



# A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!



## KIRK NEWS

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Incorporating WEEKLY NEWSLETTER NO. 39

### KIRK NEWS IS GOOD NEWS !

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord... his Name... his might...*

*Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!*

*Firm is his promise and his mercy sure.*

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!*

[Timothy Dudley-Smith (Based on the *Magnificat*)]

*Mary said, "My soul magnifies the LORD" Luke 1:46*

Of course, that doesn't mean that Mary made God bigger, but rather she focussed on him and made him greater in her perspective.

She could have magnified her privileges. After all, she was very young, had been spoken to by a pretty important angel, Gabriel, and had been chosen by God to bear his Son.

Alternatively, Mary could have magnified her problems. "Oh no, I'm not married, What is Joseph going to think? What are my family and neighbours going to say?"

Pride and problems both shrink God in our estimation. Let's be like Mary and magnify the Lord! Then the whole world will appear in the right perspective. My God is a great big God – how about yours?!

Based on p.18, *The Radiant Dawn* by Tom Parsons,  
Contributed by the Wednesday (Pyjama) Prayer Group



### *Good News from the Manse Family*

*Debbie has reached the relative safety of her second trimester and they are all so thankful, including Sullie - here proclaiming the good news of a 'partner in crime' for him (and Hamish?!) arriving June 2021. For those who haven't met Hamish yet, you're in for a treat on Page 10.*

*We join together to wish them all a joyful, God-blessed Christmas and  
a Happy, Holy and Healthy New Year!*

Lots of GOOD News!

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*Good News! God is still at work through his people...*



## The KNITTING GROUP

Good News from Jean Scott



Like all the other Church groups having to give up meeting, the Knitting Group fell victim too, but we didn't let that get in the way of knitting at home for all our charities. The Neonatal Unit in Aberdeen, Moray Baby Bank, Street Pastors & Nursing Homes were all supplied with warmth and Love.

We were extremely lucky during the summer months to receive 9 bin bags of knitted blankets, hats, children's jumpers & cardigans from the ladies of Rothes Guild. They had been knitting for months but weren't sure where it was going. One of the ladies contacted Sybil Stewart who in turn contacted me to ask if we could use them. She brought the bags to me and we sorted everything out into piles of where it would be most needed. I contacted Susan from the Moray Baby Bank who came & collected 7 full bags of blankets of all sizes, hats and the children's wear. It all came at the right time because of lock down all her supplies were at an end - so she was more than delighted to receive them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the congregation for the wool contributions handed into myself. I share it with the ladies who knit away at home to keep up our supplies to those who so desperately need it at this time of year.

Let us **Hope** it won't be too long before we have the **Joy** of meeting again and knit for the **Love** of giving.

To all the knitting ladies - take care and be safe. God Bless

*More Good News of 'compassion' given...*

## YOUNG CHURCH'S SPONSORED CHILD ~ FAITH



**Faith**, who has been sponsored by Young Church since January 2018, will be 7 years old on her birthday in February and is keeping well. Recent information received from the international Christian Children's Charity, **Compassion**, supporting Faith, tells us that she is learning:

How to look after her body by preventing disease, staying healthy and recognising and responding to potential dangers.

Developing life skills through local jobs within the community, managing money and critical thinking.

Making good friends and developing social skills by identifying in Christ, managing anger and dealing with conflict, communicating well and listening to others.

Learning about faith with story based teaching about friendship, learning about the fruits of the spirit and taking time for personal reflection.

Some of her community/ family/ friends



[Some of this seems a bit 'heavy' for a 6-going on-7 year old. I think it must be a generic list of aspirational aims for all ages, which will be adapted and made age-suitable by the Charity's workers. We pray Faith will know much joy over the Christmas season. – Ed.]

Our Church Star Baker is *Alison McDonald* and her Recipe is for

## CHRISTMAS CUPCAKES 🍪

### INGREDIENTS

100g Butter or Margarine;	100g Caster Sugar;	2 eggs
1 small tsp Ground Mixed Spice	100g Self Raising Flour	
Half tsp Baking Powder	25g Drinking Chocolate Powder	

### METHOD

Preheat oven to 180°C. Place 8 muffin cases into a large cupcake tray.  
Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy, then beat in the eggs gradually.  
Stir in the flour, mixed spice, chocolate powder and baking powder  
Use a dessert spoon to drop equal amounts of cake mixture into 8 muffin cases  
Bake for approx. 20 mins until slightly risen and cooked. Allow to cool.



### White Chocolate and Vanilla Buttercream

50g Double Cream;	100g White Chocolate
1 tsp Vanilla Essence,	1 tsp green food colouring
100g Butter	200g Icing Sugar

### METHOD

Gently melt cream and chocolate together and allow to cool.  
Whisk butter and icing sugar together, then whisk in the melted chocolate and vanilla and green food colouring.  
Pipe large tall swirls onto cupcakes and decorate as desired.

Alison writes:



*The idea for Christmas Cupcakes can be altered to suit taste. I always encourage creativity in the kitchen.*

*I made some with chocolate and no spice then **put some peppermint essence into the icing.***



*You could also use **soft brown sugar instead of white and replace the chocolate with 25g self raising flour; then add 1 tsp ground cinnamon instead of the mixed spice.***

*If anyone gets a chance to create these at home it would be fabulous to see some photos in our next newsletter or on facebook!*

*I would also encourage you all to 'share the love' If you get a chance to make these why not pop a couple into a wee bag or box and knock on someone's door to hand over ... smiles guaranteed from recipients 🍪*



Remember these guys??? From L to R – Hannah, Callum & Kirsty They were stars of many a Nativity Play at Speymouth and Callum and Kirsty played their part in the second Team Romania Mission.

Alison & Ainslie moved to Clochan about a year ago to fulfil a childhood dream of living in the country. Although Alison misses her neighbours in Mosstodloch, she's constantly grateful for all the Lord has provided for her and her family and always tries to share her blessings with others. She wrote: *Our children always say one of the best lessons we taught them was ..... 'its nice to be nice'*





## GUILD ~ PROJECT UPDATES – MORE GOOD NEWS!



### Boys' Brigade - Stronger, Safer, Together

On Friday 20 March we launched **#BBatHOME** – an online programme of activities for young people to take part in at home with their parents/carers.

**Our Mission:** The Boys' Brigade has faith in young people and provides them with opportunities to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment which is rooted in the Christian faith.

*"BBatHOME has done so much for this family's mental health during Lockdown. They've kept us laughing together, even on tough days. I can't thank you enough."*

*Parent's Feedback on #BBatHOME*



**Next Steps...** Many Companies' end-of-year fundraising events were cancelled as a result of the pandemic,... we are opening a special round of the mini-grants scheme that we have been operating in Scotland to support with costs. **The mini-grants scheme is entirely funded from donations we receive through our partnership with the Church of Scotland Guild,** and we are incredibly grateful for every penny of support given to us so far. **Thank you...**

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**CROSSREACH**  
Care you can put your faith in

**Join  
up the  
Dots**

Over the past two years, the Guild has raised over £57,826 for this **project to help combat loneliness in Scotland.** We have been able to use this money in many ways including;

- **Cale House in Inverness** have set up a befriending service and have helped over 20 homeless people when they first get a house.
- **Little Marvels**, a group for toddlers with additional support needs, has been set up as they often cannot get a place in other toddler groups.

The Guild donations continue to help CrossReach engage with more people in need of advice and support **across all our services.**





Christmas in Malawi is quite different to our Christmas here in Scotland. It was in Malawi that I saw my first black Santa Claus and my first nativity play with an entirely black cast. It really makes you think quite



differently. This week, I had a call with one of our partners in Malawi and he was telling me that it was 35 degrees centigrade and that they had some serious water shortages: I had just finished scraping the snow of my car!

Our world has been turned upside down with the pandemic and no country is exempt. For Malawi, there are particular challenges with poor healthcare systems, inadequate water supplies for personal hygiene and multi-generational families living in cramped conditions. We are thankful that our staff have all remained healthy so far. We are recognised by the Local Authorities as an essential service, so we have permission to travel and arrange meetings as required.



Out in the fields of Northern Malawi life goes on and we are encouraged to see the **steadily increasing number of farmers (350) using irrigation pumps – now 271 –** and the difference that makes to their lives.

**By Christmas we will have 20 operational greenhouses, managed by 60 women working together in co-operatives.** We have sourced some great new materials and our polytunnels are stronger and better

than ever, ensuring that the women can grow salad vegetable for many years to come.

***“I bring you Good News of great joy for all people...”***

***“The light has come into the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it.”***



Over the last few months, we've heard many uplifting stories of kindness and generosity. A shining example was that of an inspirational local partnership between Sailors' Society, Fred Olsen Cruise Lines and food bank, FareShare.

With the cruise industry on hold, Fred Olsen was left with £33,000 of food aboard four ships currently berthed in Rosyth.

Rather than let it go to landfill, Pauline Robertson, Sailors' Society Port Chaplain for Leith (A **Deacon** from the same 'intake' as me! - Ed) put them in touch with FareShare.

The donations, which equated to over 30 pallets worth of food and included cereals, dried fruits, jams, cured meats, baking ingredients, rice and more, will be distributed across the region.

Pauline said: “We have a great relationship with the local agents and food banks, so when the call came through about the donation, I knew exactly where to direct them. We're supporting many seafaring families through the pandemic and **it's amazing to see something positive come out of these tough times.**”





**India** is in the grip of the coronavirus pandemic which is hitting the poor



and marginalised in terrible ways. **Our partners have worked tirelessly to help the women and children of the red-light district in Pune but this is dangerous work.**

The total number of children in the Bori Centre is now sixty. Thanks to the support of the Guild the FTLT was able to immediately send

£10,000 emergency funding on top of the usual quarterly maintenance money. **Thanks be to God.**

Please pray for the protection of Seema, Shirish (her husband) and their team, not only, from those who would seek to disrupt their work but also from the virus itself.

Psalm 10 v 6 reminds us of God's love: **The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.**

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**Each of the six projects** being supported by the Guild over 2018-21 have received approx. **£60,000-£80,000 each** thus far.

Despite pandemic restrictions and a smaller number of Guilds, often with smaller member numbers, over £75,000 has been donated this year. The **Grand Total to date** for the 2 ½ years **is over £420,000!**

**Thank you for supporting the Guild to support others who support people on the ground...**

The miracle of Jesus' multiplying 2 loaves and 5 fish to feed the 5000 comes to mind!

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**



Liz Moir

*Warmest Wishes for Christmas and 2021, Bellie & Speymouth Guild*

*Good News! God is still at work through his people...*



Ann Raffan

### THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS - Sent in by Ann Raffan

In today's day and time,  
it's easy to lose sight,  
of the *true meaning of Christmas*  
and one special night.

When we go shopping,  
We say "How much will it cost?"  
Then the true meaning of Christmas,  
Somehow becomes lost.  
Amidst the tinsel, glitter  
And ribbons of gold,  
We forget about the child,  
born on a night so cold.

The children look for Santa  
In his big, red sleigh

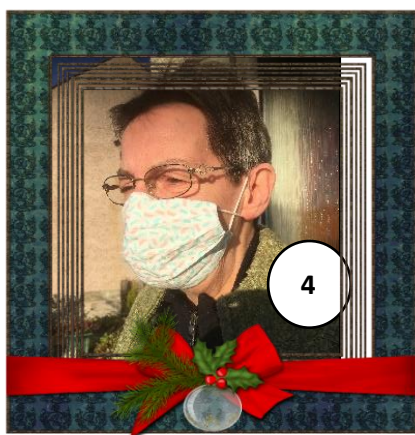


Never thinking of the child  
Whose bed was made of hay.  
In reality,  
When we look into the night sky,

We don't see a sleigh  
But a star, burning bright and high.  
A faithful reminder,  
Of that night so long ago,  
And of the child we call *Jesus*,  
Whose love, the world would know.



## *Famous Festive faces – but who are they?*



*Answers: Further on somewhere...Don't expect me to do everything for you!*

*Merry Christmas to  
all members of our  
Young Church*

## *A Christmas Message ~ from Young Church*

We didn't want the festive period to go without a special message to one and all.

Next week some busy elves will be finalising a parcel for our Young Church families to share in the joyous activity of making a Christingle - your very own symbol of Light!

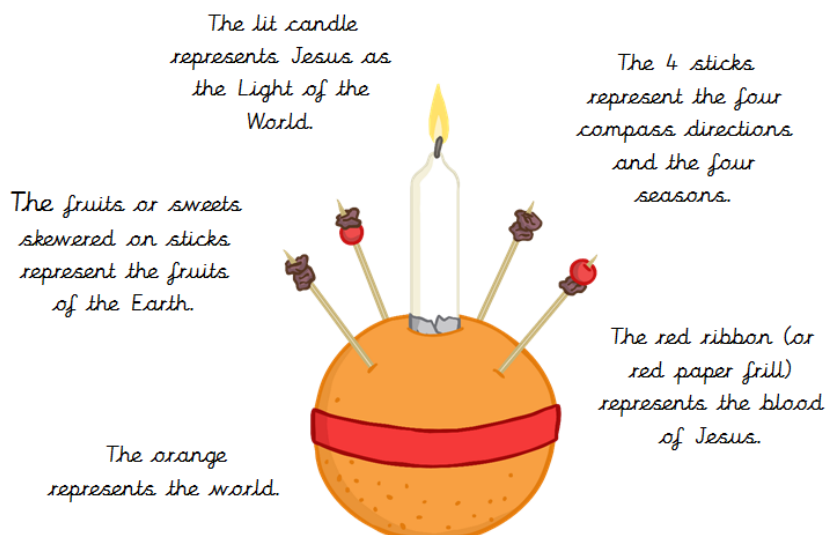


Not that sort of bz-z-zy,  
little elf.. !!

A Christingle is a



symbolic object used in the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany services of many Christian denominations. Christingle, from a word of German origin, **Christkindl**, meaning '**Little Christ Child**', is used to celebrate Jesus Christ as the "Light of the World".



Jesus compared his followers to a lit candle. (Matthew 5:14–16) This year has been filled with darkness.

**Let us Light up the World!**



Young Church invites all of you to join us and make your own Christingle - together we can displace the darkness of unhappiness, fear and despair all year long.



**Light it at 4pm on Christmas Eve** and share this wonderful prayer with your loved ones (children can say the words in bold).



## CHRISTINGLE PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, that you are the light of the world and  
that you have passed on that light to us through your cross and resurrection.

😊 **We are the light of Christ for the world.** 😊

Thank you, Jesus, that your light is stronger than darkness and  
you have passed on the power of that light to us by your Holy Spirit.

😊 **We are the light of Christ for the world.** 😊

Thank you, Jesus, that your light is shining through the work of Bellie and Speymouth Church,  
bringing hope and happiness to all in dark times.

😊 **We are the light of Christ for the world.** 😊

Thank you, Jesus, that as we pass on your light in the care we give to others,  
your light never dies but continues to give light to the whole world.

😊 **We are the light of Christ for the world.** 😊

In this Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season, may your light shine brighter and brighter  
as we celebrate your light in us and through us for your glory.

😊 **We are the light of Christ for the world. Amen** 😊 😊 😊



**Christ-mas** is only ever truly joyful with **Christ** in your heart!

J – O – Y, J – O – Y, Jesus all the way  
Jesus first, Yourself last and Others in between – oh..  
J – O – Y, J – O – Y, Jesus all the way  
Jesus first, Yourself last and Others in between – Hey!  
(Sung to the tune of 'Jingle Bells')

**How about doing the 'Twelve Days of Christmas'** with different people standing  
up and singing the different days, and everybody singing 🎵 5 gold rings 🎵 ?  
Older folks will know what to do if you ask them! It will be good exercise, for the  
chuckle muscles, if not your legs... I suppose you could do it on 'zoom' –  
Older friends could wave their hands in the air... ..

**Why not sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus on Christmas morning?** And just this once, you  
might be let off from washing your hands at the same time !?!

*Some ideas  
for fun &  
singing*



*Happy Birthday Blessings from your Church Family to*

December - Rachel Meighan, Niamh Sidney

January - Anna Fettes

February - Simeon Brownlee, Edward Meighan

*Rachel, Niamh, Anna and Edward are all at Milne's High now, so 'technically' not YC!  
But you're still young to us 'golden oldies'! And we are all still children – God's children.  
None of us outgrow God's Father love!*

# ADVENTURES WITH HAMISH



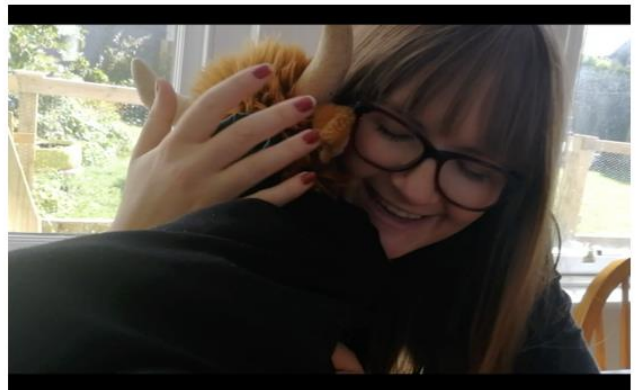
Hamish has learnt a lot over these last few months in his adventures



He's been exploring to see more of God's amazing creation



and while he might've made some bad decisions and got things wrong



he also learned about saying sorry, and how God will forgive us of anything we've done wrong if we pray



He's learned about our relationship with God, remembering what He has done for us, the importance of the Bible, and how we can see God in the world around us



His "cosy prayer spot" will be useful over the winter, and he looks forward to sharing more adventures with his church family next year

## Rainbows by Denise Brown



It all began in October when the evenings were getting darker and I could no longer get out in the garden. I read an article on my newsfeed asking for people to crotchet rainbows to fill the Archie

Foundation tree in Aberdeen. They wanted to create a lasting tribute to NHS workers during the pandemic and bring some “sparkle” into people’s lives. The article gave you a web site which would show you how to crotchet the rainbow, so I thought I would have a go!

I learnt to crotchet when I was about 11 years old. I remember it was in the first year of Secondary School. Our form teacher got us all crocheting squares to make up blankets. We used to take our crotchet to school in our bags and during the lunchtime sit making squares. It became the “in” thing to do and was a “craze” at our girls’ school. My Mum was only good at knitting, but my Gran could crotchet and I used to go to her for help.



After a few attempts I mastered the rainbow pattern and was quite proud to hang it up in my window. Friends started admiring them and asked if I could make them one too. I parcelled up four rainbows for the Archie

Foundation in Aberdeen. Since then I have read that thousands of hand-made rainbows have been received by them and hung on the Thank You NHS Rainbow Tree in Marischal Square. I’m glad that I could be a part of that special project.

I’ve been busy making rainbows for friends and family. I’ve lost count now of how many I’ve made. The rainbows have gone far and wide, London, Isle of Wight, Cornwall, even to America!

I hope that my rainbows will bring a smile to their faces, giving them hope for a brighter future, after such a hard year.

I’ve not run out of wool yet, so if anyone would like a rainbow for their window, just let me know.

*Good News! God is still at work through his people ... Bellie Church Hall and corridor have been painted.*



***"A sincere thank-you is due to John and Sandra Steel for the huge amount of work they have put in this year in both of our church buildings. A particular project - painting the Bellie Hall and entrance corridor - involved a lot of time and effort! When the hall can reopen you will be able to see for yourselves the wonderful difference made, and as a taster, here are before and after photos of the hallway." – Seòras***

### QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Loopy the lion cub
2. Richard Lochhead (MSP)
3. Colin Hanover
4. Margaret King
5. Sheila Gray (Ice Cream Parlour)
6. Alan Jamieson (Butcher)
7. Lizzie Sharp
8. Hamish the Co.
9. (Rev) Morris Smith
10. Glenda our friendly postie
11. Debbie Orr







## Christmas Worship Update

Due to the higher risk from the national travel  
and socialising at Christmas time,  
the following services will be available online,  
but will NOT be conducted in church buildings.

- Christmas Eve (watch-night) • Christmas Day • Sunday Worship on the 27<sup>th</sup> December

**Worship on Sunday 3rd January 2021  
will be a United Service at Bellie, 10am**  
(Please book 'as usual' !!!)

(How quickly we adapt! - "That's the way it's aye been" – "Oh no it isn't!")

**For those without digital access, check out Radio and TV services. E.g. 'The Service', [Sundays, 12 noon on BBC Scotland] and a second series of 'Reflections from the Quay' will run from Advent to Easter [Sundays, 10.30 BBC 1]. Times may vary.**

'The Service' that will go out from St Giles' Cathedral on Christmas Day will be conducted by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair.

### DEPARTED FRIENDS

*Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life".*

29 Sep - William Symon, Nether Dallachy; 14 Oct - (Baby) Dylan McRobbie, Fochabers;  
3 Nov – Donald Ingles, Mosstodloch; 19 Nov - Daisy Costello, Fochabers;

16 Dec - George Murdoch - Balhousie Care Home, Huntly, late of Mosstodloch.  
Longstanding Elder of Speymouth Church. Tribute in next issue.

16 Dec - Bridgette MacDonald, Steelsbrae Farm, Mosstodloch

*May God's loving presence comfort all family and friends in their loss  
Jesus is EMMANUEL, which means 'God with us'*

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bellieandspeymouth](https://www.facebook.com/bellieandspeymouth)

Scottish Charity Number SC005310

Dear Church Family,



*Just a final word of thanks to all who have worked so hard these past months to keep our spirits up and the church together, especially John McConnachie but also to everyone who has witnessed to Jesus' love by loving their family & neighbours, near and far.  
Thank you too, to all who have supported and prayed for Debbs and Sullie and me through a rollercoaster year.*

*We look forward with you, with faith and sure hope to a 'brighter tomorrow' in 2021 and wish you a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year! - Seòras*



Luke 2: 10,11 **"Don't be afraid. I bring you GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a SAVIOUR has been born to you: he is CHRIST THE LORD.**