



KIRKTONPARISHCHURCH
A PLACE FOR ALL

KIRKTON CHURCH

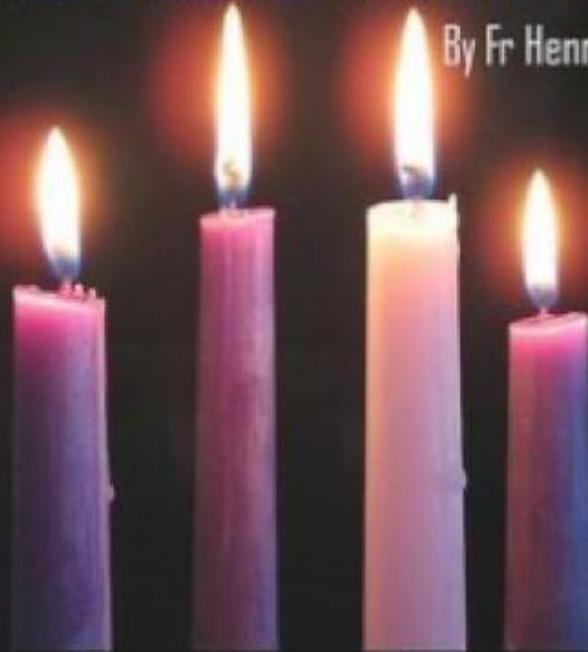
DECEMBER

2021

FAMILY CHATTER

DAILY ADVENT PRAYER

By Fr Henri JM Nouwen



Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness,
send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces
to hear Your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things
look forward to Your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of Your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of Your presence.

We are Your people,
walking in darkness,
yet seeking the light.

To You we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

PrayerPartner

The Guild at Kirkton

Changing the time and place of the Guild Meeting has been a big success. It's much easier to come in the afternoon and meeting in the Church, itself, is so much more comfortable. We have the use of all the technical equipment available i.e. microphone and screens which enhances the enjoyment of our speakers.

Last month Iain dedicated the start of the session in Prayer and spoke on the Guild Theme Lights and Bushels. We even had maths lesson on how many bushels made a peck or was it pecks in a bushel? Can't remember! but it's always a pleasure to have the Minister join us.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 7th December 2.00pm - 3.30pm in the Sanctuary. The speaker is our Youth Worker, Lesley. Her theme is Christmas and knowing Lesley I'm sure it will be most enjoyable. I think there might even be a Christmas treat with our cup of tea at the end of the meeting.

The Guild is open to everyone and because of the change of time our membership has increased to 35 but we still have room for many more. Come along and find out for yourself we'll be delighted to see you!

Ann Ashe

At time of printing, this meeting has been cancelled. New date to be confirmed

Grateful Pumpkin Patch



This year's **Grateful Pumpkin Patch** was a great success with over 53 pumpkins being brought to the front of our Church building. This year some of our schools and uniformed organisations took part in this event. A special mention must go to Carluke High School who brought down over 20 pumpkins from pupils in their 1st, 2nd and 3rd year classes. It was a cold and chilly evening, but it was so heart-warming to read all the grateful messages that had been written all over the pumpkins. Thank you to all who helped and joined in! See you next year for **GPP2022!**

Lesley Ewing

The BB at COP26

Boys Brigade

The Boys' Brigade is a founder member of the Global Fellowship of Christian Youth (GF), representing over 500,000 young people across the world. As part of the COP26 Event, GF were granted "Observer Status" and allowed access to the negotiations between member nations. The GF delegation comprised members of the BB from the UK, Zambia and St Kitts & Nevis. As part of their visit to Scotland, the group visited BB Scotland HQ at Carronvale House, Larbert. 4th Carluke's own Robert Cunningham, as Trustee of the BBUK, went along to meet the group.

"The BB really is a big family," said Robert. "It was fascinating to hear how the BB operates in different countries around the world, and though there are many differences – like white sandy beaches and wall-to-wall sunshine – it's amazing to hear what we have in common. Some of the activities being led on the other side of the world wouldn't be out of place at one of our meeting nights in Carluke and, of course, we are all linked by the common goal of advancing Christ's kingdom".

The Brigade has recently refreshed its entire badgework structure which includes some key resources around climate change for members of all ages. "The BB has been working hard to keep its badgework interesting and relevant to today's young people" Robert continued. "Significant investment has gone into developing new badgework to which young people of all ages will positively respond. Take our Climate Change themed programme materials for example. These are all about developing our young people's

concept of social justice, empowering them to make a positive change, no matter their age, and our responsibilities as Christians to care for our planet.”

4th Carluke is one of the strongest Companies in our area and is always pleased to welcome new members to learn, grow and discover all the Brigade has to offer. For more details of how to join, contact the Church office or find them on Facebook and Twitter: @4thcarlukebb.

Time to Remember

On Sunday afternoon 14 November following on from a morning service which included an Act of Remembrance for Armistice a different kind of Service of Remembrance was held in our church.

Just over 120 people of all ages from children to octogenarians gathered to reflect on the 20 months since the beginning of the Covid pandemic and how it had affected them. For some it was grief from the loss of a family member, friend or neighbour, for others grief from the strain of isolation when unable to be with family members or friends or participate in their normal church activities. As adults worked from home it resulted in isolation from their work colleagues and friends and there was the added strain of children being home schooled. There was the strain of financial worries over a reduction in earnings and for some the loss of employment.

Each person came with their own reason or need for attending.

Before entering the Sanctuary, we were all invited to choose a small stone from a selection of different colours and sizes. The stones held an individual meaning for each person. When during the service we were asked to come forward and place our stone in a basket on the chancel everyone did so with respect and emotion. At a later date the stones will form a cairn as a permanent memorial in the garden at the front of the church.

We will never know the story behind each of the stones but for everyone it was a very special moment in the service. The act of leaving the stone symbolised bringing our cares to Jesus, with a reminder that He shares our sorrows and promises a brighter tomorrow.

Who then can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship or persecution, or hunger or poverty, or danger or death?

No, in all these things we have him who loves us. For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers. Neither the present, nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below. There is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8: v35 & vs 37 - 39.

Letter of thanks to Rev Iain Cunningham

On behalf of the congregation, I wrote to our minister Iain thanking him for the two Services of Remembrance he conducted on 14 November with particular reference to the afternoon service, An Invitation to Remember. Iain had put a lot of thought, work and preparation time into the service and the result was powerful, meaningful and emotional and I know you will have wished that our appreciation of this be recognised..

During the service the choir sang Prayer for Others which Iain had composed earlier this year and then closed the service by singing A Simple Benediction which is another composition of his. We truly have in Iain a minister of many talents.

I concluded my letter to Iain by saying that the service will forever hold a special place in the hearts of those who attended and also those who watched it online and thanked him for his insight in recognising the need for the service and for its very meaningful content.

Christine O'Neill
Depute Session Clerk



Sometimes, we have a need to talk over what is on our mind, tell our story or tell someone how we are feeling. At these times, it is important to know that the person who listens to us will not judge us or interrupt us but will value and respect us and treat everything we say in strict confidence.

Listening gives the speaker time and space to explore and express their thoughts and feelings and empowers them to reach their own conclusions, make decisions and hopefully move forward.

Listening is not counselling; no advice is given; interpretations and assumptions are not made.

Currently we offer:

- **Face to Face listening sessions** on Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 11.00am in a safe, confidential space within St John's Church building
- **Telephone listening sessions**
- **Zoom video listening sessions**

To find out more or make an appointment:

- Call or text 07434 843518
- Email Carlukelisteners@outlook.com

There is no charge for this service.

All our Listeners are fully trained and supervised.

SCOUT GROUP

In the last couple of months, the Scout Group has been continuing to get back to normal, although still within Covid restrictions. Unfortunately, our normal autumn camps could not take place and we have needed to focus on wide and varied weekly programs. Photographs show some examples. We have also been successfully recruiting new members and last week invested 30 new Beavers and Cubs. While parents could not be present, presentations were recorded, and parents were able to see the excitement of their child receiving their investiture certificates and Group neckerchief. Further badges will be presented in the weeks up to Christmas. At present it is easier to offer Scouting to these newer members, as Scouts and Explorers have missed our active outdoor programs and reliance on indoor programs makes them recognise what they have been missing.

In recent months we have welcomed 7 new Leaders and Group Helpers who have all now started the necessary training. Safeguarding and Safety are very important subjects at present for everybody. We are also arranging First Aid Training in January at Wiston, which will also include the Explorers.

From a Leader point of view our weekly programs in the Cub Section are at present run and planned, under supervision,

by our Young Leaders. It is great to see someone who joined us as a Beaver leading this Section and having such a significant role within the Group. Motivational for us all.

We have unfortunately had to cancel our Christmas Post Service again this year. This project involves us in the community and is also our major fundraiser for the year. Our Funds are now under some pressure, and it is likely we are going to need to increase membership fees in 2022, following discussion at our Annual General Meeting. Fundraising will also need to be considered.

Our community involvement has however also continued, including a recent Foodbank collection.

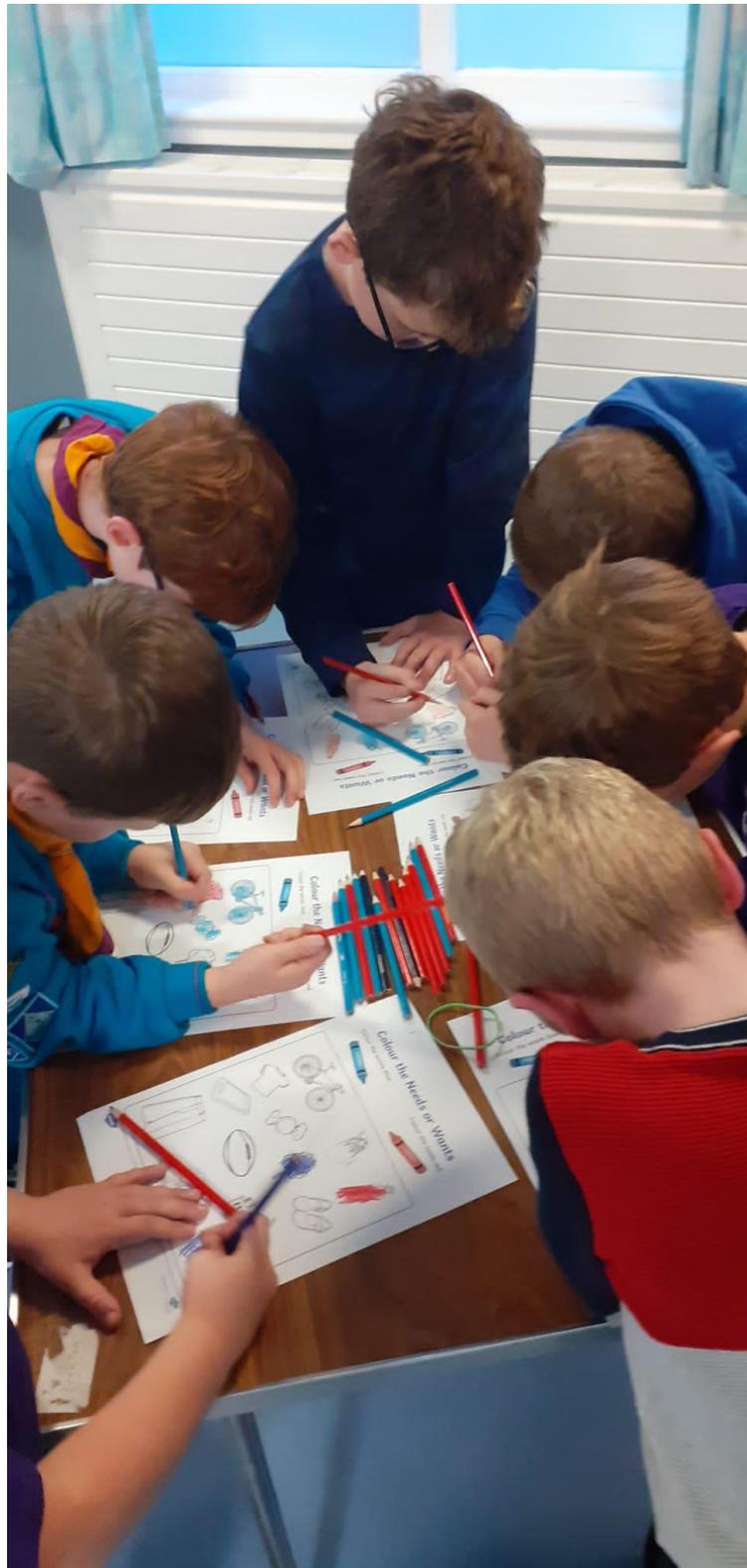
Plans for 2022 are progressing and camps are planned in March, Covid permitting, with our annual weeklong camp returning in August. Outdoor activities will be taking place monthly.

While Covid restrictions have eased the Group also recognise the importance of continuing to provide support where required. We also recently ran a very successful program in the Explorers on keeping Young People Safe which recognised openness and support for each other as being of real importance at present.

In looking to 2022 there is a lot to do and plan at present. In January the Group are also hoping to encourage 3 members

of the Congregation to help further support the work of the Group Committee and our role within the Kirkton Family.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year.





The Christmas Light Stringers Lament by Kelly Roper

I strung the lights on the Christmas tree,
And gingerly plugged them in.
That's when I noticed a bulb was out,
And my troubles did begin.

I found my box of spare bulbs
In my top workshop drawer.
I quickly changed the bulb,
But then out went two more.

I got two more replacements,
And carefully plugged them in,
Then I gathered all the burnt out bulbs,
And tossed them into the trash bin.

As I walked back to the tree,
The whole string started to blink.
Now this wasn't a twinkle light set,
And my stomach began to sink.

Suddenly I heard a sizzle,
And then I heard a pop.
Then everything went so silent,
You could have heard a pin drop.

The whole darn string just died.
Not one single bulb remained lit.
So the tree will just have to stay dark this year,
Because this light stringer just quit.

What's On

Sunday Worship:

Weekly **Sunday Services** continue in the Church at 11am. Tea and coffee are available in the church from 10.30am. It's not entirely 'back to normal' but most of the previous Covid restrictions have now been lifted and we have been enjoying coming together as a church family to praise and worship God. Face coverings still have to be worn, and we still record names and phone numbers for 'track and trace' purposes but there's no need to phone in to book a seat. Noah's Ark and Youth Church are available too.

Our video system has not yet been updated so there is no live streaming of services, but recordings of all services continue to be made available **online each week** and can be accessed at www.kirktonchurch.com or via Facebook at [Kirkton Church, Carlisle](#)

They can also be heard via your telephone— Just dial the freephone number **01555 363637**

We also continue to provide the Sunday service on DVD or Audio CD. If you require a copy, please contact your elder or phone **07306 034229** (*note the new number*) and leave your name and number. We have DVD players for loan if that is required.

Midweek Services: There will be no midweek services over the Christmas break.

SERVICES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Over the Christmas period we plan to provide the following services in the Church, subject to Covid regulations at the time.

Sunday 19th December 11.00am – Christmas Celebration Service (*will be recorded and put on website*)

Wednesday 22nd December 6pm - Make your own Christingle. Service begins at 6.30pm. Please let Lesley Ewing know if you are coming along.

Friday 24th December 11.15pm – Christmas Eve Watchnight Service (*will be recorded and put on website*)

Sunday 26th December 11.00am – Informal Morning Service (in the style of our normal Christmas Day service) (*will be recorded and put on website*) (Because of the requirements for cleaning and sanitising between services it will not be possible to hold a service on Christmas Day this year.)

Sunday 2nd January 11.00am – Joint New Year service in **St John's Church**

Pastoral Care

If you require assistance or support, please contact your elder, the Pastoral Care co-ordinator 01555 771248, Session Clerk 07738 567084 or the Minister 01555 771262.

For up-to-date information on all other events and activities, please consult the church website or Facebook page.