Malawi at the same time as helping those in food poverty in this country. It has been supported by many churches across Scotland.



We bought £288 worth of rice (90kg) to donate to foodbanks in this area. The rice has now been distributed with 30kg going to Storehouse in St Andrews. Through the Roundhouse Kitchen in Dundee, we have supported three food projects in the city, Link Up in Whitfield, the Hub food larder at Pitkerro Road, and the Dundee foodbank. Caroline Bentley, manager of the Roundhouse kitchen asked that I pass on the thanks of these projects to our congregation.

If you would still like to contribute, please put an envelope with your donation in the offering plate as you come into church and mark it 'Rice Donation'.

Thank you.

*Mary Popple,*

*Chair JTS and member of St Leonard's Justice and Peace Action Group*

### **STAMPS FOR WORLD MISSION**

Please keep collecting stamps and put them in the box in the welcome area. Hopefully there will be a lot from Christmas cards.

Thank you,

Liz Thirkell

## Favourite Christmas Songs



### ***We Wish You a Merry Christmas***

*This song reminds me of the many Nativity plays performed at Cameron in the 1980s and 1990s, written by the late Dr Barbara Murray. Christmas carols were written into the script, and the enthusiastic singing by the Sunday School children of 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' always heralded the end. The 'good tidings' include the threat 'and we won't go until we get some', which produced the desired result - one of the elders came forward bearing a plateful of figgy pudding in the shape of mini chocolate bars. Happiness all round.*

*Marie Robinson*

### ***Let it Snow Let it Snow Let it Snow and Mary's Boy Child***

*My dad was a choir boy and all his life he enjoyed music and these Christmas songs. In later life he had radiotherapy which damaged his voice box and he couldn't sing. His alternative was whistling and no matter where he walked, he always whistled. Therefore, everyone knew it was him before they saw him.*

*Wendy Peters*

*When choosing my favourite Christmas song, I decided to operate on the "earworm" principle i.e. I couldn't get it out of head! For a few days "The Christmas Song" was up there – "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire" etc... Then from nowhere "**I'm Not Dreaming of a White Christmas**" by Gilbert O'Sullivan. It has the simplest words but a lovely sentiment -so that's my Christmas earworm.*

*Isobel Clifford*

## Grace's Briquette Project

In the church magazine over the last year, I have been reporting on this project, which is the vision of a woman farmer, Grace Mwanguti. Grace's vision has been to set-up a business in Karonga, Northern Malawi, to turn the waste product from rice milling into a useful fuel for cooking. It will help ease the lives of women rice farmers who for generations have had the back-breaking job of collecting firewood in the hills. It will also help to stop the deforestation of the hill slopes which, with increased flooding due to climate change, leads to significant damage to crops and livelihoods. In addition, the project is giving women training in management and computing skills, and potentially more confidence in their abilities, in a society where women do not traditionally have equality



of opportunity with men.

The project is now nearing completion and the women, with help from their menfolk have built sheds, bought the briquette making machines and are currently undertaking the training. The last

step is to get the electricity company to hook them up to power.

In November at the Scottish Fair Trade Forum awards night, I was delighted that this project received, along with the Balmore Trust (the parent charity of JTS) the Climate Partnership award. This was wonderful recognition for Grace's project and all the women taking part. Without the voice, confidence and belief in themselves which being treated fairly in trade has given the farmers this project could not have happened.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cost of this project. Please continue to support Grace and others from the underdeveloped countries on our shared planet by buying from our Fair Trade stall after church each Sunday in the Hall at St Leonard's.

*Mary Pople, Chair of JTS and Trustee of the Balmore Trust*

## Favourite Christmas Songs



### ***Fairytale of New York - Kirsty McColl and the Pogues***

*Now, if you really listen to the words of this song, there a few "rude" ones, it's not a happy "traditional" song, but for some reason I just really like it. I love the "tune", the roughness of the Pogues, whom you can hardly understand what they are saying are softened by the lovely voice of the late Kirsty McColl. It must be the "80's" girl in me that likes it.*

***When I fall in love - Rick Astley***, now this is of course more widely known as a recording by Nat King Cole from 1956 and Graeme and I do love to listen to Nat King Cole when we are decorating our tree however, the 1987 version by Rick was bought for me by my BFF Eleanor, as a single for my Christmas, yes, a single to play on a turntable! So, it reminds me of her and our friendship.  
*Ailsa Beebee*

### ***"I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day"*** by Wizzard

*We were married in 1973 and although we never identified with the outfits worn by the band, the song always reminds us of the first Christmas we spent together as a married couple.*

*Morag & Ian Lorimer*

### ***Do they know it's Christmas?*** – Maureen Jack

*Definitely the 1984 Band Aid song 'Do they know it's Christmas?' with those musicians coming together and exhorting us to 'Feed the world'. The memory of the hope that we might actually do so still brings a tear to my eye.*

## Connections

St Michael and All Angels Church in Blantyre, Malawi was opened in 1891. Interestingly, the Minister, Rev David Clement Scott, had been specifically instructed by the Church of Scotland not to build the church; he ignored this instruction, and the church was built to his specifications. He was not as rebellious in every situation, however. The Blantyre church's website tells us that his wife 'read and critiqued each and every sermon that Scott had written before he preached it. If she was not happy with the sermon, she would tear it and ask him to write a new sermon altogether.' Which, apparently, he did!

St Leonard's and St Michael and All Angels have a very tangible connection. In 1892 the St Leonard's congregation, before we had our present church building, donated a baptismal font to the Blantyre church. Rev Billy Gama, General Secretary of Blantyre Synod, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian has kindly sent a photograph of the font, which bears the inscription 'Presented by St Leonard's, St Andrews. 1892.'

And we have another connection to the font through St Leonard's Elder, David Aitken. David was born in Malawi while his father was working as a Church of Scotland missionary in Blantyre for ten years, teaching building skills and techniques. David and his twin sister were the first Scottish twins to be baptised in St Michael and All Angels, presumably in this very font!

It would be fascinating to know how St Leonard's came to donate the font. If you have any information on this, please let us know.

*Maureen Jack*



## On My Bedside Table

On my bedside table recently was Tim Marshall's "Power of Geography". I read his excellent "Prisoners of Geography" when it first came out and was concerned "Power" would just be a rehash. However, Mr Marshall is a much better journalist/author than that. He examines 10 regions – Australia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UK, Greece, Turkey, the Sahal, Ethiopia, Spain and Space, and how their geography will determine their future and impact on the world. It's an engaging combination of history and geography interspersed with gems of information he has gleaned from his 25 years as a foreign affairs journalist – just the sort of combination I like.

Another recent read was "Cocktail Hour under the Tree of Forgetfulness" by Alexandra Fuller -definitely an intriguing title. The book tells the story of the author's eccentric mother, Nicola Fuller (of Central Africa as she grandly entitled herself) who along with her patient husband Tim and her children follows her love of East Africa through a time of turbulent changes, always having to move on until they settle on a fish and banana farm in the Zambezi valley. The resilience of the family, Nicola's eccentricity and humour with dark undertones run throughout the story. And the Tree of Forgetfulness? This is where the elders of the tribe would sit and sort out disputes, so the Fullers have made this their evening gathering spot.

For fiction it's "The Music Shop" by Rachel Joyce, which is about Frank, the owner of a music shop, who refuses to sell anything other than vinyl records. Frank has the knack of finding the right music at the right time for the right person. However, without music Frank is awkward and shy. Then Ilsa comes into the shop and asks Frank to teach her about music. Frank carefully selects the music and tells Ilsa how she should listen to music and what she should listen for. Some of Frank's insights are lovely. Frank's awkwardness draws a group of interesting misfits around him giving a wealth of humour and characters but they, like Frank, refuse to move with the times.

*Isobel Clifford*

## **Desert Island Discs - Joan Peter**

I have eclectic tastes in music and it was difficult to choose. I have narrowed my choice down to some pieces which evoke memories and a few that just give me goosebumps.

## **Jimmy Shand Country Dances Eightsome Reel**

Scottish Dance music is an early memory. Brought up without television, listening to Robbie Shepherd on the radio, attending ceilidhs and Caledonian Balls, this is my first choice. In a roundabout way, reels also remind me of my father who was in 51st Highland Division, captured at St Valery in 1940 and a prisoner of war for nearly 5 years. Some of his fellow prisoners created the Reel of the 51st, still danced today. A few pas de bas and skip change of steps up the beach should keep me fit.

## **Greig Piano Concerto in A Minor Op16**

In my late teens, I was a member of Tayport Musical Society. Song of Norway was the first show I was in. This piece has always reminded me of these happy days.

## **The Gondoliers – Dance a Cachuca**

Around the same time, I had the privilege of singing in the chorus for touring D'Oyly Carte principals. Not being allowed a whole album, I have chosen this lively piece and I can join in!

## **The Very Best of The Military Tattoo – Highland Cathedral**

This is one of my goosebump pieces. Knowing it was a favourite, the organist in St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall played this for me to come into church at my daughter's wedding. I feel, however, that it is at its most stirring when played by massed pipe bands. There is for me no better sensory experience than massed bands exiting Edinburgh Castle. My son was Drum Major in Dollar Academy Pipe Band and I was very proud to see him leading the band on the Esplanade at the castle. Sadly, Highland Cathedral was not in their repertoire in those days.

## **Gabriel's Oboe – Ennio Morricone – The Mission**

I never tire of listening to this. No memories. Just a favourite piece of music. I always fancied playing the oboe – maybe a bit late now!

*Desert Island Discs by Joan Peter continued from page 14*

### **Mozart - Ave Verum Corpus**

I can hardly remember a time (apart from a spell in the Middle East) when I was not in a church choir. There are lots of hymns which I love to sing but this is by far my favourite anthem. I have a friend and ex colleague who sings in Glasgow Phoenix Choir. They do a beautiful rendition of this (and Highland Cathedral!) on their Iona Abbey Album.

### **Bruch – Violin Concerto No1 in G minor played by Nicola Benedetti**

I don't usually choose to listen to music for violin and/or stringed instruments, but the Adagio from this is one of my goosebump pieces. I have had the pleasure of attending concerts by Nicola and have booked to hear her with the SCO in the Usher Hall in December.

### **Joy To the World - Christmas Brass – Salvation Army Band**

I have lots of memories associated with brass, wind and military bands. When the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visited Dubai in 1979 on the royal yacht, my husband and I were lucky to be quayside when the Royal Marines Beat the Retreat. In Cyprus there were many visits from military bands some of which performed in the atmospheric Curium Amphitheatre. My children played brass instruments at school. My son was taught by a member of the Salvation Army. A happy memory of my Glasgow days is listening to the Salvation Army Band in Sauchiehall Street while Christmas shopping.

I'm not sure which luxury item to take. I had thought of some indulgent moisturiser but have settled for a practical large Swiss Army knife. This will not only be of use when foraging but remind me of my late husband who was never without a small one in his pocket. An official at Beijing airport discovered that he had forgotten to put it in his hold luggage. Seeing the dismay on my husband's face at losing it, he waved him through reminding him not to use it on the plane!

I read a lot and would need to choose something light-hearted enough to keep me entertained but have enough content to be reread. Cheating slightly, I have chosen the **Complete Novels of Jane Austen**.

## **Guild Report**

The Guild met in the Church Hall for the first meeting at the new time of 2pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 with full adherence to Covid 19 restrictions. At the opening meeting we welcomed members of Camerson Guild and new members. Graeme, our Minister, was the speaker and gave his talk around the Guild theme of "Look Forward in Faith". Graeme talked of all the difficulties the Church of Scotland is experiencing with both the Covid Pandemic regulations and plans going forward. Despite all the challenges, Graeme felt he could look forward in faith.

On October 21<sup>st</sup> Jane H Smith who told us of all the work that has been going on to purchase the St David's building and what they want to achieve in newly opened North East Fife Community Hub. Even at this early stage many groups are up and running. The Hub is open for all. Anyone can go for coffee or lunch. They have several members of paid staff and many volunteers. Jane is hopeful others will join and share in their work. The Hub was opened earlier this year by Val McDermid and was very well attended, a measure of how much it is needed in our area.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November, we welcomed our first Project speaker, Andrew Hornsby, speaking about "Home for Good" a small charity of which he is part. Their aim is to encourage Churches to become involved and draws attention to the need for homes for children to be fostered and adopted.

On November 18<sup>th</sup> "The World on your Doorstep" was Fiona Barnard's theme. Fiona is an Honorary Global Chaplain working with students at the University. Hospitality plays a huge role in international students settling down at University. The students enjoy learning about our local food and in turn preparing a meal from their own country for their hosts. Many change their mind set as they learn about how we deal with health care and aspire to make a difference when they return home. There are 135 nationalities enrolled at St Andrews University in the current academic year. Many of our Congregation are a part of the Befriending group which Fiona oversees and they enjoy the friendship shared. *Mima Clark*

## **Guild Programme**

Unfortunately, the Guild Sale and Coffee Morning scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> December is CANCELLED due to the uncertainty arising from the changing situation with the Covid 19 virus.

However, we look forward to seeing all members and friends on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for our GUILD SPRING SALE and COFFEE MORNING. 10-11 30am (restrictions permitting)

December 9<sup>th</sup> - Guild Lunch at 1pm, Links Clubhouse. See Evelyn

2022 All meetings 2pm unless otherwise stated.

January 13<sup>th</sup> - Video Presentation and an opportunity to catch up on our Christmas stories.

January 27<sup>th</sup> - "A Taste of Burns"  
George MacIntosh & friends, stories, poetry and music.

February 10<sup>th</sup> - "The Vine Trust Project Kazuna, Village of Hope, Tanzania". Speaker Robert Alexander.

February 17<sup>th</sup> - Joint meeting hosted by Hope Park & Martyrs Church  
Project speaker – "Blether with BEAT" on eating disorders.

February 24<sup>th</sup> - "Lighthouses", Speaker Dakers Fleming .

March 10<sup>th</sup> - "A Night of Song with the Swilcan Singers"  
Conductor Joyce McIver. \*\* 7 30pm\*\*

March 31<sup>st</sup> - AGM

May/June Outing



*Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Festive season, Mima Clark*

## **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR**

Every year there appears to be more and more, and more and more expensive, advent calendars on the market. No longer are they just for children nor contain just an inexpensive daily chocolate treat.

Two years ago, I came across the idea of the reverse advent calendar in an article in a magazine from Waitrose.

In this instance rather than obtaining a gift each day the person makes a donation each day of advent to a local foodbank or another charity.

Maybe all advent calendars should be like this. *Robert J McNeill*

## **A Few Words from the Treasurer of St Leonard's**

### **National Giving Day**

Well, it was a month really and the church is grateful to all who donated. Once Gift Aid is claimed the total should be £7680.

It is that time of year again when I start to get twitchy at the part of the Treasurer's job with which I am least comfortable – spreadsheets! At the moment, the important figure at the bottom is showing a deficit. Costs are definitely rising as you will appreciate from your household bills. It seems a bit cheeky, after many of you giving so generously to last month's appeal, but I wonder if those of you who have not revised your giving in the last few years could do so in 2022? Every little helps!

Retiring collection on 14<sup>th</sup> November raised £250 for Poppy Scotland.  
Thank you! *Joan Peter*

### **The Leprosy Mission**

Whilst the blue tub collection system is suspended, donations can be made directly to - The Leprosy Mission Scotland, Suite 2, Earls Gate Lodge, Livilands Lane, Stirling FK8, 2BG. You can also give online by credit or debit card at - [leprosymission.scot/donate](https://leprosymission.scot/donate). *Nina Swan*

## A Different Christmas Song - Susie Lang



A couple of years ago, I was walking hand in hand with my then, three-year-old granddaughter in Edinburgh and she started to sing, very loudly, this Christmas song.

Glagan binn, glagan binn  
Glagan siud sa sea  
Tha sinn file toilichte  
Bodach nollaig coir x 2

Ni sinn bodach sneachd  
Le curran agus àd  
Ni sinn sabaid sneachd  
Airson latha air fad  
Ithidh sinn ar beady – yum yum  
Torr ri ith s' ri òl  
Coimhead air an tele  
Is eisdidh sinn ri ceol - Ho Ho!

Glagan binn, glagan binn etc! x 2

People in the street stopped what they were doing to listen, but my granddaughter was completely unabashed and absorbed in her very loud rendition of Jingle Bells, in Gaelic, which she had learnt at the Gaelic nursery! Obviously, most people would only have recognised the tune! A very special, unforgettable, Granny moment!

***'I wish it could be Christmas everyday'*** – Wizzard

*This has to be my favourite Christmas song because it just gets me in the mood for Christmas. It's so energetic and upbeat, the music and the lyrics just sum up exactly what Christmas should be, and since it's always played at parties, there are a lot of happy memories attached to this song for me. Tom Rippon*

## Favourite Christmas Songs



### **"Little Things" by ABBA – Blair Smith**

*The main answer is that I have no favourite Christmas song, as it's a genre that either repels me, or whose exemplars have become thoroughly jaded by over-use, annually from around mid-October! 😊*

*However, for the purposes of this exercise, I'm going to nominate "Little Things", by ABBA.*

*It's no less cheesy or schmalzy than any other Christmas song. However, I love the fact that it's part of ABBA's first studio album for 40 years (Voyage, November 2021). That is, about 39 years later than true fans, such as I, had expected their next album. When I was a teenager, I was often embarrassed to admit that I loved ABBA. I also loved AC/DC, Rush and Deep Purple, which coincidentally produced a small degree of street cred. Now, though, in my late 50s, I'm proud to acknowledge my own personality, willing to be persecuted for my beliefs, and delighted to witness a musical resurrection*

And now for something completely different:

*When you read through the favourite Christmas songs, you will see that "White Christmas" is missing. I know for many hearing Bing crooning "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas..." means Christmas is really here. So, for all those for whom this favourite is a guilty secret - **"White Christmas"** Editor*

## **Six months at the North East Fife Community Hub –** *Georgiana Mazilu*

First of all, I would like to thank you all for trusting me to pursue the mission of the church at the NEF Community Hub. I am really honoured and I will do my best to use my skills and passion for helping others.

I cannot believe that 6 months have already passed since I started working at the Hub, initially with no floors, painted walls, signs and kitchen. All we started with was the building and a pile of donated goods. Please come and see it now and you will notice that it is still work in progress, but we have achieved a lot, we are “Open” and would love to welcome you all.

The Grand Opening was very special and a great success, so much so I almost forgot we are in the middle of a Pandemic. So many people came to support us and so many other groups which have the Community at the base of their daily jobs and hearts. Val McDermid made the celebrations stress free and showed a good understanding of community causes. She must have enjoyed the Hub looking like a crime scene with scaffolding up, skip full of discarded objects and lots of hiding places inside.

Our Commercial Kitchen is next on our to-do list and we are in dire need of funding. The Cafe, which is already up and running is now one of the main sources of income and it will help restart all the past projects and develop new ones as well as paying for the staff salaries.

It would be lovely if more people from the Church can get involved with the Hub even just coming for a coffee and a chat on Mondays at our “Let’s Chat Cafe” or taking part in our many clubs and activities: Walking, Singing, Armchair exercises, Art and Crafts, Knitting, Sewing, or just playing Dominoes. There are plenty of opportunities at the Hub for all.

*Continued on page 22*

*6 Months at the North East Fife Community Hub continued from page 21*

We will serve Christmas lunches all through December at the great price of £10 per person and you will be able to book with a non-refundable deposit of £5 per person.

We are always welcoming all volunteers with open arms and hope to build the Hub family and community. We have so much to do and so little time, but this is an amazing project to be involved with. It is a space for creativity and I think with imagination and hard work we can grow and give many opportunities to the people of St Andrews and NEF.

For more info about the NEF Community Hub follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityHubNEF>

Website: <https://www.nefcommunityhub.org/>

Happy to chat: [georgiana@nefcommunityhub.org](mailto:georgiana@nefcommunityhub.org)

**Storehouse**

Items we **DO** need:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Christmas selection boxes                           | Deodorant            |
| Coffee  | UHT milk             |
| Spreads, e.g. jam, honey, chocolate spread          | Hot chocolate powder |
| Jars of sauce that aren't tomato based, e.g. curry! |                      |

**Items we DON'T need:** pasta, baked beans, soup, pulses and beans, dental hygiene, cereal, tins of tomato, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, sanitary towels and tampons.

**VIP CLUB**

We are a group for visually impaired people(formerly St Andrews Blind Club). Meetings are held on Mondays from 2pm till 3.30pm. In winter, meetings are in Hope Park and Martyrs Church Hall and St Andrews Bowling Club and in the summer at Kinburn Bowling Club. We have speakers and entertainers, play bowls, Dominos and Scrabble, chat and, of course, have a cup of tea!. Taxis are provided for those who require one. If you would like to join us or would like more information, please contact the Secretary on 01334 475763

# **Glasgow Multi-faith Declaration for COP26**

From Life and Work, November 2021

The following commitments form part of the statement issued in September and signed by more than 50 Scottish and UK faith leaders, printed in full in November's Life and Work.

'Our faith communities are united in caring for human life and the natural world. We share a belief in a hopeful future, as well as an obligation to be responsible in caring for our common home, the Earth....

We acknowledge the commitments made through the Lambeth Declaration in 2015. Now, because of the gravity of the situation, the impact of climate change around the world, and the inequality of its effects we seek to strengthen those communities.

We commit to respond to this challenge by:

- Reflecting deeply in prayer, meditation and worship to discern how to care for the earth and each other, and to encourage our respective communities to do the same.
- Making transformational change in our own lives and in the lives of our communities through individual and collective action.
- Being advocate for justice by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy, resilient, zero-emissions future.'

*Submitted by Marie Robinson*

## Christian Aid

“So the Word became flesh, he came to dwell among us, and we saw his glory, such glory as befits the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” John 1:4.

As Karl Barth put it “If we wish to understand the meaning of ‘conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary’, above all we must try to see that these two remarkable pronouncements assert that God of free grace became man, a real man.” The real man fed the hungry. Christian Aid is a practical means of helping people whose life circumstances we can hardly imagine. The Week in 2021 raised over £5 million” to help provide earth dams in Kenya to harvest more water and hence better crops. In 2022 it focusses on Zimbabwe.

Our TV screens have shown much of the crisis in Afghanistan with winter approaching; this on top of Yemen, South Sudan and others. However, 1.7 million people in need are reached. For example, things are changing for the better for Aout Marin, a woman of South Sudan, whose choice was dirty water or none at all in the village of Biet. There was cow’s dung in her surface water source and adults bathing in it; children could drown if sent for water. Christian Aid supplied a borehole and pump for clean water and her life completely changed. She says, “Things are coming to this village”. You can find out more on the 2-minute video on “caid.org.uk/Christmas.

We can give at “caid.org.uk/Scotland or by cheque to Christian Aid Scotland, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL – 0131 220 1254 or edinburgh@christian-aid.org

Have you considered including Christian Aid in your Will, so you can ensure that the loving care you show to the world can live on? A sincere “Thank You” to those who signed the on-line petition (or filled in the form!) for Climate Justice in the run up to COP26 in Glasgow. Along with hundreds of other organisations Christian Aid secured 20 million signatures.

As the hymn says “*Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new born King*”                      *George Black*

## Favourite Christmas Songs



*I never feel Christmas is really here till I hear or sing **the Messiah especially the Hallelujah Chorus** 😊 Liz Thirkell*

### ***There's Something Special Going On!***

*After I retired, I really missed the build up to Christmas in school. I taught children with learning difficulties which meant lots of repetition in preparation for the Christmas performance for parents. One year we presented The Little Angel and the person in the starring role was far from it! The main song was "There's something special going on and I don't know what it is!" Various possible scenarios were enacted before eventually arriving at the stable. The "little angel" put his own interpretation on the performance to a highly amused audience. Unforgettable for many reasons!*

*Joan Peter*

*For Ian and Sheila Black, "**Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly**" and "**Ding Dong Merrily on High**" are their favourites because they cheer everyone up for Christmas*

***"I saw Mummy kissing Santa Claus"**. It always makes me laugh- a good reason to choose it.*

*Isobel Phimister*

*I would like to thank everyone who sent me details of their favourite Christmas song. I have enjoyed reading the stories and remembering the songs. I hope you do too.*

*Editor*

# I AM THE NEW YEAR – author unknown

I am the New Year ...

I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living.

I am your opportunity to practice  
what you have learned about life  
during the last twelve months.

All that you sought  
and didn't find is hidden in me,  
waiting for you to search it out  
with more determination.

All the good that you tried for  
and didn't achieve is mine to grant  
when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do,  
all that you hoped but did not will,  
all the faith that you claimed but did not have -  
these slumber lightly,  
waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to make all things new.

I am the New Year!