



Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends,

How time passes. It hardly seems any time since last Advent and Christmas, and yet here we are again! Do you feel the same?

I remember my Dad saying to me when, as a teenager, I was lamenting the slow passage of time, that the day would come when I was his age, or older, that I'd wish that time would slow down even more! How true his words were.

You may remember that last December, I spent five nights in hospital, and was out of commission for the festive period.

The impact of that time still has an influence on me today. How I see the future for myself, decisions I have made over this past year.....all have been impacted by that event in my life.

That is not unique to me. Many of us carry in our minds, bodies and souls the consequence of events that took place, perhaps many years ago. This can be a helpful experience. It can inform us to make wiser decisions, to be more aware and responsive people and to learn much about ourselves and others from that time.

However, others have not been so fortunate. Their lives are crippled by the past and their decisions, today and tomorrow, are detrimentally influenced by days long ago.

The Christmas story is all about events in the past impacting on lives for today. But for the good! Mary was greeted by the Angel Gabriel by being told that she was

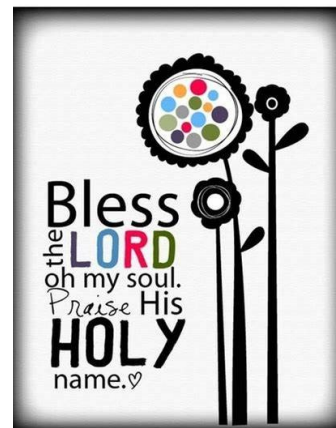
“highly favoured by the Lord”. Luke 1 v 30

It may well have taken time for Mary to digest the impact of what the angel said. Her time spent with Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, would have given her the opportunity to reflect on what was happening to her.

It was in that context that she could say,

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on, all generations will call me blessed for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is His name.” Luke 1 v 46 - 49.

Winter 2022



As months passed, and the time came for the birth of Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, then more of what those verses meant will have become a reality. The greetings of the Shepherds and the Wise Men may have helped Mary to begin to understand what was meant when she sang,

“His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.” Luke 1 v 50

Later on, the public ministry of Jesus, his miracles and his teaching affirmed her praise when she said,

“He has performed mighty deeds with his arms, He has scattered the proud in their inmost thoughts, He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.” Luke 1 v 51-52

On the cross, and from the empty tomb, confirmation comes of the final acclamation in her song,

“ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised long ago.” Luke 1 v 54

All of that is wonderful, but it took time for what was said that first Christmas to be realised in Mary's own life. And the same is true for us. Truths that we perhaps affirmed in the past, with a degree of scepticism, and even bewilderment, grow with clarity as our journey of faith moves through the years.

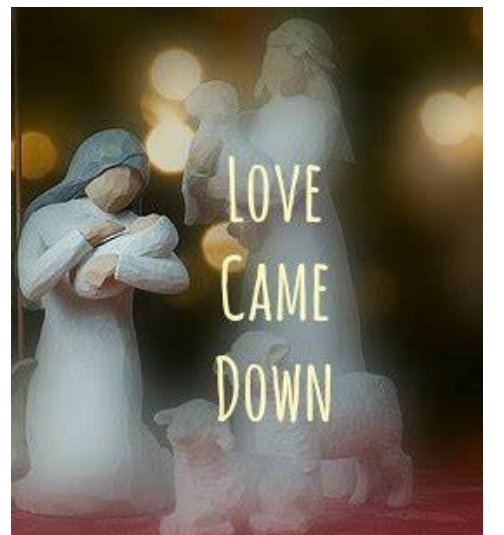
And along with Mary, all of God's people will be able to glorify in God our Saviour, as the full significance of the Birth of the Christ Child is revealed when He comes again as Lord of lords and King of kings.

My prayer for us all is that as we once again journey through this Advent and Christmas season, we will grow in our understanding of what this old, old story of Jesus and His love truly means. The events of life, and our growth as people in our emotional and spiritual maturity, will enable us, as we allow the Holy Spirit to do His work, to appreciate the mystery and majesty of that truth that Love came down at Christmas.

Perhaps it isn't a bad thing for time to seem to pass so quickly. The truth of this Season and its relevance for our lives and our times today...and tomorrow....is so wonderful that we need constant opportunities to reflect and remember that we can face the uncertainties of the New Year with faith and confidence.

with warm Christmas greetings

Wm B Russell



Advent and Christmas at Park

<p>Sunday 4 December</p> 	<p>10.30am Advent Communion Prophets foretold Him...in the Minor Prophets</p> <p>Village Christmas Tea Room will be open in the Hall School choirs 1.30pm in the church</p>	 
<p>Tuesday 6 December</p>	<p>Primary 6 from Muiredge Primary School come to the church for Christmas Unwrapped</p>	
<p>Sunday 11 December</p>	<p>10.30am Prophets foretold Him...in the story of Mary</p>	
<p>Sunday 18 December</p> 	<p>10.30am All age Nativity Service</p> <p>7.00pm Christmas Concert with Kirkintilloch Brass Band</p>	
<p>Monday 19 December</p>	<p>2pm Bield Housing Carol Service</p>	 <p>Joy to the World!</p>
<p>Tuesday 20 December</p>	<p>Church will be open from 10am-12 noon for prayer and reflection as we approach Christmas Short service at 10.30am</p>	
<p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p>6.30pm Crib service 11.30pm Traditional Watchnight Service</p>	
<p>Christmas Day</p>	<p>10.30am Celebrate the Gift</p>	
<p>New Year's Day Sunday 1 January 2023</p>	<p>10.30am For All that is past.... for All that is to come!</p>	

NB: The church will be open between Christmas and New Year—times to be confirmed later

Toni Tales

Fabri and Elaine and their two children, Rebecca and Matteo, are our missionary partners in Italy. In their latest newsletter they tell us of how God has opened up a new door for them to go serve at the Istituto Evangelico Italiano in Rome early next year. This is an exciting new opportunity for them and they would value our prayers as they make the transition from Verona to Rome.



Hello!

Here is a catch up on all that we've been up to over the last few months and an announcement of a new opportunity that has opened up for us.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a **BIG THANK YOU** for all your prayers and generous financial support. We could not be here without you and we are very grateful.

Please write back with your news or things that we can be praying for you. We'd love to hear from you!

With much love,

Fabri, Elaine, Rebecca and Matteo

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A New Opportunity

IBEI—Istituto Evangelico Italiano, Rome

We are very excited to announce that in January we will be joining the staff at IBEI in Rome. Our main role will be to live on campus and provide pastoral care for the residential students. This will involve mentoring and discipling, hospitality, organising activities for community growth, prayer and providing general support.



Alongside this primary role there will be other minor responsibilities connected to living on campus such as helping with the hospitality of visiting teachers and guests, ensuring basic operations of "custodian" and coordinating maintenance. Fabri's teaching, mentoring and assistant role in the Spiritual Formation team will continue.

It is hard to express how grateful we are for this new door of opportunity that has opened up. We are so excited to be of spiritual support to the students at IBEI and we long to be a blessing to them and to the team.

We are very grateful for the help and support of the Elders of Cartsbridge Evangelical Church and the Trustees of Echoes International during the decision-making process. Their wisdom and encouragement at this time was invaluable and we want to say a big thank you for all the hard work they have done on our behalf. Moreover, we have just received the wonderful news that our Cartsbridge church family have committed to covering the costs of Elaine's Italian tuition. Thank you! Such generosity means the world to us and we are grateful for the Lord's provision through your kindness.

Family Life

Rebecca (9 years old)

Rebecca is now in primary four and continues to love school. She enjoys playing volleyball with her friends and spends most of her free time reading, playing and writing stories.

Matteo (6 years old)

Matteo has recently celebrated his sixth birthday. He started primary school in the middle of September and seems to be settling in well. He continues to enjoy doing multi-sport and loves to run and shoot some baskets.

Elaine

Elaine will finish teaching maths at Verona International School at the end of December. **Please pray that the school would be able to find a replacement quickly.**

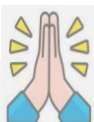
Elaine will start attending Italian language school during her first year in Rome. She hopes to start as soon as possible after the move and the children are settled in their new school.

Please pray for language ability and increased confidence in speaking.

Footnote

What do we think of when we think of Italy? Pizza, gondolas, football, wine, a fantastic holiday destination? It has all these things, of course. But what is the state of the evangelical church there?

A 2020 study by an independent research centre, The Centre of Study for New Religions, estimates that 67% of the population is Catholic, 24% is atheist or agnostic, 5% is non-Catholic Christians, 4% is Muslim and 1% follow other religions.



Many Italians have little knowledge of the Gospel beyond Catholic moral teachings that they learned as children. Please pray for Fabri and Elaine as they seek to make Jesus known so that His church would grow and bear much fruit in this land.

Verona Evangelical Church

Church Social Events

Over the summer months it has been exciting to see the church organising more social events. These have been special times getting to know each other and a great opportunity for meeting new people. We have also seen many of the sons and daughters of our church members coming along. Unfortunately, many of them have not attended the church for many years so it has been a huge encouragement to see them around our church family.



Please pray

- The LORD would draw the friends and family members of our church who have attended these social events to Him for salvation and life with God.
- That the church would continue in their hospitality.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Fabri has started another Bible study series. This time he is teaching on the book of Revelation and the Letters to the Seven Churches.



Please pray

- That the LORD would use these Bible studies to lead people closer to Him and to increase their desire for deeper discipleship.
- For help for Fabri as he translates the Bible series into Italian and as he leads.

Our Trip Home to Scotland

After two and a half years we finally made it home to Scotland. What a joy! We were so grateful to have four weeks at home catching up with friends and family.

One of the highlights was being able to celebrate Elaine's parents' 50th wedding anniversary. It was such a joy to see our family. Our nephew and niece have, of course, grown up so much since we last saw them and it was just wonderful seeing them face to face.

The week of King's Club at Cartsbridge Evangelical Church was a fantastic week for all of us. Rebecca and Matteo loved every minute of it and Fabri and I enjoyed serving on the team. Our church here in Verona does not offer a Sunday School and Rebecca and Matteo are the only two children so it was very special to see our children learning about our Lord and King surrounded by nearly two hundred children. Amazing!



It Began in a Manger (Christmas)

Curious, this royal throne room. No tapestries covering the windows. No velvet garments on the courtesans. And, instead of a golden scepter, the king holds a crudely whittled olive-wood rattle.

Curious, the sounds in the court. Cows munching, hooves crunching, a mother humming, a babe nursing.

It could have begun anywhere, the story of the king. But, curiously, it began in a manger. Step into the doorway, peek through the window.

He is here!



The Arrival

The noise and the bustle began earlier than usual in the village. As night gave way to dawn, people were already on the streets. Vendors were positioning themselves on the corners of the most heavily traveled avenues. Store owners were unlocking the doors to their shops. Children were awakened by the excited barking of the street dogs and the complaints of donkeys pulling carts.

The owner of the inn had awakened earlier than most in the town. After all, the inn was full, all the beds taken. Every available mat or blanket had been put to use. Soon all the customers would be stirring and there would be a lot of work to do.

One's imagination is kindled thinking about the conversation of the innkeeper and his family at the breakfast table. Did anyone mention the arrival of the young couple the night before? Did anyone comment on the pregnancy of the girl on the donkey? Perhaps. Perhaps someone raised the subject. But, at best, it was raised, not discussed. There was nothing that novel about them. They were, possibly, one of several families turned away that night.



Besides, who had time to talk about them when there was so much excitement in the air? Augustus did the economy of Bethlehem a favor when he decreed that a census should be taken. Who could remember when such commerce had hit the village?

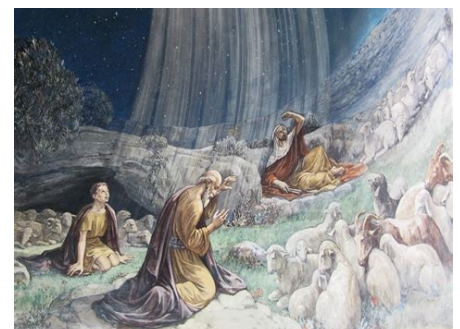
No, it is doubtful that anyone mentioned the couple's arrival or wondered about the condition of the girl. They were too busy. The day was upon them. The day's bread had to be made. The morning's chores had to be done. There was too much to do to imagine that the impossible had occurred.

God had entered the world as a baby.

Yet, were someone to chance upon the sheep stable on the outskirts of Bethlehem that morning, what a peculiar scene they would behold.

The stable stinks like all stables do. The stench of urine, dung, and sheep reeks pungently in the air. The ground is hard, the hay scarce. Cobwebs cling to the ceiling and a mouse scurries across the dirt floor.

A more lowly place of birth could not exist.



Off to one side sit a group of shepherds. They sit silently on the floor, perhaps perplexed, perhaps in awe, no doubt in amazement. Their night watch had been interrupted by an explosion of light from heaven and a symphony of angels. God goes to those who have time to hear him—so on this cloudless night he went to simple shepherds.

Near the young mother sits the weary father. If anyone is dozing, he is. He can't remember the last time he sat down. And now that the excitement has subsided a bit, now that Mary and the baby are comfortable, he leans against the wall of the stable and feels his eyes grow heavy. He still hasn't figured it all out. The mystery of the event still puzzles him. But he hasn't the energy to wrestle with the questions. What's important is that the baby is fine and that Mary is safe. As sleep comes, he remembers the name the angel told him to use . . . Jesus. *"We will call him Jesus."*

Wide awake is Mary. My, how young she looks! Her head rests on the soft leather of Joseph's saddle. The pain has been eclipsed by wonder. She looks into the face of the baby. Her son. Her Lord. His Majesty. At this point in history, the human being who best understands who God is and what he is doing is a teenage girl in a smelly stable. She can't take her eyes off him. Somehow Mary knows she is holding God. So this is he. She remembers the words of the angel,

"His kingdom will never end."

He looks anything but a king. His face is prunish and red. His cry, though strong and healthy, is still the helpless and piercing cry of a baby. And he is absolutely dependent upon Mary for his well-being.

Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of sheep manure and sweat. Divinity entering the world on the floor of a stable, through the womb of a teenager and in the presence of a carpenter.

She touches the face of the infant-God. How long was your journey!

This baby had overlooked the universe. These rags keeping him warm were the robes of eternity. His golden throne room had been abandoned in favor of a dirty sheep pen. And worshiping angels had been replaced with kind but bewildered shepherds.

Meanwhile, the city hums. The merchants are unaware that God has visited their planet. The innkeeper would never believe that he had just sent God into the cold. And the people would scoff at anyone who told them the Messiah lay in the arms of a teenager on the outskirts of their village. They were all too busy to consider the possibility.

Those who missed His Majesty's arrival that night missed it not because of evil acts or malice; no, they missed it because they simply weren't looking.

Little has changed in the last two thousand years, has it?

It began in a Manger was first published by Word Publishing © 1985 by Max Lucado. The Arrival is taken from God came near © 1987 Max Lucado. Both articles are used unedited with permission. The original articles can be found at [It Began in a Manger \(Christmas\) - Max Lucado](#)



Come let us sing for joy to the Lord!

Christmas time for many conjures up an image of carol singers in festive jumpers singing all the well-loved favourites. The word *Carol* actually means dance or a song of praise and joy! Carols used to be sung during all four seasons but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has survived. Carols, new and old, bring the gospel story to life and are a way of sharing its good news in a natural way.



Child in the Manger

This song was originally written in Gaelic (*Leanabh an àigh*) by Mary Macdonald, a Baptist, who lived in the crofting community of Ardtun, near Bunessan in the south of Mull. She came from a family of Gaelic poets and wrote many poems and songs. She married a crofter and used to sing as she spun at the wheel. The tune "Bunessan" is said to have been noted down by Alexander Fraser from the singing of a wandering Highland singer. The song was translated into English and first appeared in print in *Songs and Hymns of the Gael*, which MacBean published in 1888. I am particularly fond of the tune as my first home was in Bunessan!

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.

Once the most holy
Child of salvation
Gently and lowly
lived below;
Now as our glorious
mighty Redeemer,
See Him victorious
o'er each foe.

This is a simple song in a traditional style but the words have profound meaning and tell how God sent His son to earth where he was scorned and treated as an outcast. He took all our sins on His shoulders and died a most cruel death. However, He triumphed over death and is now our mighty Redeemer and has the victory over all.



Prophets foretold Him,
Infant of wonder;
Angels behold Him
on His throne;
Worthy our Saviour
of all our praises;
happy forever
are His own.

Verse 3 reminds us of how Jesus' birth was foretold many times in the Old Testament. One of these prophecies is found in [Isaiah 7 v 14](#).

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and will call him Immanuel.

Now Jesus sits in heaven at the right-hand of God the Father, surrounded by the angels. Those who put their trust in Him have a deep joy and peace in their souls and want to praise Him for all He has done for mankind.

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

Sounding Joy

This is something different for a change; it is actually a children's song but I think the message speaks to the child in all of us. *Sounding Joy* was written by [Ellie Holcomb](#) in the autumn of this year and there is a book for 2-6 year olds to complement it as well as the most beautiful video. In fact, it was the video that first caught my eye!

The song is on an album called *Sing: Christmas Songs* and was inspired by the old carol, **Joy to the World**. It's an invitation to sing about the hope we have because God sent His son to dwell among us. Holcomb recalls:

We were singing "Joy to the World" last Christmas, and got to the line, *Repeat, repeat the sounding joy*. It got me thinking, what does joy sound like, and what does it mean for us to repeat it? I had so much fun thinking about all the sounds I associate with joy, and remembered my most favourite story of all in the process, the Christmas story that whispers and sings over and over again that we are not alone, that Love always comes to find us, and that hope is alive in the person of Jesus. This is a story and a light that we get to sing and share, we get to go tell it on the mountains.



What does joy sound like?
Is it quiet like the snow?
Does joy sound like laughter of friends that you know?
Is joy like the sound of a kiss on your cheek?
Or like holding your breath when you play hide and seek?

Maybe joy sounds real loud like a "Hip Hip Hooray!"
Or a whispered "I love you" at the end of the day?
Well, joy sounds a little like all of these things
But a long time ago joy sounded like wings

Sounding joy, joy, joy!

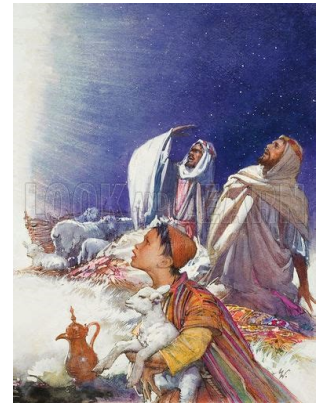
If you can imagine, on a dark winter's night
The sky filled with angels all shining with light
And suddenly the shepherds and sheep down below
Were surrounded by songs from that heavenly host



Glad tidings! Great Joy!
We are never alone
God sent His Son to make heaven our home
So every Christmas, each girl, and each boy
Could lift up their voice and repeat sounding joy

So every Christmas, we string up the lights
To remember the way that those angels shone bright
And we sing all the songs and we bang all the drums
To remember the day that God sent His Son

Sounding joy, joy, joy!
Sounding joy, joy, joy!
Sounding joy to the world, the Lord is come



JOY! Such a small word but a word that evokes a deep-seated happiness in the Christian as we know we can trust God to be with us always. Jesus' birth brought amazing joy to the world. Holcomb explores the question of "what is joy?" with a delightful collection of childhood scenes which speak to our imagination and the beauty of the season, culminating with the discovery that **JOY** sounds like the angels' wings as they proclaimed the good news of the Saviour's birth. What a wonderful image!

This song is simple for children to understand. They can identify with so many of the activities, playing with friends, being kissed goodnight by loving parents, but the song also narrates the Christmas story and tells of the One who loves them and who will always be with them.

However tired and jaded we might feel, I hope we too can recapture our childlike wonder of Christmas through this song and video, and lift up our voices to repeat the sounding Joy!

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

Church News



Shoebox 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, especially this year with the war in Ukraine.

Thank you to everyone who made up a shoebox. A total of over 50 boxes were brought to the church and some more were done online.

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.



Poppy Scotland

The sum of £300 was raised in the retiring offering on Remembrance Sunday for Poppy Scotland. The money will be used to provide life-changing support to members of our Armed Forces Community. For more information, visit www.poppyscotland.org.uk. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.



Kirkintilloch Band Concert—Sunday 18 December

One of the members of our congregation, [Katherine Adams](#), is a member of this award-winning band and has arranged for a concert to take place in Park Church on [Sunday 18 December](#). Katherine plays the flugel horn but started on the cornet at the age of 11. The band itself was formed in 1890 with funds provided by public subscription and is still a self-supporting organisation. The [Youth Band](#) under the leadership of Katherine will also be taking part. We look forward to a lovely evening of festive music and the opportunity to join in with some well-loved Christmas carols. Put the date in your diary now!



Children and Families' Worker

We say goodbye to [Karen Stangoe](#) after over seven years in this post. There have been changes in the children's ministry since Karen arrived, not least in the name itself which changed from Sunday School to the much more modern [Park Kids](#). Park Kids has grown over the years, especially during lockdown. While many churches shut their children's services down, Karen saw the opportunity that Zoom afforded to communicate with not only our own church family's children, but also through MEGA with the wider community. New children have joined and learned about Jesus because of Karen's vision and creativity.

Karen will take up her new position as [SU Lanarkshire Schools' Ministry Co-ordinator](#) on the 10th January 2023. Karen will be helping to spread the Good News of Jesus to schoolchildren in North Lanarkshire, many of whom may know nothing about the Bible. There will be challenges ahead but we are sure that God will grant Karen the strength and wisdom to deal with them.

We wish Karen every blessing in her new post. Karen has agreed to do an interview for the next edition of [Park Pages](#) in the Spring, when she will have time to reflect on what has been accomplished at Park, and tell us a little about her new job.

Thank you, Karen for your faithful ministry at Park and be assured of our prayers for you in your new role in the schools.



Christmas Hampers



Margaret Miller

We are taking part in Viewpark Church's **Christmas Hampers** appeal for local families in need again this year. This is run through their registered charity, **Viewcare**. Last year they so appreciated the extra help we gave them, and it is such a worthwhile cause.



We have been allocated 16 families so far, in various sizes and combinations. Eight of these are single parent families. This year we also have grandparents looking after kids. By last week, **Viewcare** had received 125 referrals, and this is before referrals from the schools have come in.

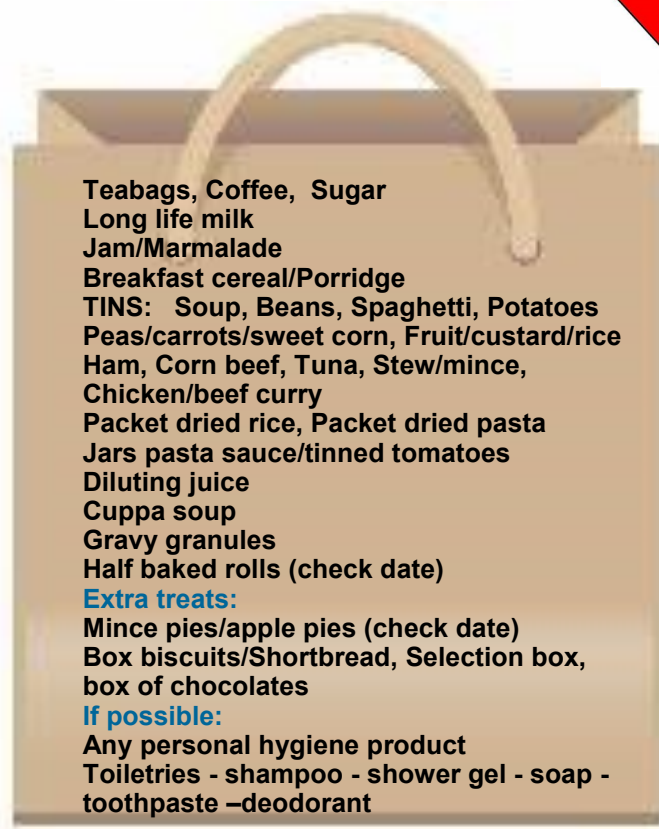
The Foodbank Team Leader, with her vast experience of working with the needy families, has asked that this year we concentrate on the food list rather than any frills. This is because of the cost of living crisis that is affecting everyone so much. Small gifts can be added but this is not essential. If you do want to add a gift, you can buy some small toiletry sets for £2 - £3, but this is only a suggestion.

If you don't think you can cope with doing the shopping yourself, but still wish to contribute, we can accept monetary donations. These will go towards a food voucher for each family, which can be spent in Scotmid or Tesco. This will enable the families to purchase a turkey or fresh meat and vegetables. Please do not put any money in a food bag; put it in a designated envelope marked **Christmas Hampers** and place it in the offering plate or pass directly to me. This worked very well last year and we raised £1010 in this way.

If you would like to take part in this appeal, please contact me by phone or email.

Email: rmm01@blueyonder.co.uk
Mobile: 07881 985053
Home: 01698 816821

Suggested Items



Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9 v 7

Christmas Countdown

Advent is the final countdown to Christmas and no doubt many children, and maybe even some adults, will have Advent calendars to help them keep track of the days!

Advent is a really special time of year in the church. The word is derived from a Latin word and simply means “Coming”. It is a time when we look forward with hopeful expectation as we reflect on the birth of Christ in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, but also look forward with hope to His return at the Second Coming. It is only Jesus that can give us this true and lasting Hope.

Every child can testify to the fact that waiting for Christmas is hard! “How many more sleeps?”, they will ask their parents as they eye up the presents under the tree. It is a time of excitement and joyful expectation.

Christmas is certainly worth waiting for, it is a really special time and at its heart is a gift of love from God to the world. So, as we light the advent candles this year, let’s make it a time when we give thanks for what happened 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, but also for the promise of what is to come. Ad Dei gloriam!

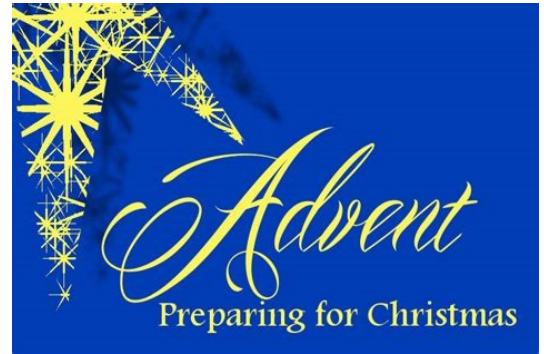
The Legend of the Candy Cane

There are many stories and legends about the humble candy cane that we see hanging on Christmas trees around the world. Not all of them can be true, but this one reminds us of Jesus.

According to legend, the candy cane was first created back in the 18th century. At that time, outward signs of Christianity were banned in some parts of Europe. Children couldn’t take part in nativity plays or learn the real meaning of Christmas. A candy maker prayed that he could find a way to tell the local children the real Christmas story. And this led to the creation of the Candy Cane!

- **The Shepherd’s Staff:** He made the candy cane in the shape of a shepherd’s staff to remind us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
- **The letter J for Jesus:** The candy cane, when held upside down, forms a “J” to remind us of Jesus.
- **He is a rock:** Hard candy was chosen to remind children that Jesus is our Rock, dependable and strong.
- **By His Stripes:** Wide red stripes were added to represent the crucifixion and the blood Jesus shed for our sins.
- **White Stripes:** the white stripes on the candy cane remind us of Jesus’ holiness and purity, the sinless Saviour.
- **Sweet Fragrance of Christ:** the peppermint flavour was chosen because it is very similar to hyssop, which was used for sacrifice and purification in the Old Testament, reminding us of the sacrifice Jesus made for us. It also reminds us of the spices the Wise Men brought Jesus as a baby.
- **Broken for Us:** When the candy cane is eaten, it is often broken, which the candy maker meant to remind us that when Jesus was crucified, his body was broken.
- **Love of Christ:** The candy cane was made to be given as a gift, representing Jesus when He gave us the gift of salvation.

Although this may be just a legend, it is a legend that reminds us of the most wonderful gift of all at Christmas—God’s love for us.



Uddingston Pride Update

Donald Burt



It seems a long time ago that we were sweltering in 30+C heat!

However, the hot summer certainly had positive and negative issues for ourselves. On the negative side, a lot of extra watering was required to the tubs around the Main Street, the planters and baskets at the station and the relatively new flowerbeds at the Uddingston Gateway. A few plants suffered in the heat although most survived. On the positive side, a lot of the displays still looked good well into the autumn and many trees retained their golden brown colours well into November. Even the baskets at the station weren't taken down until mid November, although this was more due to Scotrail's organisation, with the displays being well past their best by that time.



Still at the station, the "Annie Bowes" train is currently undergoing renovation by the [Uddingston Men's Shed](#) team and we are grateful to them for their help and expertise. One of the carriages has already been removed, but hopefully the train should be back to looking its best by next spring!

After many months of work, we were finally able to obtain funding (through The Landtrust/Patersons of Greenoakhill and North Lanarkshire Council) to clean and renovate the red sandstone structure at the Uddingston Gateway.



The specialist building company doing the work (Cornerstone Traditional Masonry) has started the work and already the difference can be seen even though only part of the wall has been cleaned. They will remove as much lichen and algae as possible before re-siting the loose blocks and then mortar pointing the whole structure back and front. We look forward to the work being completed so that the structure is stable for many years to come.

Our **CHRISTMAS FAYRE** this year is on [Sunday 4 December](#), from [12 noon – 3pm](#).

There will be bands, dancers, choirs, a tombola and raffle, mulled wine and mince pies, tea/coffee and more stalls than ever before.

Santa will be making an appearance and several of our local shops will be open. So please come along and support your local community charity.



Hot off the press!

After much discussion and deliberation at our last AGM, we decided to change our name from Uddingston Pride to [Grow Uddingston](#) and we will formally launch the new name at the Christmas Fayre.



We feel it reflects what we do nowadays within the local community; we want to grow our reach, grow our impact and grow our community. We hope you like it. We also want to grow our membership so if you would like to join us, please make contact with any of the current members.



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