

St Anne's Magazine

Issue 681

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Letter from the Minister

My Dear Friends

William Shakespeare commented that "We are time's subjects...", (Henry IV, part 2) and once again I have to say (with feeling!) that I think he had a point. Certainly, that went through my mind as I sat down (again) to write (yet another) letter for the magazine!

My last letter began referencing Bob Dylan's comment that "the times they are a-changing", and most of you will be aware by now that this is as true in the Church of Scotland as it is everywhere else. We held a congregational meeting to bring you up to speed with the proposed changes which would, in time, affect us if the Presbytery approve the proposed Plan. At the Presbytery meeting, on November 15, the draft Plan was approved: it now makes its way through various other groups (the General Trustees; Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group, or PMPIG; Faith Nurture) for agreement. If it is approved by all, then, as we told you at the meeting, the Plan will come into "play" on January 1 2026. Given how quickly time passes, that is sooner rather than later. You will find an article with more information later in this magazine, and you may also receive a copy separately – rather like Advent ducks, it's good to have two! Please read this (these?) carefully, and if you have any concerns, please ask.

However: it is the start of Advent as I write this, and you will by now have heard my annual whinge at the desperate measures taken by the secular world to overlook this time of preparation in their desire to get us all out there "spending". I recall once reading a definition of "advertising" that ran something along the lines of "persuading people to buy things they don't want, with money they don't have, to give to people to don't need them", and perhaps there is a touch of truth in that. On the other hand, the contributions to the Food Bank we collected on Advent Sunday demonstrated that many people are incredibly generous when it comes to helping those far less well off – so not all advertising is necessarily bad – even if it is a moot point as to whether it is right that sixth richest country in the world should need food banks...





Food Bank donations on November 27 2022 weighed 117.4kg, the largest amount we have ever had. Thank you.

In my Advent sermon, I found myself referring to John Betjeman's poem *Advent 1955* (once again): in it, he offers a "prod" to the reader to reflect on what the event we prepare for during Advent is really about. Is it about serial spending, over-consumption, shortened tempers and over-busy Advent markets? Or is it about reflecting on the fact that our faith is predicated upon the awesome reality that God became one with us, as one of us, and shared the full human experience in Jesus of Nazareth, in some extraordinary way, so that we might be given the greatest gift of all: light, which expels all darkness.

Shakespeare also wrote (in the same play) "...every minute now should be the father of some stratagem. The times are wild...": let this Advent, occurring as it does against a tempestuous global backdrop, be a time we use wisely and well, as we prepare to celebrate with joy the birth of our true King, Saviour, role model and friend.

Veni, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent her;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

May God bless, guide, comfort and keep you, this Advent and Christmas.

The Presbytery Plan

Introduction: for clarification

" 'Follow me.' These words echoed through the introduction of the Radical Action Plan to the General Assembly of 2019. The Church of Scotland realised that substantive changes were required in order to share Christ's message to the people of Scotland against the backdrop of fewer ministerial posts. Radical reforms were proposed and these continued into the General Assembly of 2021. The Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII/2021) required each Presbytery to configure itself in order to focus fully and faithfully on mission. Within a context of rapid change and straitened resources, especially of ministers, this Assembly also agreed that the Presbytery of Edinburgh should be allocated 48.5 ministry posts and the Presbytery of West Lothian 17 ministry posts in order to fulfil its missional calling. Moreover, each Presbytery was asked to present a Mission Plan by December 31 2022 which set out the manner in which its mission would be pursued, ensuring that every parish in Scotland was faithfully served by the Church of Scotland." (From the Working Document of the Edinburgh & West Lothian Presbytery Plan 2022)

Congregational Meeting

A meeting of the congregation was called on November 13 to update them on the latest plan for the re-organisation of churches and ministries throughout the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian. At the Presbytery Meeting on November 15 the proposed plan will be discussed and voted on and the overall Presbytery Plan will either be accepted or rejected.

The Situation

Nigel Hicks, our Presbytery elder, presented a PowerPoint illustrating what lies ahead within the Church of Scotland. In part the need for urgent change is driven by the lack of candidates coming forward for the Ministry of Word & Sacrament, the ageing profile of serving ministers, and the contraction of membership and resources. The Deployment Group proposed to Presbytery a three-way union between St Anne's, St Ninians and St Andrew's, this having been explored by representatives of the three churches. Currently, this group has two FTMWS (Full Time Minister of Word and Sacrament), both on unrestricted tenure, and one vacant charge. We have three sets of buildings: churches and halls, all designated as 'A', and three manses.

The Plan

In the published plan, our three-way union has been allocated 1 FTMWS and 0.5 MDS (Ministry Development Staff). While we consider this to be inadequate to fulfil our Mission Plan based on the Five Marks of Mission (see below), that is what would be put to Presbytery on the 15th. The plan is due to be implemented by January 1, 2026. It should be noted that if ministers/congregations with unrestricted tenure currently do not wish to proceed, the proposed union will be deferred until such time as the existing minister(s) demit office, when formal conversations will begin. Change will, however, happen and opportunities will be sought for our congregations to work more closely together as we go forward.

The Vote

Nigel asked for guidance on how he should vote on behalf of St Anne's at the Presbytery meeting on Tuesday November 15. A vote was taken with a large majority voting for accepting the plan.

Five Marks of Mission:

1 To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;

2 To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;

3 To respond to human need by loving service;

4 To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;

5 To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

To summarise: Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform, Treasure.

Presbytery Meeting of November 15: The vote took place and the Plan was duly accepted.

Magazines

Magazine Delivery

A sincere thank you to those who faithfully deliver the St Anne's magazine to members. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. If anyone else is able to help with magazine delivery, please speak to Lyn Chalmers: 337 2839.

Life and Work Magazine

Life and Work is the award-winning monthly magazine of the Church of Scotland. It is a modern publication that informs us of the wider work of the Church and includes many varied and interesting articles.

Recipients of Life and Work will notice a little brown envelope in their December issue. St Anne's treasurers would be grateful if you could use this to give a contribution towards the cost.

If you do not receive a copy of L&W but would like to, please contact Myrtle Turner 334 5966.

If you would prefer to organise your own delivery or would like to sign up for the online version, go to the Life and Work website to find out more.

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/life-and-work>

Lyn Chalmers

Thank you

On behalf of myself and my family I would like to thank members of the congregation who attended the funeral of my daughter Eileen on Friday, November 18. Also, many thanks for the many cards of sympathy and support. My granddaughter, Eilidh, and I really appreciated the flowers we had from the church so thanks to Claire and the flower committee. The collection at the service raised £860 and this has been passed on to the MS Therapy Centre that Eileen attended for many years.

Nancy Wallace

Caring&Sharing @ St Anne's

While it is a much smaller gathering, our supporters enjoy either a café-style meeting where everyone contributes to lively conversation and lots of laughter, or we will have a talk from a speaker on a topic appropriate to our aims. These topics have included information on aids for the hard of hearing and advice and reminiscences on holidays for solo travellers. We have a varied programme arranged for 2023.



December 9 we will share Christmas lunch with the FAN Club.

December 16 we will have a café celebrating Christmas



We welcome everyone to come and join us in the Belgrave Room at 10.30am on alternate Friday mornings to the FAN Club .

Ellison Bishop

Guild

On October 25, the Corstorphine Guilds joint meeting was held at Carrick Knowe Church, when Fiona Mathieson, minister of Carrick Knowe Church, and Jamie held an informal chat. They discussed their past education, prior employments and what finally decided them to follow their calling into the Church. It was interesting to note that both participants followed a similar path, and all in all, made for a most pleasant and informative evening. This was followed by tea/coffee and home bakes that were enjoyed by all and gave the members of both Guilds a chance to mingle and enjoy each other's fellowship.

On November 8, Jim Buxton, a volunteer for more than 40 years with Red Dot Radio, gave a talk on the hospital radio service that is now based at the Western General Hospital here in town. We were regaled with amusing anecdotes about lots of well-known people he had met along the way, and even had a book of autographs that included many famous names of those he had interviewed. The evening finished off with a music quiz that raised much hilarity.



Plans are progressing well for the **Guild Christmas Lunch** on **December 13**. It will be held in the Church Hall, with an outside caterer doing the meal for us. We hope you have booked your place, and look forward to seeing you there. Should you be unable to attend, we should like to take this opportunity of wishing you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Ethel Thomson

Film Nights @ St Anne's

Programme:
2022-2023



Showtime: 7pm
Admission: Free



Tuesday, December 20, 2022: The Sound of Music

6.00pm (PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START TIME)

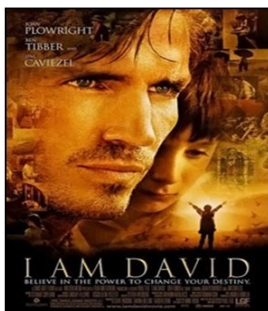
Surely needs no introduction! Sing-along version – costume optional!
167 minutes. Colour) U



Tuesday, January 31, 2023: Bedknobs and Broomsticks

“Bobbing along singing a song...”

(117 minutes. Colour. Live action/animation musical fantasy) PG



Tuesday, February 28, 2023: I AM DAVID

“The thirst for freedom drives a resourceful boy to escape captivity and cross Europe in this unusually intelligent adventure film.” (Robert Koehler, *Variety*)

(88 minutes. Colour) PG



Tuesday, March 28, 2023: On Golden Pond

Award-winning theatrical family drama.
(104 mins. Colour) PG



Christmas Sweetie Making

Saturday, December 17

2.30pm - 4.00pm



Children and young people are invited to come along for Christmas fun and sweetie making, in the Kaimes Road Hall.

Fruit punch and mince pies will be served to parents from 3.30pm.

If you would like to attend please sign up by Sunday December 11

By email alisonyelland68@gmail.com

Or the sign up sheet on the church noticeboard.

Please include the ages of the children and any dietary requirements.



Christingle

We are delighted that our Christingle service is back this year.

We will be making the Christingles on Saturday, December 24, from 10am in the Belgrave Room.

If you can spare an hour, please come along and help.

Refreshments will be provided

Any questions, contact Alison Yelland on 0771 964 6959.



Advent & Christmas Services

Sunday December 4

11.00am Advent 2

Sunday December 11

11.00am Advent 3

Sunday December 18

11.00am Advent 4

7.00pm Carol Service

Wednesday December 21

7.30pm Service for the Longest Night

Saturday December 24

4.00pm Christingle Service

11.30pm Watchnight Service

Sunday December 25

11.00am Christmas Day

Family Service with Communion

St Anne's

St Anne's Church, Corstorphine, invites you to join us for a series of exciting Saturday lunchtime concerts

Free Saturday Concert Series - all at 1pm

DECEMBER

- 10: **Pastoral Crisis** - The ukulele and recorder trio play interpretations of popular classics
- 17: **ZeNoBo Trio** play Mendelssohn , Tchaikovsky and more
- 24: **Christopher Black** in a concert of French organ music
- 31: **Ciara Carruthers** - Traditional Irish Music



**** St Anne's Carol Service****



A Service of Lessons and Carols: Come and prepare for Christmas by singing some much-loved carols and hearing the Christmas story through readings from the Bible.

Sunday, December 18, at 7pm.

2023

JANUARY

- 7: **Morris Begg Duo** - Present a voice and guitar recital
- 14: **Angeliki Giannopoulou and Khalil Johnston** on piano and cello
- 21: **Bernie Hewitt** - Traditional Scottish accordion music
- 28: **Karolina Kubalkova** - Classical piano music

FEBRUARY

- 4: **Gina Baker** (piano) and **George M Coghill** (bass/baritone) A selection of baritone arias and songs
- 11: Violin & Cello Duo - music by **Gliere**, Mozart and Handel-Halvorsen
- 18: **Christopher Black** - organ music
- 25: **Ciara Carruthers** - traditional Irish a cappella singing

MARCH

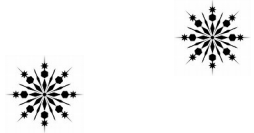
- 4: **Soul Move** - Playing a mix of original and cover songs.
- 11: **Christopher Black** - organ music
- 18: **Mark Spalding** - piano music
- 25: TBC

Admission to all concerts is free, with a retiring collection. You can reserve a seat online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-lunch-time-concert-series-st-annes-parish-church-tickets-446192131677>



Junior Page



Candy Cane Maze



Find your way through the candy maze.



HAVE A
Merry Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR



Jokes

Q: What kind of paper likes music?

A: Wrapping paper



Q: What kind of paper always has a cold?

A: tissue paper



JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU



Merry
CHRISTMAS

Christmas I Spy - How many can you find?

