



***Kilsyth
Anderson
Parish
Church***

***Newsletter
Dec 2013 / Jan 2014***





Letter from the Manse

Christmas is coming! The Christmas Church invites are printed and ready to be distributed. There is a frost on the ground as I write and the shops are full of the sights and sounds of the Christmas season. Children are becoming more and more excited at the fun and

excitement of what lies ahead. It really is a special time of the year!

I am looking forward to my first Christmas here in the Anderson church. The Christmas Fayre is, I'm told, a great church event for all ages and of course there are also the various special services to come. Communion is first as we move into Advent at the very beginning of December and then a special family gift service on the 8th of the month. I do believe it to be a wonderful thing to have the opportunity to give gifts to those who might otherwise miss out, so please do support this initiative.

The 15th of December looks to be a song and carol feast, with the church praise group taking a lead in the morning service and the Columban Singers with a special concert in the evening (a 7.30pm start with proceeds going to help the typhoon victims in the Philippines). On the Sunday before Christmas (22nd) I look forward very much to sharing in the retelling of the Christmas story with our children. There is yet another special opportunity to reflect on the message of Christmas in our Christmas Eve service at 6.30pm in the church where we hope to welcome regulars attenders and visitors, young and old to celebrate the 'reason for the season'

I do very warmly invite you along to all of our services and please do make a point of bringing someone with you. This is a time of the year when people may come along to church when they otherwise might not. We certainly want everyone to know the truth in Jesus 'Love came down at Christmas', and that 'Christ the Saviour was born', we want to present the message that 'light has come into the darkness' and in

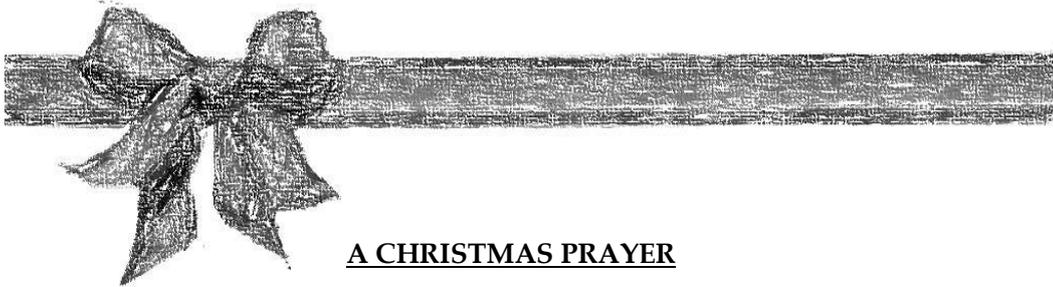
him is found the greatest gift of all – God with us!

I'm excited that Christmas is coming. I do hope that whatever age or stage we might be that the wonder of Christmas with its message of hope, love and faith in Jesus will encourage us and uplift us.

Yours in Christ

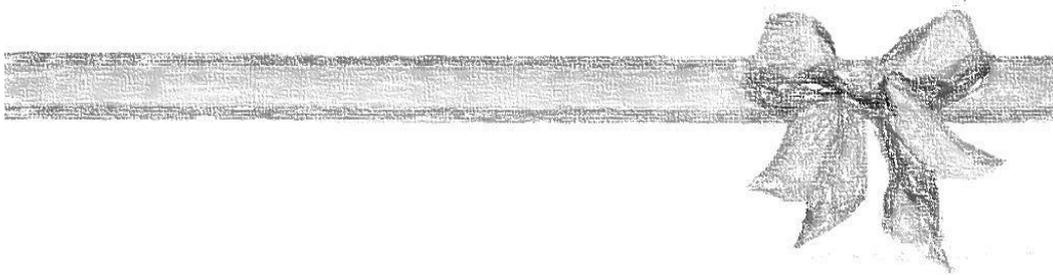
Allan S. Vint





A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

I said a Christmas prayer for you because the season's near
I didn't ask for riches but for gifts so much more dear
I asked for joyful gatherings with your family all around
And for the carols to inspire you with their old familiar sound
I asked for quiet moments in your heart on Christmas morn
For a special time to celebrate the Saviour who was born
I asked for friends to send their best that you might know they care
I asked for peace & love & hope and I know God heard my prayer



The Twelve Days of Christmas, the Song and the Story

The Spiritual Meaning Behind a Silly Holiday Song Title The Twelve Days of Christmas



The Twelve Days of Christmas originated as a children's poem in a book called *Mirth about Mischief* in 1760. In the 20th century, composer Frederic Austin (1872-1952) added some of his own words and adapted a melody from a European folk song dating back to at least the 16th century. The song has been a favorite Christmas Carol for many years, although many people sing it without understanding the foundational meaning. Celebrating the 12 days of Christmas is a tradition over 2,000 years old.

The 12 day/night observances begin December 25/26th, Christmas Day, and culminate on January 5/6th, the day of Epiphany

Over the centuries, different cultures, churches and families have created their own 12-day celebrations. Traditions vary greatly, from elaborate festivals to days of fasting; from providing food for the poor to hanging out a stocking to be filled on Christmas Eve. Even people who don't recognize Christmas as the celebration of the birth of Christ, sometimes unwittingly take part in 12-day traditions, such as hanging a wreath on the front door -- a tradition handed down from the Pilgrims who hung the wreath on Christmas day as a 'house blessing.'

The Pilgrims adapted this idea from a house-blessing ritual dating back to the 12-day celebrations of the 4th century.

The words of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* appear to be nonsensical. They do however, have significant meaning.

The partridge in a pear tree refers to Jesus Christ on the cross

The two turtle doves refer to the Old and New Testaments

The three French hens stand for faith, hope and love

The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

The five gold rings represent the first five books of the Old Testament

The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation

The seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, serving, exhortation, teaching, contribution, leadership and mercy

The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes

The nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

The ten lords a-leaping stand for the Ten Commandments

The 11 pipers piping represent the 11 faithful disciples

The 12 drummers drumming symbolize the 12 points of belief in the Apostle's Creed



Boys' Brigade



We've had a busy couple of months. The Anchor Boys and Junior Section have been busy working on badge work. They have made robot biscuits which tasted good and have listened to stories about Daniel and Jonah. The Juniors have looked at a couple of countries which will take part in the Commonwealth games and at qualities we should have e.g. perseverance.

In October, to mark the 130th Anniversary of the founding of the BB we held an overnight games session during which all Boys helped to play 130 games. This was a sponsored event which has raised £1 093 which will go to refurbishing the school in Malawi where we build a kitchen to feed the 1500 children who attend Katete Primary School. Some of us are hoping to go out next year to carry out the refurbishment work

The highlight for the Juniors was the sleepover in Glasgow Science Centre on 8th Nov. it was great fun and we were so lucky to have been given places as a lot of companies were disappointed that they could not go! Space was limited to 400 Boys and 100 staff.

The Company Section, too, have worked on gaining badges and had a visit from Mark Griffin MSP. A good question and answer session was had.

The Seniors are currently working on getting their logs written up for their D of E bronze and Darren is writing up his log for his Queen's Award. Some have been to Carronvale to attend a leadership course which they enjoyed.

We have played chess in the National competitions, but lost! We couldn't field teams for the football because of a variety of reasons. However, the Masterteam - Blair, Cameron, Chris and Lewis won through to Round 2 which we will host on Sat 7th Dec. Good luck to them. Blair, Cameron and Jack represented the company at the Battalion Masterteam - they won for the third year in a row! Well done to them.

Cameron, John and I attended the Mary's Meals day at which we met the CEO Magnus McFarlane-Barrow. He thanked us for the work we had done. We now look forward to going out to Malawi.

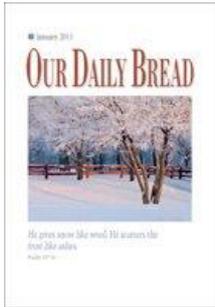
BB Post

We will again offer a Christmas Card delivery service to Kilsyth and the four villages - cost **STILL 10p!!!!** Please make sure that cards are properly addressed including the house number. Cards will be accepted from Wed.4th Dec. until Wed.18th Dec.



Good News Story

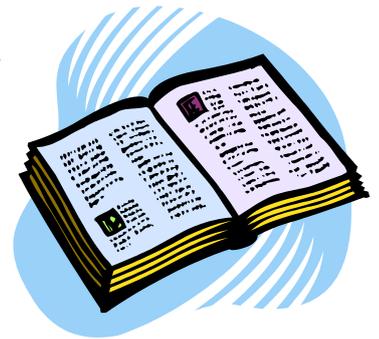
Alex Fleming



In the last newsletter we were encouraging more people to think about starting to read a bit of the bible every day and to recommend the “Our Daily Bread” series of notes. Ena Graham, who has been dealing with this is delighted to report that there has been a good response to this suggestion. All her samples that she had been sent have gone and has asked for more, we are now in double figures for the uptake. While some of those responding were people who had tried this before and had simply stopped getting the notes, others were totally new to the experience. Both groups are extremely welcome! Now, if you have been pondering and hesitating over taking up this idea there is still time for Ena would not mind in the slightest having to contact the producers again and request even more. We invite you once again to give it a try. It isn’t eccentric to read the Bible – it is a normal Christian activity and is not only refreshing but truly nourishing to the soul, for this IS god’s word.

Keep The Grey Cells Working

The bible is full of great verses- promises, declarations, deep truths. It is truly wonderful to read them and marvel, however, it is even better to read them and then make them our own. We suggest that you might like to try committing a verse to memory each month. Soon you will have a tremendous knowledge of God’s word and be delighted to feed on it’s truths as you recall them day by day. Here are some suggestions ...



November verse: Hebrews Chpt 12:2

“let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith”

December verse: Matthew Chpt 1:21

“You are to give him the name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins”

January verse: John Chpt 1:14

He word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” .

★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.

Elizabeth Strang Session Clerk

What brought you to Kilsyth Anderson Church?

The Anderson Church has always been a part of my life. I was baptised in another church as a baby but soon after that was brought to the Anderson Church which was my mother's church. Here I've been ever since!

What involvement do you have in the church?

I came through Sunday School, Bible Class, The Girls' Guildry (G.B.) and

(following in my mother's footsteps) was always involved in church activities.

In later years I became a member of the Board of Managers and in 1992 was ordained as an Elder by Rev. James Ross. In 2002, Rev. Charles MacKinnon asked me to take over from Mr Tom Kinvig as Session Clerk. Among my other 'jobs' I help at the Drop-In and arrange the church flowers.

What do you like most about Kilsyth Anderson Church?

Over the years we have been taught the truths of the Bible by dedicated ministers and I am sure that will continue with our new minister. I have always found it a friendly and welcoming church. During the many years of vacancy, I appreciated the willingness of people to assist me in my job as Session Clerk, and to respond to my appeals for help whenever it was needed.

What hopes do you have for the future here?

I would hope of the many lapsed members to return to us, for all the young families to encourage their children to attend the Sunday Schools and organisations, and for everyone to give their full support to Rev. Allan Vint as he works tirelessly to bring the word of God to us all.



The Meaning of the Advent wreath

Origin

It is not known when the first Advent wreath was created. Pagan rituals often included lighting candles in a wreath to signify hope for the return of the sun in the midst of winter. In the Middle Ages, Christians borrowed this ancient custom and incorporated it into the celebration of Christmas.

The Catholic and Lutheran religions were among the first to formally adopt the Advent wreath.



Wreath

The Advent wreath is made of evergreen boughs, symbolizing everlasting life. The circle represents the continuous love of God, with no beginning and no end, as well as the soul's immortality.

Candle Colours

Each of the four coloured candles in the Advent wreath represents a week leading to Christmas. Traditionally, three of the candles are purple, and one is pink. The final candle is white and is located in the center of the wreath. It is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Candle Symbolism

The candles are traditionally lit in the following order: purple, purple, pink, purple, white. The first is called the "Candle of Hope." It symbolizes faith in God keeping his promises to humanity. The second is called the "Candle of Preparation," reminding Christians to "get ready" to receive God. The third candle is the "Candle of Joy." It recalls the angels joyfully singing about the birth of Christ. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth. The "Christ Candle," the white candle in the center, stands for Jesus Christ himself.

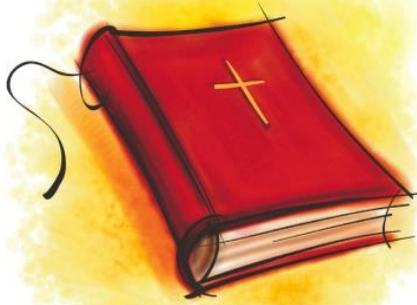
Variations

There are many interpretations of the Advent candles. Some believe the candles stand for Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. In all traditions, the symbolism is steeped in the Christian faith.



A Second Look-at the Book

Alex Fleming



Last time we spoke we established that the Bible is actually a whole library of books, sixty six in all. Taking a second look we see that this library is divided into two, the Old Testament which has thirty-nine books and the New Testament which has twenty seven.

Even the briefest look at the Old Testament shows that it tells the story of the Children of Israel (The Jews) before the time of Christ. Traditionally it can be divided up into sorts of books, the first five books are spoken of as Law (Torah in Hebrew), this is regarded by the Jews as the most important part of all. It contains the instance of the Ten Commandments, but as well as what are strictly laws, it also tells the story of the Jews up to when they entered the Promised Land. (Canaan)

The history continues from there to the late 6th or early 5th century B.C. when the Jews returned from exile in Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem and re-establish a tiny subject nation.

We then have a section of poetry, including hymns and wise sayings in books like Psalms (sort of hymnbook) and Proverbs (wise sayings). These are regarded in the Jewish world as being of lesser importance and are simply called "The Writings". Also, we have the works of the Prophets who had the task of interpreting what God was saying in the events of history and giving advice about how God might be served truly. The great dictum of the prophets as they thundered out God's word was "Thus sayeth the Lord". We have such giants among them such as Isaiah and Jeremiah and briefer but no less important giants like Amos and Hosea.

Now as we come to the end of the Old Testament we find a recurring dream and that dream is of God acting to do something dramatic for his people. They are looking for the Anointed One (the Messiah in Hebrew, or the Christ in Greek) and the greatest prophets point towards the horizon and call on people to look for the dawning of that special day, which for those who trust and see it and recognize the coming King, it will be a day of salvation.

Here we have the pointer into the New Testament which tells the story of the coming of that very one.

P4's amazing trip to Anderson Church



P4 of Balmalloch primary, on Wednesday the 25th of September went to the Anderson church and the Church of god to learn more about our topic on Christianity and to compare and contrast the two churches.

We stood outside the church which looked old. Then we saw the stained-glass windows that looked nice. We went inside and saw the pulpit, font and the hymn board. We learned about what each was used for. I like learning about them. On Sunday services people came together and for weddings and baptisms.

Thank you for letting P4 look in the Anderson Church Reverend Vint. We enjoyed it very much.

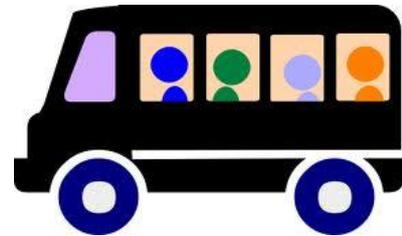
Louise McIntyre P4

MiniBus

The minibus makes two runs every Sunday morning to bring members of our congregation to and from church that have no access to transport.

Similarly the minibus operates on a Monday night for those who require transport to and from the Guild meetings.

If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from this service and enable them to attend Church or the Guild please contact Margaret Waddell.



2nd Kilsyth GB

The girls held a Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th November to raise funds for the Company. Despite a wet morning the girls raised the magnificent sum of £390.00 which will be used to give the girls a treat.

Catherine Kerr



Church website

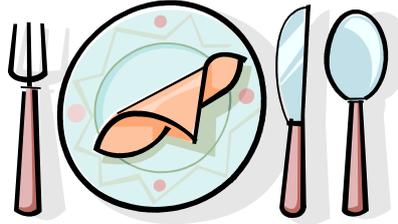
Our new website is now up and running.

Please visit us at www.kilsythandersonchurch.org

and give us your feedback. The minister is looking for old photographs of the church or organisations to add to the photo album on the web. Our thanks goes to William Erskine who set up and ran the original website for many years. William felt that due to other commitments he had he couldn't give the site proper attention.

Thanks again William for all your hard work.

Over 70's Dinner



Our over 70's dinner will hopefully take place in early 2014.(Date to be confirmed)
Please make sure you contact Cathie McIlwain if you have recently reached that magic number so that you may receive an invite.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!



ENJOY YOUR BLESSINGS.

Holiday Club Reunion.

On the 26th October we held a Holiday Club Reunion. Our theme for the day was 'LIGHT'. Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). Jesus helps us to see and understand ourselves and God and other people. He helps us to see the truth and the best way to live.

The main story was Jesus healing the man who was born blind (John 9).

Ruth Webster from Scripture Union was our leader for the day with her mentor/supervisor Vicki Shaver, who is no stranger to holiday clubs helping out.

We had over 30 children attend the reunion and they had FUN. We had blindfold challenges, letting them feel what it felt like being blind, obstacle course, blindfolded with a partner leading you through it, group time, stories, memory verse, songs, craft, aerobics, messy time, then they tucked into pizza and chips and enjoyed a wee DVD. It was a fun-filled 3 hours. We closed the night with their favourite song "the alligator song". A big thank you to everyone who made the day a success. We can now have a well-earned rest before gearing up for Summer 2014



Contact for urgent Pastoral Care

Minister: Rev. Allan Vint

Session Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth Strang

(Miss Christine Johnston will be your contact from 15/11/13 - 08/12/13
in place of Elizabeth.)

Scottish Bible Society

Our collection for the Scottish Bible Society in September raised £428.00. This added to the collections from the other local churches and the proceeds of the coffee morning made a grand total of £3,331.00.

Thank you to all who contributed.



Water Aid



Thank you for your generous donations to Water Aid's Seeds of Hope Appeal. Including Gift Aid a fantastic sum of £673.00 was raised.

Harvest Thanksgiving



Kilsyth Community Food Bank would like to thank everyone for their kind donations of non-perishable items from our Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

They are currently looking for help for their Christmas Hamper Appeal. Donations will be accepted up until the 16th December. Donations can be made at Café Refresh, KCC Kids Club & Kilsyth

Community Church.

Items that they are looking for are : Mince Pies, Steak Pie, Christmas Crackers, Shloer/Fruit Juice, Chocolates, Tinned Ham, Tuna/Salmon, Toiletries, Shortbread, Crackers and Cheese. Financial contributions are also accepted.

We as a Church have decided to continue to help them with this service to the local community and there will be boxes placed in the Vestibule on a Sunday and at the Drop- in on a Friday. Please contribute to this appeal and remember they still need everyday items too.



"Helping to alleviate hunger in our town"

Flower List



1st Dec: Communion
Mrs M. Abercrombie
8th Dec: Mrs L. Meechan
15th Dec: Mrs N. Kinvig
22nd Dec: Mrs A. McLean

29th Dec: Mrs M. Brown
12th Jan: Mr R Swan
19th Jan: Unallocated
26th Jan: Mr W. Shaw

If you wish to contribute flowers in 2014 there are still spaces on this List which can be found on the Vestibule Table or speak to Margaret Waddell. These floral gifts are very much appreciated by those members of our church family who are unable to join us in fellowship.

Please note:

The Drop in will be closed on The following Fridays:
27th December, 3rd January and 10th January

There will be no Midweek Fellowship on Thursday 12th,
19th, 26th December or 2nd January



Our Family

Deaths

Blessed are they that mourn,
for they shall be comforted: Matthew 5

12th August:

5th October:

16th October:

23rd October:

Mrs Beth Smith Chance from Australia

Mrs Jean Irvine, Craig-en-Goyne

Formerly Parkburn Road

Mrs Marion Cunningham, Strone Gardens

Mrs Betty Dawson, Bonnybridge

Birthdays

Belated Happy 94th Birthday to Mrs Margaret McDonald
Montrose Gardens on the 19th September

Belated Happy 94th Birthday to Mrs Rhoda Mackie
Market Place on the 21st October

Happy 84th Birthday to Mrs Babs Burns
Kingston Road on the 25th November

Happy 92nd Birthday to Mrs Helen Wilson
John Jarvie Square on the 30th November

Happy 83rd Birthday to Mr Robert Taylor
Balmalloch Road on the 14th December

Happy 84th Birthday to Mrs Rosina Mitchell
U.P. Lane on the 29th December



65th (Blue Sapphire) Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Annie & Jimmy McGinnes of
Montrose Gardens who were married on 10th December
1948 in the Anderson Church by the Rev. Joseph Caskey



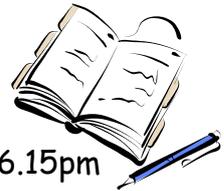
Church Diary



| | | |
|------------|---|--------------|
| Sunday: | Morning worship | 11.30 |
| | Evening worship | 6.15 |
| | (fellowship after service in main hall) | |
| | Time for prayer Wyper Hall | 5.45 |
| Monday: | Ladies Bowling | 10.30 |
| | The Guild | 7.30 |
| Tuesday: | <u>Girls Brigade:</u> | |
| | Explorers (P1-P3) | 6.00 |
| | Juniors & Brigaders (P4 +) | 7.00 |
| Wednesday: | Praise Group | 7.30 |
| | <u>Boys Brigade:</u> | |
| | Anchor Boys (P1 -P3) | 5.45 |
| | Junior Section (p4 -P6) | 6.30 |
| | Company Section (P7 +Secondary) | 7.30 |
| Thursday: | Mid-week Fellowship Wyper Hall | 7.00 |
| Friday: | 'Drop in Café Wyper Hall | 10.00 - noon |



Dates for your Diary



| | | |
|----------------------|--|------------------|
| Dec 1 st | Communion | 11.30am & 6.15pm |
| Dec 3 rd | Board of Managers (Wyper Hall) | 7.30pm |
| Dec 8 th | Family Gift Service for Glasgow City Mission | 11.30am |
| | (Gifts should be unwrapped, but separate wrapping paper would be much appreciated) | |
| Dec 15 th | Carol Praise | 11.30am |
| | Festive Concert with the Columban Singers | 7.30pm |
| Dec 16 th | Carol Singing at Burngreen Bandstand | 7.30pm |
| | Organised by Kilsyth Rotary Club | |
| Dec 22 nd | Christmas Family Service | 11.30am |
| | NO EVENING SERVICE | |
| Dec 24 th | Christmas Eve Services: | |
| | Anderson: Rev Allan Vint | 6.30pm |
| | Burns & Old : Jim Webster | 11.15pm |
| | Banton: Gordon McInally | 11.15pm |
| | Twechar: Rev Alastair McLachlan | 11.15pm |



| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Dec 29 th | Morning Service Rev Martin Allen | 11.30am |
| | NO EVENING SERVICE | |
| Jan 5 th | NO EVENING SERVICE | |
| Jan 8 th | Praise Group (Church) | 7.30pm |
| Jan 23 rd | Christianity Explored | 7.00pm |
| Jan 30 th | Christianity Explored | 7.00pm |

Places to find us

FACEBOOK/ TWITTER

www.facebook.com/kilsythanderson

Twitter@ Kilsyth Anderson

WEBSITE

www.kilsythandersonchurch.org

(due to copyright there are no hymns/ singing)

CD MINISTRY

A copy of the morning service can be provided.

Please speak to your Pastoral Care visitor
who can arrange for a copy

Items of news, special occasions, etc. for the next newsletter

should be given to Helen Shaw by Sunday 19th January

Charity Registration No. SC009866



May Joy be your Gift at Christmas
And may Faith, Hope and Love
Be your treasures in the New Year
Helen x