

Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Letter from the Minister

Winter 2021

Dear Friends,

The other week, Elizabeth and I attended a pre-retirement conference organised by the Ministry Committee of the United Free Church. I hasten to say that I do not intend to retire any time soon, nor have I set a specific date for this event in the future. However, all those within five years of retirement with a Church pension, payable at age 65, were invited to attend. Not everyone came, as the state pension is provided later than the Church pension and therefore not all who were there will retire at age 65. In theory, ministers can continue working into their 70s and there is no official retirement deadline with the church. Even at the age of 75, it would be difficult to force someone to retire from their duties unless they became incapacitated through age or illness. I can assure you it is not my intention to go on and on so that I have to be carried into the pulpit in my dotage! There is nothing more harmful for a church than the minister to go on well past his "sell-by date"!



What the conference did do was help those of us present to see this new chapter in our lives as a new beginning, with fresh opportunities to exercise a different ministry and appreciate family and friends in new ways. Fresh seasons of life are to be welcomed, not feared, and as some recent retirees shared their experience, Elizabeth and I found it most helpful, both in practical and spiritual terms. As far as leading a congregation is concerned, encouragement was given to begin to think of the future sooner rather than later, with the process being undertaken thoughtfully and slowly over a few years rather than a mad rush in the space of a few months. I intend to follow that advice and will be bringing some thoughts to the Kirk Session when we meet in the New Year.

Change is part of life, and part of the order of creation that God has purposed.

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3 v1

With the blessing of our new granddaughter, both Elizabeth and I have been shown how wonderful, unique and special each individual life is. And yet how seasons of life change so rapidly. A newborn baby becomes alert and begins to recognise parents...and perhaps even grandparents. Little changes that perhaps aren't noticed when you see someone every day become noticeable when you haven't seen the person in a week or a fortnight. I might add that although this is true with someone at the beginning of life, it is also true of someone as they journey towards life's end.

Time passes. Things change. And

God does it so that people will fear him. Ecclesiastes 3 v 14

Having ...set eternity in the human heart Ecclesiastes 3 v 11 and also ensuring that ...everything God does will endure forever, nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. Ecclesiastes 3 v14



We are surely left with a very real sense of awe and wonder at who God is and how insignificant, and yet unique, we as humans are.

The Christmas story fits into such reflective thoughts. Jesus was born into a society that was longing for change. Things weren't the way they had been in the days long past when Israel had been an independent country. Now under the rule of Rome, many were looking for the consolation of Israel through rebellion against the occupiers. Later in his life, when it became clear that Jesus wasn't going to be such a rebel, He faced the growing resentment and suspicion of those who, like Barabbas, believed the only way to change things was to kill Romans. However, the announcement of the angel Gabriel to Joseph prior to Jesus' birth, was that

Mary will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. Matthew 1 v 21

Jesus' mission was not to lead a bloody rebellion but rather to be a blood sacrifice for our sins. That was the change He was going to wrought in the human heart. As we see in Isaiah 9 and surrounding chapters, we meet, in the words of Mary MacDonald, a Jesus who is the

Child in the Manger, Infant of Mary

Outcast and Stranger, Lord of All

Child who inherits all our transgressions

All our demerits on Him fall



In the Babe of Bethlehem, the Man of Sorrows and the Lord of Glory, we meet with a God who has entered into all the various seasons of life. Fully God and yet also fully man. He has been in that place of fragility and vulnerability, of beginnings and endings, of times of laughter and celebration and of tears and betrayal. The Apostle Paul, reflecting on who that Jesus was, and is, wrote in verses we looked at a few months ago:

His descent from King David roots Him in history; his unique identity as Son of God was shown by the Spirit when Jesus was raised from the dead, setting Him apart as the Messiah, our Master.

Romans 1 v 3-4 The Message

The shepherds who gazed upon the Child in the Manger, and the wise men who presented the infant Jesus with their gifts, may not have fully known all that Paul was later to speak of about Jesus, and yet

...they bowed down and worshipped him. Matthew 2 v 11

As we mark the ending of a year blighted with Covid, and so much else, and as we face the new year with all its uncertainties, how we need to continue to

...fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith....Consider Him.....Hebrews 12 v 2-3

Only as we do, will we face whatever changes life may bring, with the confidence, security and serenity that Simeon displayed as he held the Infant Holy in his arms. Let his words be a prayer we can share in this Christmas.

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations; a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people, Israel. Luke 2 v 29-32

With warm best wishes to you this

Christmas season

Wm B Russell



Advent and Christmas at Park

<p>Sunday 5 December</p> 	<p>10.30am Advent Communion A Time to Prepare</p> <p>Village Christmas Tea Room will be open for participants</p>	
<p>Sunday 12 December</p>	<p>10.30am Gift Service for ViewCare A Time to Give</p>	
<p>Saturday 18 December</p>	<p>MEGA Family Event</p>	
<p>Sunday 19 December</p>	<p>10.30am Nativity Play by Park Kids</p> <p>7.00pm Carol Supper A Time to Celebrate</p>	
<p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p>6.30pm Crib Service 11.30pm Watchnight Service A Time to Consider</p>	
<p>Christmas Day</p>	<p>10.30am Short devotional service for those on their own at Christmas A Time to be Still</p>	
<p>Christmas Sunday</p>	<p>10.30am Worship for All! A Time to gather Together</p>	
<p>Sunday 2 January 2022</p>	<p>10.30am First Sunday of the Year A Time for New Beginnings</p>	

COP26 and the Gospel of God

Martin Paterson

Nobody could have failed to hear about COP26, the UN Conference on Climate Change, which took place in Glasgow recently. However, how should we as Christians be engaging in discussions about the environment? Martin wrote this article in the run up to the event and has kindly granted his permission for the article to be shared here.



In the coming weeks world leaders will gather in Glasgow for COP26 to discuss the global climate emergency. Though there are questions surrounding the event's economic efficiency and environmental impact, discussions about the earth's climate are necessary. A brief glance back to the flash flooding in China and Europe, or videos of the Blade Runner-like cityscapes of California remind us why. For disciples of Christ in Scotland there is a question we need to ask about these talks. With the world looking at the city of Glasgow, how should we engage with COP26?

Below I'm going to suggest five ways that we can do this which will help build bridges with friends and family at the school gate or the coffee shop.

The Earth is the Lord's

First of all, indifference should not be our response. We do not worship the earth, but we do acknowledge its worth. After all, the heavens and the earth are God's property (Ps. 19:1-6; 24:1), something stressed throughout the Bible. Since this is the case, neglecting what God has made and cares for makes no sense in a biblical worldview. For Christians, the world in which we live bears the mark of God's ownership and is the stage on which we live out the great commandment to love God with all we are and have (Matthew 22: v34-40).



COP26 is not a distraction to gospel work. I would argue it is the opposite. This event raises wonderful questions and opportunities for each of us to connect with our colleagues and classmates about the value and worth of creation (Ps. 24:1). More than this, it helps us point towards the creator and saviour of the world (Col 1:16). What a great gospel connection for a society deeply concerned about creation but not the creator.

Creation is broken yet beautiful

Watching the sun set over the South China Sea from Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia) is a mesmerising experience. I'll never forget seeing the blazing ball of fire descending into the ocean, lighting up the archipelago of islands dotted off the coast. Each of us has our own memories of special moments where we have said "isn't creation beautiful". However, in the midst of this beauty we are all aware that there is brokenness. And it must never be underestimated that the current environmental problems we face are spiritual in origin.

That's what we hear Paul explaining in Romans 8:20-22. Creation faces an imposed frustration as a result of human rebellion, groaning for the day when futility will give way to glory. Whether in the garden of Eden or the globalised world we live in today, we must always remember that creation does not work as it should as a result of the fall (Gen 3). Human self-glorification destroys our relationship with God and others. What is often overlooked is that it destroys our relationship with the community of creation as well.

However, this frustration is purposeful. Limits were placed on creation "in hope" (Rom 8:20). As we face up to the current climate challenges of our world, we do so recognising God's promise of hope; there is a day of renewal coming. So when our friends and family are talking about how frustrating it is that nobody seems to care about the world, here is a message which speaks directly to that frustration. A message of hope for a seemingly hopeless world.

An issue of neighbour love

Neighbour love (Matt 22:39) in a globalised world is complex. From the food we consume to the clothes we wear, our everyday decisions are interconnected with people living in other parts of the world. Many of the places we depend upon for cheap products to make life more convenient are those most directly affected by extreme weather. As Ruth Valerio has recently noted

"I see all too clearly the devastating impact of climate breakdown on people in poverty. As global temperatures rise, rains are becoming less reliable and droughts, floods and storms are becoming more frequent and extreme. Across much of sub-Saharan Africa, for example, the weather is swinging between extreme floods and extreme droughts."^[1]



Extreme weather conditions are not the norm for Scotland and this shapes our response. The luxury of ignorance can be embraced by those who do not have the problem landing on their doorstep. And yet the demand of neighbour love suggests an altogether more comprehensive response. Doesn't discussion of the global environment force us to assess our own patterns of consumption? There is such potential for us to model repentance before God on this issue of excessive consumption. We are not changing our lifestyle because it is the next fad, neither are we doing so because we have co-opted a form of New Age spirituality. No, we are choosing to deny ourselves, live life God's way and seek to love our global neighbours.

Where is our trust?

What will be achieved at COP26 is still anyone's guess and in years to come we will have a clearer picture of whether it was a generation defining moment. However, for believers in Christ there is a wonderful reminder tucked away in the centre of the Bible, giving us a helpful perspective on the upcoming summit;

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. Psalm 118:8-9

Chinese Premier Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin have both signalled that they will not be attending COP26. But whether certain heads of state attend or not, these people are not our place of ultimate hope or trust. As fellow human beings they are weak, flawed and passing. Instead we put our trust in the One who owns the earth and holds the stars in place with scarred hands. There is a need for high level political discussion of the climate challenges facing the world, and our leaders should seek to do this with diligence and efficiency. However, expecting leaders to liberate creation from decay is unrealistic, unfair and unbiblical. The liberation of creation is God's prerogative.

We long for a new creation

Perhaps one of the greatest points of connection we will have in the coming weeks with colleagues and neighbours is our shared desire for the world to work. For climate problems to be a thing of the past, and decay to be relegated to history. Isn't that the climax of Christian hope? A renewed creation (Rev 21:1) where flora and fauna, humanity and the urban world co-exist in harmony with their maker and saviour (Rev 22:1-2). Chris Wright helpfully explains that

"by God's incredible grace we have a gospel big enough to deal with all that sin and evil has touched. And every dimension of that good news is good news utterly and only because of the blood of Christ on the cross."^[2]

When our friends and neighbours express their deepest discontent, we can sensitively and joyfully point to a compelling alternative. A coming day where the fullness of Christ's achievement at the cross will be our experience. A curse less existence in a Christological ecotopia. Whether COP26 will be a line in the sand for environmental change will only be seen in the decades which follow. In the meantime, we have an opportunity which God has placed on the radar of our culture rich with points of connection to his Son and the gospel of his grace.

^[1] Ruth Valerio, "Why COP26 Matters – A Christian Response", <https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2021/09/why-cop26-matters> (Accessed 21/10/21).

^[2] Christopher J. H. Wright., *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*, (Leicester: IVP, 2006), 315.

Books of the Old Testament

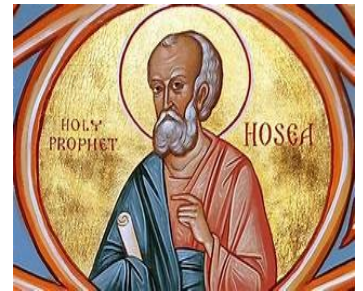
We conclude our series on The Books of the Old Testament, giving a short overview of the content of the book along with a scriptural quote. This time we are looking at the last 12 books, namely **The Minor Prophets**. They are called minor due to their brevity, but they still contain major prophecies.



Hosea

Hosea's wife, Gomer, the prostitute, leaves him and commits adultery—just as Israel left God to worship idols. The marriage is symbolic of God's covenant relationship with Israel. Through Hosea, God recounts the story of Israel's disobedience, His discipline of her and His steadfast, faithful love. Hosea tells the story of God and the unfaithful nation He loves and which He will restore to Himself.

And the Lord said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisin". Hosea 3 v1



Joel

God judges His people with a drought and a plague of locusts for straying from Him. Joel explains to the people that they must repent and then God will bless and restore them once more.

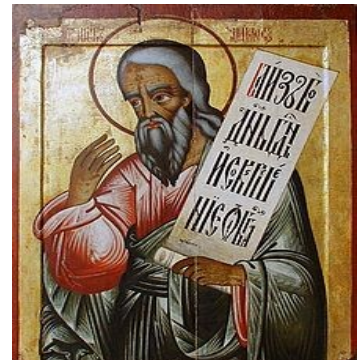
"Yet even now," declares the Lord
"Return to me with all your heart,
And with fasting, weeping and mourning;
And rend your hearts and not your garments." Joel 2 v 12



Amos

During a time of national security and prosperity under King Jeroboam II, God chose Amos, a simple shepherd, to deliver a warning to the northern kingdom of Israel which had turned its back on God.

"Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are on the sinful kingdom,
And I will destroy it from the face of the earth;
Nevertheless, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob", declares the Lord.
Amos 9 v 8



Obadiah

This is the shortest book in the OT, comprising of only 21 verses. It prophesied judgment for, and deliverance from, Israel's enemies, and promises that one day Israel will possess its inheritance and the true King will reign on earth.

But on Mount Zion will be deliverance; it will be holy and Jacob will possess his inheritance. Obadiah 1 v 17



Jonah

Jonah is the infamous prophet who disobeys God's call to warn Nineveh and gets swallowed by a great fish. It shows God's patience and compassion; He is a God who cares deeply even about rebellious people.

I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Jonah 4 v 2b



Micah

Micah confronts the leaders of Israel and Judah for the injustice that is taking place and prophesied that one day a future Messiah would come (from Bethlehem) to rule in perfect justice.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Micah 5 v 2

Nahum

Nineveh had repented after Jonah's warning but 125 years on, Nahum has to again warn this "city of blood" that God would judge them. God is patient and merciful but he is also jealous and just.

The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet. Nahum 1 v 3

Habbakuk

Habakkuk pleads with God to stop the injustice and violence in Judah, but is surprised that God uses the violent Babylonians as part of his plan to do this. In spite of his confusion at God's decisions, Habbakuk still trusts in God.

Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy. Habbakuk 3 v2

Zephaniah

Zephaniah repeats the prophetic promise of judgment and destruction if Judah does not repent and turn back to the Lord but also foretells of a remnant that would see the deliverance of God.

But I will leave you with the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the Lord. Zephaniah 3 v 12

Haggai

The people have abandoned the work of restoring the temple in Jerusalem so Haggai takes them to task.

"The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house", says the Lord Almighty. "And in this place I will grant peace," declares the Lord Almighty. Haggai 2 v 9

Zechariah

The prophet Zechariah calls Israel to return to God and records prophetic visions that show what's happening behind the scenes.

Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9 v 9

Malachi

The chronological last book of the Old Testament, Malachi warns against unfaithfulness and spiritual apathy, and gives a prophetic message concerning the coming Messiah.

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. Malachi 4 v 2



Come let us sing for joy to the Lord!

Christmas is almost on us again! Our first song is one of the best known carols, especially for little children, and tells the story of Jesus' birth. The second song was written earlier this year and speaks of Jesus' love and mercy towards us. He is the "approachable saviour" who invites us to take our burdens to Him, where we will find rest for our souls.



Away in a Manger

This song was traditionally attributed to Martin Luther and was known as "Luther's Cradle Song" but the song, comprising of the first two stanzas, probably originated in America centuries later among German Lutherans in Pennsylvania in 1885. It appeared in [Little Children's Book for Schools and Families](#), a Sunday School collection. The third stanza appeared later in [Gabriel's Vineyard Songs](#) in 1892 and was added as a prayer. Whatever its actual origins, this carol has become a firm favourite for children and no crib service would be complete without it.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little lord Jesus laid down
His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked
down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

The first two verses of the song depict the Christmas story in rather a romantic fashion. They tell of the humble birth of our Saviour in among the cattle, as he sleeps sweetly on the hay.

They capture the most important moment in the history of our world when Jesus came to earth, in the most modest of circumstances, bringing peace, joy and the hope of salvation.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.



The third verse is written as a prayer asking God to watch over us and to be with us. Although written for children, the song speaks to us all. We are reminded of the verse in Matthew 18 v 3 when Jesus took a child and said:

Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

To listen to the carol, click [here](#).

(a video for the children or the child in all of us!)

A simple song, yes, but one that reminds us of the greatest event in history which has given us a hope far beyond anything this world could offer.

Gentle and Lowly

The themes of this song by [Joyful Noise](#) are the tenderness and love of Christ towards sinners and those who suffer and struggle. The song was inspired by the title of [Dane Ortland's](#) book of the same name. Sam Brewster, who wrote the song, explains the background.

The first draft of **Gentle and Lowly** was written after I had read the first half of Dane Ortland's book. I found the book resonated so powerfully with me, and the first two lines just popped into my head—"Gentle and lowly, patient and kind; ever approachable saviour of mine". After some revision to the lyrics, I sent a copy of them off to Dane, who replied with a warm and encouraging email, saying how touched he had been by them, and encouraging us to press ahead!

At the start of Ortland's book, he says, "*In the four gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—89 chapters of biblical text—there's only one place where Jesus tell us about his own heart*". That place is Matthew 11 v 28-29.

The song is a meditation and celebration of the [heart of Christ](#) for sinners and sufferers like us. It reminds us that Jesus came to seek and save the lost and that he came not to be served, but to serve.

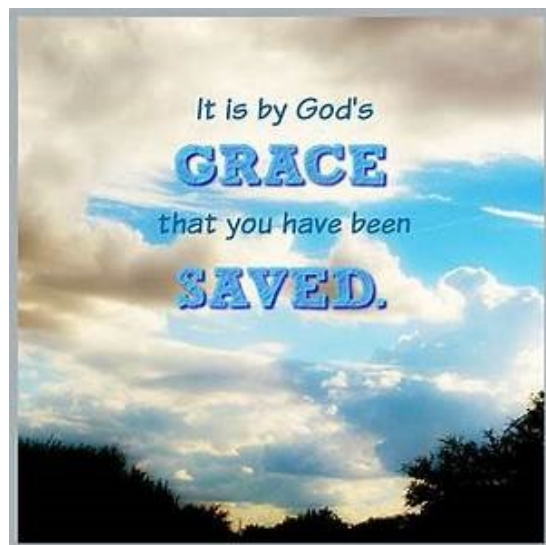
1. Gentle and lowly, patient and kind
Ever approachable saviour of mine
All of my weakness meets your embrace,
Failure and sin meet compassion and grace
Gentle and lowly, patient and kind!
Ever approachable saviour of mine!
2. Seeing my suffering, knowing my fear
Mercy compels you in love to draw near
Joy without measure flows through your soul
Taking my burdens and bearing them all!
Seeing my suffering, knowing my fear! Mercy
compels you in love to draw near!
3. Humble redeemer there on the tree
Nothing could stop you from suffering for me
Speechless in wonder, angels above
Never had seen such self-emptying love!
Humble redeemer there on the tree
Nothing could stop you from suffering for me
4. Gentle and lowly, patient and kind
No other saviour like Jesus I find
Though my heart changes, yours never does
Ever unchanging compassion and love!
Gentle and lowly, patient and kind
No other saviour like Jesus I find
No other saviour like Jesus I find

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am **gentle and lowly** in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11 v 28-30

We sometimes doubt how much God really loves us because we continue to sin and fall short of God's standards. However, the song wants to assure us of His love, compassion and mercy towards us. He knows our weaknesses, our struggles and failures and our sufferings in this life.

He wants to take our burdens from us when we feel downcast and are suffering—if only, we would trust Him to do so—and when we fail Him and commit that sin for the umpteenth time, as we repent He shows us only compassion and grace. We are to approach the throne of grace where the "ever approachable saviour" is waiting for us. That truth should comfort and sustain us.



To listen to the song click [here](#)

3:16

Church News



Shoebbox Appeal

Good News, Great Joy!

A simple shoebox gift packed with love and fuelled by prayer is a tangible expression of God's love for a child in real need.

Thank you to everyone who made up a shoebox. A total of over 70 boxes were donated and will be distributed to children around the world.

If you didn't manage to make one up and would still like to take part, you can go to a [Shoebbox Online \(samaritans-purse.org.uk\)](http://Shoebbox Online (samaritans-purse.org.uk)) and donate your gift there.



Congratulations

Many congratulations to [Fiona Paterson](#) and [Robert Hart](#) for their wedding on Saturday 4 December 2021 at 1pm. The congregation is invited to attend (if you are able to sit in the galleries) and the service will also be livestreamed.



Fiona has been part of our church family since she was eight years old and professed her faith in Park. She used her gifts of music, drama and dance to share the good news of Jesus with Park Kids and Mega and also was a leader in Scripture Union camps. She will be greatly missed!

We wish the new Mr and Mrs Hart every blessing as they start their new life together in Helensburgh.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13 v 4-5

New Christmas Tradition

There are lots of Christmas traditions from stuffing the turkey, decorating the tree and sending cards to family and friends at home and abroad. However, I recently read of this new one from Agapé.

Beginning on 1 December, try to read one chapter of the Gospel of Luke every day. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life and wake up on Christmas morning knowing who He is and why we celebrate.



MEGA Update



Karen Stangoe

In the last few months we have made tentative steps towards rebuilding our in-person children's ministry. With **Park Kids** meeting in the church since April, we began in August to dip our toe in the water with an outdoor **MEGA** in the church grounds, as a bridge between the pre-Covid set up and the online ministry. For many on the team it was the first time back working with children in person, and so it was a big step. Give thanks to God for the love, creativity and fun of the **MEGA** team who have gone above and beyond in keeping it going in the last 18 months. We were hugely encouraged by the event, where we had 20 children take part in a range of activities from painting to playing football at the park. I was moved on the day when the children sang out, praising God together, with many people on the Main Street seeing or hearing them.

As the months have passed and restrictions eased, with just a few changes being made for safety, we have been able to welcome the **MEGA** children back into the building, both in October and November. Each session has been fully booked with 25 children attending. We have even welcomed back a few children who didn't take part during the months online, so it's been great to catch up with them again.

Our overall theme this year is based on the Disney film **Wreck it Ralph** where we use themes and ideas from the film to inspire our activities. Our Bible teaching ties in with this too, as we use Luke's Gospel to explore Jesus as the Hero of God's rescue mission. From dancing and gaming, to crafts and LEGO, it's been amazing welcoming each child back, and seeing their creativity and their enthusiasm for learning about Jesus.

Looking ahead, we have a **MEGA Winter Wonderland** event planned for Saturday 18 December where **MEGA** families will take part in various festive activities, such as toasting marshmallows and a Christmas photobooth, all outside in the church grounds. We will also be making Christingles which gives us the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus coming at Christmas.



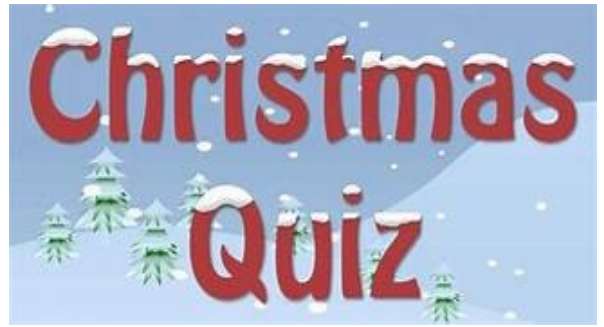
Please pray for this event as it's the first outreach event we've done with parents in a long time. Give thanks for the 11 families already booked to attend. And pray too that as we extend an invitation to the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, we might see some families from the community come along to it.



Answers to quiz on P12
1. Isaiah 2. Elizabeth, her relative 3. Bethlehem 4. It doesn't 5. Jesus, Immanuel, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, Wonderful, Counsellor etc 6. Saviour, God with us 7. A baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger (Luke 2 v12) 8. An angel (Matt 1 v 21) 9. Mark, John 10. silver coin 11. Norway 12. Donald Trump 13. Indian Ocean 14. Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen 15. Four 16. Christmas Crackers 17. KFC 18. Britain 19. Seven swans a-swimming 20. Treat every day like Christmas

Christmas Quiz for the Family

Here's some Christmas fun for all the family to enjoy! There's a mixture of questions including the Christmas story, films and general knowledge. Time for the old and the young to pit their wits against each other. But remember, this **is** the season of goodwill to all men!



1. Which Old Testament prophet had the most to say about the birth of Christ?
2. Who did Mary visit immediately after Gabriel appeared to her to tell her she was going to have a baby?
3. Which town did Mary and Joseph travel to for the census?
4. We celebrate the birth of Christ on 25 December, but what date does the bible state Jesus was born?
5. List five different names for Jesus found in the Bible.
6. What do the names Jesus and Immanuel mean?
7. What sign were the shepherds supposed to look for when searching for Jesus?
8. Who told Joseph the baby's name was to be Jesus?
9. Two of the four gospels do not mention Christ's birth. Which two?
10. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
11. Which country provides the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree?
12. In [Home Alone 2](#), who does Kevin run into in the hotel lobby?
13. Which ocean is [Christmas Island](#) situated in?
14. In 1975 and 1991, the same song by the same artist went to Christmas number one, what was it?
15. How many ghosts show up in [A Christmas Carol](#)?
16. What must-have item for the Christmas table did Tom Smith invent in the early 1850s?
17. In Japan, which takeaway food is traditionally eaten at Christmas?
18. In which country did eggnog originate?
19. In the song [The Twelve Days of Christmas](#) what was the gift given on the seventh day?
20. In [Elf](#), what is the first rule in the Code of The Elves?



Merry Christmas!

Answers at bottom of P11

Uddingston Pride Update

Donald Burt



The glorious summer that we had this year was great for the displays in the Main Street, the station and the Gateway at Powburn Toll, albeit the very dry prolonged period meant that there were many “extra shifts” required for watering. In particular, the hanging baskets at the station required watering two or even three times a week at some periods, and so thanks go to all volunteers who helped to maintain the displays. The additional benefit of this extra work has been reflected in some of the planted displays having an extended life, right up until the recent first frost.

However, most annual displays have been removed now, with most of the work recently concentrating on tidying up and putting the areas “to bed” for the winter.

The perennials, however, are looking good and, particularly at the Gateway, we are very pleased how the beds have become well established, having only been created and planted in 2020. In addition, we have also recently planted 100 violas in the Gateway flowerbeds and we wait to see how they will fare over the winter, hoping that they may give a good display next Spring. We have also recently tended to all the large planter tubs around the village.



As always, it was great to receive positive feedback from members of the local community passing by, as we worked at the various places in the village. It was also good to be able to attend the short service at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, and to lay one of the wreaths, after not being able to do so last year.

We have recently started a new team—[Uddingston Litterpickers!](#)

The team has met only three times officially and yet has already collected over 50 bags of litter. The details of the meetings—for one hour at a time—are posted on [Facebook](#) so if anyone would like to come along and participate in this important work, you would be made most welcome!



In recognition of their many years of sterling service to [Uddingston Pride](#) as Chairperson and Secretary respectively, an Afternoon Tea was held recently for [Liz Wilson](#) and [Sandy Robertson](#), accompanied by Ian and Robina and invited guests. Gifts and flowers were presented, with many stories and reminiscences being exchanged.

We thank them for all the wonderful work they accomplished for the village during their time in office.



Christmas Fayre

We are now busy involved in preparing for the [Christmas Fayre](#) on Sunday 5 December, from 12 noon – 3pm. After not being able to hold it last year, we hope that this year’s event will be well supported by the community, as families look to get out more and attend events that they have missed out on over the last 18 months. We have had a great response from local businesses, voluntary groups and individuals, and we look forward to spreading the Christmas spirit—as well as raising funds!



There will be music, dancing and various interesting stalls including face painting and a craft activity for children, as well as a tombola and raffle. Many local shops will be open, so we are hoping for an excellent turnout, while keeping our fingers crossed for dry weather!





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