

FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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FAIRLIE:PARISH CHURCH is a LINKED CHARGE with LARGS:St.COLUMBA's PARISH CHURCH

DECEMBER 2020 / JANUARY 2021



**LIGHT UP
FAIRLIE
LIGHT UP
CHRISTMAS**

**GREETINGS TO
EVERYONE !**

SERVICES at FAIRLIE

SUN 6th Dec. CHRISTINGLE SERVICE 2pm
SUN 13th Dec. MORNING SERVICE 9.45am
SUN 20th Dec. NATIVITY SERVICE On-Line
SUN 3rd Jan. Moderator Message On-Line
SUN 10th Jan. MORNING SERVICE 9.45am
SUN 24th Jan. MORNING SERVICE 9.45am



Fairlie Parish Church Crib Display





Dear All,

And so, the end comes to this difficult year!

'At last', I hear you say!

However, *with* one of the final challenges of 2020 we are brought to a new understanding of Christmas

Time. Although the economy is struggling significantly, and our heart continues to go out to all those whose positions have been adversely affected, we have come to realise that Christmas is not a time for spending lots of money; it is a time for valuing our common life, and being together. The Christmas Gift remains unchanged: the gift of a Saviour, in the form of a child, Jesus! And through the UK and Scottish Governments intervention, we are now being given time to invest in the principle celebration of Christmas; spending time with each other in thanksgiving.

Throughout 2020, for one reason or another, we have all experienced new highs and new lows. Things may have been said which should not have been. And things may not have been said that should have been. But, however the year has progressed for you with all of its stresses and strains, we all now have the chance to put everything behind us and start afresh. Recognising the value of our relationships with one another is probably more important now than they have ever been.

When the baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem it was a busy time in that town, and no doubt the stresses and strains of that time led to tempers being challenged. There was no place for Jesus to be born in a comfortable room, so a little bit of space had to be created for the birth of the Prince of Peace, in a

stable. With all the changes that we are experiencing at the moment, I wonder if you need to take time to create a little bit of space for Jesus in your life? For some reason, with Christ in your life lots of issues that once seemed too great to bear become manageable, and other people become a blessing rather than a challenge. Maybe *this* is the peace of Christ?

The hope, that the Church celebrates, with the birth of Jesus, is something that can make our transition into the New Year smooth. The coming of a Saviour brings hope, and hope can lead to new opportunities.

So, if you gather together at Christmas time, with family or friends, I pray that you will know a peace that you have not felt for a while: the peace of being at ease; the peace of relaxation; the peace of being part of something bigger than one!



This year, with all the struggles that life has brought, I pray that Christmas can be a time for joy, thanksgiving, peace and goodwill for everyone. May you and your family & friends find the peace of Christ which passes all human understanding and may you enjoy the blessings of God at this special time.

Take care and stay safe in the Lord.

With every blessing

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Prayer through Advent:



Where crooked roads need straightening
Prepare the Way for the Lord
Where people walk in darkness
Prepare the Way for the Lord
Where busy lives need stilling
Prepare the Way for the Lord

Where minds are full of tinsel, presents and parties
Prepare the Way for the Lord

And now, in this place and among Your people
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Into this broken world we call planet earth
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Into this busy place that we call home
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Into this fragile group of Your people
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Into cold hearts and dulled minds
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Where there is no peace
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Where people shout in the wilderness
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Where people walk in darkness
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*O Come Lord Jesus and help us find room for
You in our hearts.*

Amen.

WELCOME TEAMS



Rota Duties will now be as follows:

1. Making sure everyone uses the sanitiser and wears a face mask while in the church.
2. Checking the names and telephone numbers of the people arriving at the church.
3. Escorting people to a seat.
4. Counting any money in the retiring offering - we cannot collect the offering in bags.
5. Making sure everyone leaves by the bell tower door.

CHANGE to SERVICES

Sundays: On ALTERNATE SUNDAYS the Church opens at 9.30 am with the Service 9.45 -10.20 am approx.

Every second week, Graham will be at Largs–St Columbas and the service will be online.

This is aimed at cutting down Graham's workload as he was conducting 6 services a week.

Please note: On Tuesdays there is no longer a requirement as it will be manned by the prayer group.

DECEMBER

6th Mrs. E Clark & Ms A McDonald Christingle Service 2pm
13th Mr J Riddell & Mrs A Gregory 9.45 am
20th Nativity Sunday On-line only
27th No service

JANUARY

3rd No service On-line with the Moderator
10th Mrs. A Tyler & Mrs S McGinty 9.45 am
17th Online service 11.30am
24th Mrs A Ellor & Mrs S Kirkwood 9.45 am
31st Online service 11.30am

FEBRUARY

7th Mrs M Gilchrist & Miss C Gardner 9.45 am
14th Online service 11.30am

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DOG WALKING - DAYCARE - BOARDING





As we approach the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, with some relief, Eco-congregation Scotland is holding various workshops and meetings on-line in preparation for the postponed COP 26, which the U.K. and Italy are co-hosting.

COP26 stands for the Community of the Parties and this one will be the most important climate change conference since COP21, which was agreed in Paris in 2015.

The announcement that president elect Biden is renewing America's membership of COP will be a great relief to all. Time is running out and we need strong leadership with appropriate political and business action.

Accommodation will be required for delegates and events within an hour's journeying of Glasgow.

One of the first meetings that I attended was led by Deeside CAN, which stands for Deeside Action Network, which consists of a band of volunteers based in Aberdeenshire, working to raise awareness of climate change, bio-diversity loss and waste reduction.

Living and working in a rural area, transport is high on their list of priorities, and they welcome the de-carbonisation of road transport by 2050, which will benefit the health of the population and plant life.

The group foresee the increased use of electric and hydrogen fuelled vehicles and so reducing particulates. It also suggested that in the future local delivery vans will be electric, while long-haul lorries will run on hydrogen, releasing only water instead of exhaust fumes.

On the subject of clothes, it was suggested that we could survive with fewer, wash them less and at lower temperatures.

Do we need so much stuff? In the past most people had fewer things, which required less maintenance, storage and freed up time.

The leader of the workshop, asked us to fill in a questionnaire to calculate our carbon footprint and then use the result as a precious commodity to spend on family and things we love to do.

I tried the WWF calculator, but found that it could be refined. You may wish to try pawprint.eco instead.

U.K. Woodland is helping to save the NHS £938 million a year by removing more than 18 million tonnes of harmful carbon dioxide from the air, according to recent studies. Perhaps some of you would consider planting a bush or tree as a thanksgiving for the discovery of the various vaccinations and so help to reduce emissions.

From the 27th November, Ikea will be issuing vouchers for up to 50% , depending on its condition, to people who bring back Ikea furniture, that has seen better days.

In April 2021, the increase in the charge for plastic shopping bags will be increased to 10p. The reduction in the amount of bags purchased since the 5p charge has been an amazing 95%.

Persil has launched new 100% recyclable liquid detergent bottles. The re-design will reduce the amount of 'virgin' plastic by 1,000 tonnes annually- the equivalent of two billion plastic bags.

In addition, Persil's new formula is now made with plant based stain removers and will go towards eliminating fossil fuels in its production by 2030.

The church fuel use for October 2020 is as follows-

Gas 78 cubic metres Electricity 180 kWh

While in 2019

Gas 182.....Electricity 872 kWh

Editors Note:

With a huge increase in deliveries where we cannot avoid the use of plastic bags but they can be returned to the store for recycling.

I have just returned over a hundred bags accumulated since lockdown to the collection bin by the store exit.

(Next to the battery recycling bin).

With the price increasing from 5p to 10p it is worth reminding everyone that all of the bag charge goes to charity in the form of the 'Morrisons Foundation'



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SHOEBBOX APPEAL 2020

In the last newsletter, I said that we would do our best but that I didn't expect we would reach last year's number of 197 boxes. How wrong can I be? Everyone was so generous with donations, mainly of money as they were unable to shop, but also with filled boxes, items, empty boxes, wrapping paper etc.. This year the total number of boxes reached 216 with generous money to cover transport of £700, of which £554 was gift-aided so that another £138.50 can be added. What a wonderful total! Fairlie Primary School took part again this year and they surpassed last year's total with 41 boxes and £101 transport. Thank you all so much for contributing to this amazing figure in whatever way you did.

As you may be aware with all the covid 19 restrictions, we were unable to have a team of helpers to sort and fill boxes. The Millennium Room was unused so I was able to set everything out and leave it, over a three week period, in order to sort and fill on my own. How I missed the laughs, chat and company of our usual helpers and hope that next year we will be able to return to normal working. The boxes were uplifted by the Irvine team on Tuesday 17th Nov, having been dedicated by our minister, Graham, on Sunday, 15th. I think the Irvine depot were surprised by the response this year, not just from us but from the others who usually partake. All the boxes go with our love and best wishes for Christmas to children and adult in Moldova. Thank you once again for this spectacular effort in difficult times.

Ann Tyler

KNIT & NATTER

Some of you may not have been able to follow the church newsletter on line, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our knitters for the ongoing work even though we cannot meet. All the baby hats and cardigans were taken to Crosshouse Maternity Unit and Forth Valley Maternity Unit as these were the only two who needed them at the time. The squares have been stitched together to form baby blankets and six went with shoeboxes for babies. Larger squares were made into scarves and these along with the many, many hats, socks, scarves and mitts went with the Blythswood Shoeboxes. I am still awaiting word from Linus Quilts about the other blankets.



We are grateful for the continued donations of wool and many members of our wee group have used these. If you know of any charity for which we could knit or you require wool, please let me know. In the meantime, continue with baby hats and cardigans, hats for children and adults or just knit for your own families and friends. Our poppy display was used again for Remembrance Sunday. It is good to keep your fingers nimble.

Thinking of Christmas, someone told me recently of a lady who knits beautiful nativity scenes. Perhaps that is a challenge for us for next year! Do hope you have a time of joy and peace this Christmas and wishing you good health in 2021.

Ann Tyler

A shortened service is broadcast LIVE on Fairlie Church Facebook page each Sunday, alternatively at 9.45am & 11.30am and a Mid-week Prayer & Praise on Wednesday at 6pm



You can catch up later on the Church Website - www.fairlieparish.co.uk/SERMONS/sermons.htm



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THE GUILD

It's been a very funny year
 As not to meet is rather queer;
 We haven't held a single meeting
 Not even with long - distance seating.
 We've missed each other very much,
 With local news we're out of touch,
 And worst of all - now here's the crunch,
 This year there'll be no Christmas lunch!
 Committee members cannot meet
 To plan for any little treat.
 There's nothing that we have to tell
 But hope that everyone is well.
 We don't know what next year will bring
 Or if we'll meet again in spring.
 But now some vaccines have been found
 Which ought to keep us safe and sound.
 So perhaps we'll meet and have some fun
 Next year in twenty twenty - one.



The Committee wishes all our members
 a happy and joyful Christmas
 and sends blessings and best wishes for the coming year.

Pat Johnston.

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON AT CHURCH SERVICES

With COVID-19 restrictions still in place there is limited seating available at Fairlie Church.

You may reserve a place by telephoning the Session Clerk on 560069 between 6pm & 7pm



During the current crisis there are collections on
 the front door steps of St Columba's,
 our sister church,
 (Across from Nardini's)
 Thursday afternoons between 2pm & 3pm



Christmas Hamper items needed are:

2L bottles of Im bru,
 a bottle of Shloer,
 Christmas log (a cake),
 tin of festive biscuits,
 tin of festive sweets / chocolates,
 Pringles tubs of crisps and selection boxes.



Cash donations will purchase fresh food items for the hamper

'T'WAS THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

'Twas the day after Christmas, when all through the town
Every creature was stirring, taking ornaments down.
The lights were extinguished, the candles all burned
Empty boxes abounded wherever you turned.

The children were cranky, they'd been good for sooo long
That their innards were bursting to do something wrong.
The toys of which visions had danced in their heads
Lay abandoned in corners, their batteries dead.

When you sprang to the window and opened the sash,
Your eyes were assaulted by mountains of trash.
So it's back to the office, to matters in hand,
As relief, like an aspirin, spreads through the land.

And the windows in outlines of colours once bright,
Now returned to dark shadows, as black as the night.
The fires of warm feelings were beginning to wane,
Like the hard, icy touch of a cold windowpane.
As the world, like the dread of an overcast day,
Reverted to form, to its pattern of grey.

When what in our wondering ears should we hear,
But the Word of the Father to be of good cheer;
To take hold of the light that will never go out,
And carry it high, and spread it about.

Throw the holly and ivy out if you will,
But the star is before you. Follow it still.
The wonder of Christmas, of God coming here,
Cannot be confined to the end of the year,

For the light of the manger, which is now packed away,
Continues to shine and glows brighter each day,
As the people of God respond to his call
And take this, the true meaning of Christmas to all.



Ken Goodrich

THE SHORE FOOTPATH

Villagers will have noticed that North Ayrshire Council has started work on the next length of the Fairlie shore path, that extending from the south end of Bay Street to the north end of Ferry Row. The construction is being carried out by a long established Ayrshire contractor and supervised on behalf of the Council by the designer. Both the contractor and supervising engineer have considerable experience of coastal work. The project is being funded in part by the Scottish Government.

The length of path now being built will have a breadth of 2m and its alignment has been chosen to minimise disturbance to the existing natural rock features in the area. Other than where it joins the access ramp at Bay Street the path level will be 4.0m above local chart (sea) datum. For comparison an average high water spring tide at Fairlie has a level of 3.4m above that datum, and the highest astronomical tide a level of 3.9m. The 4m level is a compromise between availability for use, protecting the privacy of adjoining properties, the avoidance of any requirement for a handrail, and of course cost. It is accepted that the path will not be useable during every possible high tide and storm condition.

At the Ferry Row end the completed path will allow for the option of going up to the existing high level path, or continuing along the beach as a further low level path. It is not known when the lengths of the path needed to go past Ferry Row and then south to the part recently completed between the Fairlie Burn and Craiglyn will be constructed. That will be a decision for North Ayrshire Council. It is emphasised that the current contract goes no further south than the steps at the north end of Ferry Row.

The path will be constructed of concrete keyed into a sound rock foundation and is intended to have a design life of at least 50 years. All excavated sand and shingle will be retained and existing rock will be used to reduce wave impact where required.

The progress of the work is very weather dependent and this has been allowed for. Existing users of the shore should be able to pass the working area without difficulty after the tide has receded.

Fairlie Community Trust



I received a brochure about Christmas resources and on the very first page a question is asked.

'Will you share the light?'

This got me thinking about sources of light which we use today and take for granted. Every street in our village has street lights which are on during the hours of darkness. Many houses on my street have lights all around them, either on the building or in their gardens, some being triggered by motion sensors. We have lights in all our rooms and even whilst asleep, we can have night lights glowing dimly in sockets. I love candles but use these mainly for scent. In past days, candles or lamps were used to light homes and keep the darkness at bay.

Some lights make me smile - Christmas tree lights, sparklers on bonfire night, garden trees and bushes sprinkled with lights, town centres with huge displays but I love especially the stars twinkling in the sky when it is really dark and also when it is a full moon. I use a torch if I am out walking my dog in the dark and the light from it is just enough to see where to walk but not enough to see everything around me. This year it would be easy for Christmas to become a dark space in this difficult and confusing time but it doesn't have to be like that if we can, in our own small ways, make Christmas shine. Church this year will be in the streets, in homes, in gardens, so let us 'shine our light' to those around us, like my torch's light, sharing the love of Jesus who is our 'Light of the World' and sparkle for him with joy.

Here are some tips which will help you 'share the light':-

- Treat strangers and friends to an abundance of goodwill
- Give away many smiles and words of kindness
- Give thanks again and again
- Listen, laugh and encourage more
- Take greater delight in the beauty and wonder of the earth
- Do good turns to people in need without being found out
- Give generously to the poor and hungry
- At home speak your love each day
- Make time for God
- Light many candles and banish the darkness
- and especially for children, make or draw a candle and put it in your window.

Perhaps with us all 'sharing our light of love and joy' we will combine our wee torches to light up the darkness in this time of covid like the street lights.

The Messy Team would like to send everyone our love and good wishes for a very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Ann



NEXT ISSUE

The Next edition of the Newsletter will the FEBRUARY edition
Last date for copy is
Tuesday 19th JANUARY

Newsletter on the WEB

The Church Newsletter is on the Web in the first week of the month on the Church Website - www.fairlieparish.co.uk

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