

St Anne's Magazine



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Scottish Charity no. SC006300

A Community of sharing - sharing Christ with community in faith, love, hope and service.

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Letter from the Minister

My dear friends,
I hope very much that you enjoyed the first edition of our "new look" magazine: thanks to everyone who contributed, and to our editor, for his hard work and inspiration. And: now it's time to write my letter for the next one! While an advantage of fewer, fuller editions is that you don't have to put up with so many musings from the manse, the challenge is that there is more ground to cover in each letter.

Most of you will be aware that my summer went slightly awry, and I vanished from the scene for a few weeks. If ever there was a temptation to think that I might be indispensable, well, so many demonstrated that you – we – are a more resilient community than many. Thank you to all who stepped in at very short notice to lead worship; to all who sent messages of support; and to all who kept the "ship" on a steady course.

I, for one, am very glad that things carried on as normal, and for the willingness of many to step up. We all know that the Church is going through very difficult times. Those of you who read *Life and Work*, and look at the "hatched, matched and dispatched" page with any interest, will be aware that an

increasing number of ministers are retiring (or demitting) and the number of ordinations and inductions is small. Those of you who can also bear to read the news will know that Edinburgh is facing a housing crisis of considerable proportion: and, it seems, that retiring ministers are not immune to the impact of the apparent desire to turn the entire city into an AirBnB. As we move forward, we will need members of Session and the congregation on occasion to share in leading worship – thank you to those who have already offered. If you would like to volunteer, do please have a word with me.

Now, on to happier things. While I write this, at the same time preparing the service for All Saints (it's called multitasking – or



Last year's Nativity. For details of this year's service please see page 3

Minister's letter (continued)

diversionary tactics, I leave you to decide which!), by the time you read it, we shall be in the season of Advent and looking towards Christmas.

Advent is in some ways a strange season: certain traditions see it as a time of fasting and preparation (which is why the liturgical colour is purple), but experience suggests that fasting is about as far from the minds of the general population as they prepare for Christmas as it is possible to get. Every year (as you know) I start muttering about conspicuous consumption, misleading advertising and, generally, bemoaning the fact that in our time, it seems, the vast majority of the population has forgotten what the season is really about. Each year I find myself reciting John Betjeman's poem *Advent 1955*, and wondering how it is that so little seems to change. He asks:

And how, in fact, do we
prepare
The great day that waits us
there –
For the twenty-fifth day of
December,
The birth of Christ?

and goes on to list out many of the frenetic activities which go on – the shopping (and the rising prices); the wrapping (in eco-paper, naturally); the sending of “hunting scenes” (although given the cost of postage perhaps many of us will resort to email as well as less controversial images this year). And then I think, “Oh, humbug!” Because there are far too many, much greater worries to trouble us this year.

Advent is the season in which we prepare for “light”: in the darkest season, with shortest days and winds that roar through the trees, and rains that pelt down, we journey towards a celebration that still brings hope, and joy, to those who reach out to it. If you have ever attended the Christingle service you may think of the moment we switch off the electric lights and raise the lighted Christingles into the air, and the darkness become flooded by a warming, flickering, living light; and in that moment, somehow, things seem just a little brighter.

Each year we share together in St Anne's; each time of worship; every moment of prayer and

praise, is because of the moment we share at Christmas: the moment that God reached into humanity in a unique way, touching the lives of people struggling to keep going in the face of tremendous challenge. At times it is tempting to worry so much about the detail of the event, let alone how we mark it, that we may forget the fact it happened – somehow. Betjeman's poem ends: “The time draws near the birth of Christ”.

A present that cannot be priced
Given two thousand years ago
Yet if God had not given so
He still would be a distant
stranger
And not the Baby in the manger.

May your journey through
Advent this year be blessed; and
may Christmas bring to you, and
all whom you love, peace, joy,
and, above all, hope for the year to
come.

God bless you.

Jamie

Online donations

St Anne's accepts donations online. To donate please scan the QR code below, enter an amount and input your card details. Please do not forget to GiftAid your donation. We also receive donations by standing order and through gift envelopes.

For more details please contact the office. Thank you for your kind generosity and support!



Advent & Christmas Services

3 December	Advent Sunday	11.00am
10 December	Advent 2	11.00am
17 December	Advent 3 with Nativity	11.00am
17 December	Carol Service	7.00pm
21 December	Service for the Longest Night	7.30pm
24 December	Advent 4 with Holy Communion	11.00am
24 December	Christingle Service	4.00pm
24 December	Watchnight Service	11.30pm

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Those who have signed up for the Advent study group are reminded that it meets in Robertson Room every Wednesday during Advent from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Advent marks the beginning of the church year. It is a time for reflection in darkness, for renewal of hope and for a movement towards a beginning. The season of Advent, as it first emerged in the Church in the fourth and fifth centuries, lasted, like Lent, for 40 days. Later tradition developed the Advent we now know, of four Sundays before Christmas.

It is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. Church decorations are simple and sparse, and purple is the traditional colour used. The Advent wreath is usually a circle of greenery with five candles. There are four candles on the outside that are purple and the candle in the middle is white. The candles are lit in the same order each week so that by the fourth week, the candles have burnt down by different amounts.

We look forward to welcoming you to church during Advent.



Nativity service

The eagerly awaited St Anne's Nativity will take place during Morning Worship on December 17. Don't miss this chance to see, or even to be, your favourite shepherds, wisemen and donkeys.

Carols and candles

Our first Carol Service with Marion Lees McPherson directing the music will take place on December 17, at 7pm. This is a chance to welcome all our friends and neighbours to St Anne's.

Create a Christingle

All families are invited to Morning Worship on Christmas Eve, where the Sunday Club will be making Christingles for the Christingle service that afternoon.

Refreshments will be available to keep all the elves working hard.

The Christingle service starts at 4pm. All are welcome.

* More on Christingle, page 4

Sweetie making

St Anne's annual sweetie making will take place on Saturday, December 16, from 2pm to 4pm in the Kaimes Hall. Children of all ages are welcome to come along and make delicious treats. Please sign up on the noticeboard outside the sanctuary by December 3.



For the next part of our carol service, the beadle's nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night...

Longest night

The Longest Night service, which takes place in the sanctuary on Thursday, December 21, at 7.30pm, offers a time of stillness, reflection and quiet for those who find this time of year challenging.

Watchnight

After all the frenzy of preparing for Christmas – the parties, the present buying, the festive bonhomie – we welcome in Christmas, and the birth of our Saviour, with a moment of stillness and reflection in our annual Watchnight Service, which starts at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

There will be no service at St Anne's on Christmas Day.

Christingle meaning

The annual Christingle Service at St Anne's Church takes place on Christmas Eve at 4pm. However, it is the 18th-century Moravians whom we have to thank for bringing us the Christingle, especially one clergyman: Bishop John de Watteville, who led worship among the Moravian congregation in Marienborn, Germany.

No one knows for certain when the word Christingle was first used with regard to the custom. No one even knows where the word Christingle comes from. Some say it is from the old Saxon word "ingle" (fire), meaning "Christ-fire or light". Another theory is that it derives from the German "engel" (angel), meaning "Christ-angel".

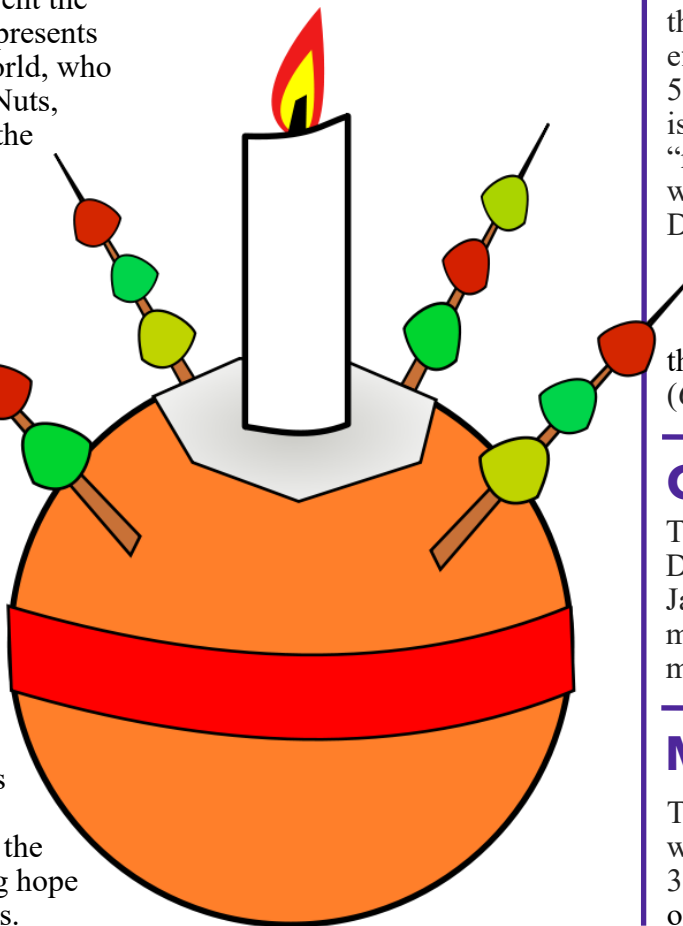
In any event, the symbolism of Christingle gradually developed until today the Moravians in the British Province use a sweet, juicy and round orange to represent the world. A lighted candle represents Christ, the Light of the World, who gives us light in the dark. Nuts, raisins and sweets around the candle represent God's blessings and goodness in providing the fruits of the earth. They are on the four sticks that point in all directions and symbolise that God is over all: north, south, east and west. Red paper, or a red ribbon, forming a frill around the base of the candle, reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for all people on the cross at Calvary.

During the service, each person takes a Christingle and the candles are all lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness.

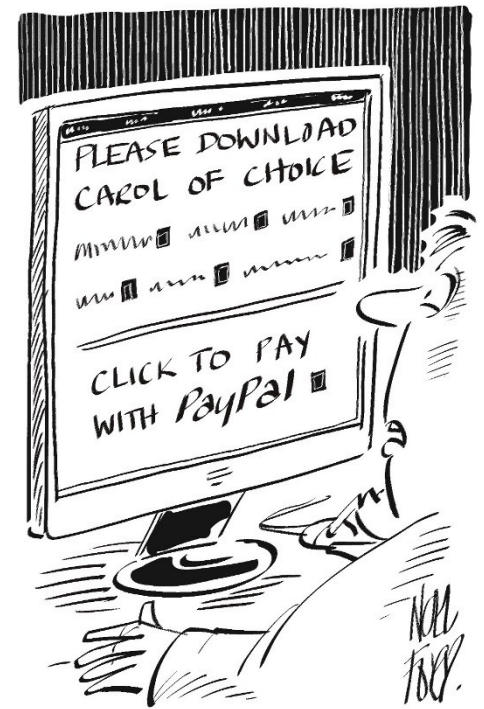
Watteville led the first Christingle Service on December 20, 1749, and the final prayer of that service was: "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become."

In Moravian churches, as here at St Anne's, the service is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve. The website for the Moravian Church says: "We are glad that the Moravian Church has been able to make this contribution to the wider Christian world."

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service at Lincoln Cathedral in 1968. It soon spread to the Church of Scotland and has since become a popular event. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise funds for vulnerable children. For more details see: childrenssociety.org.uk



News in Brief



We've got online carol-singers again!

Flower power

With Christmas on the horizon, the flower team will soon be arranging the festive flowers. This is a team effort and a lot of fun, but there are 52 weeks in the year and our team is getting smaller. It is true that "many hands make light work" and we certainly do need more hands. During Covid we used artificial flowers, but who wants to go back to Covid days? The cost of the flowers each week is met by the flower fund.
(Claire Grant)

Office closure

The Church office will close on December 20 and reopen on January 8. Emails and telephone messages will continue to be monitored during this period.

Magazine dates

The deadline for the next issue, which includes Easter, is January 31, 2024. Please send items to: office@stannescorstorphine.org.uk



Scottish Evening at St Anne's

Saturday December 2, 2023
St Anne's Church, Kaimes Hall
6.30pm - 9pm

Featuring Bernie Hewitt
Accomplished Accordionist



Music, dancing, songs and more from
Scotland and beyond, live on the accordion.
Come along and join in the family fun!
Light Supper Included

Tickets:

Adult £6

Child £3

Family £15

(Available from Lyn Chalmers, Anne Ritchie or the office)

Preparing for Lent

Ash Wednesday falls on February 14, when we mark the start of Lent with a service of Holy Communion in St Anne's at 7.30pm.

During the 40 days of Lent, Christians may fast, or give up some of their usual routine, to give time to personal examination and to reflect on their relationship with God.

At St Anne's we will be holding our regular Lent study group, details of which will be available in the new year on the website and in the weekly notice sheet.

During his year as moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (2019-20), Colin Sinclair preached to about 1,000 people in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, on Ash Wednesday.

"There was no mention of giving up chocolate," he said of the order of service. Rather, it was



written: "This is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and

eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at Church, but an opportunity to receive the overflowing grace God has to offer.

"Lent is also an opportunity to contemplate what the Lord really did for us on the Cross. It does not stop at sadness and despair, but points us to the hope of the resurrection and the day when every tear will be dried.

"It is the preparation of the believer through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sin, almsgiving and denial of ego."

Colin added that it seemed to him that the church in Zambia had got to the heart of the meaning of Lent.

"Lent begins with Jesus, not with us," he said, concluding with a suggestion: "Why not live Lent differently this year?"

Wasps, moths and merger: Session news

At the Session Meeting on October 11 we were pleased to report that a work squad had tackled the driveway potholes and these seem to be holding up well (see report on page 8).

We formed another task force to put together a poppy display at the front of the church for Remembrance week (also page 8).

Marion Lees McPherson has settled in well as our new organist and is working with the choir to great effect.

Talks are progressing on the proposed three-way union between St Anne's, St Ninian's and St Andrew's. We are now comparing various aspects of our modus operandi with the view of devising unified systems. This includes finance, roll keeping, eldership and pastoral care. We will also be working on our Mission Statement.

The purchase of a new safe and the repair of chairs in the Youth

Chapel are still in hand. We have had a problem with moths in the sanctuary eating away at the maroon tablecloth and the old pew cushions which have now been disposed of. Also, wasps have been spotted around the premises and this will be investigated.

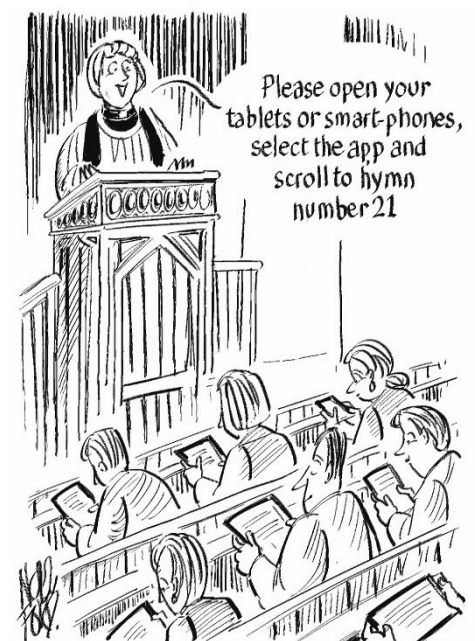
The "den" is an area that is causing concern. It was used as an archive and storage room during the development in 2017 but has since become rather inaccessible and requires decluttering. Work has already started and this will be on the agenda for the next Session Meeting, which takes place on November 29 at 7.30pm. (Lyn Chalmers)

In memoriam †

We remember, and give thanks for, the life of Alex Maltman, a longstanding member of St Anne's congregation, who died recently.

From acorns...

All are welcome to join The Acorn interchurch group on December 11, at 10.30am for tea/coffee, some Christmas treats and "On our Way to Christmas". (Muriel Gibson)



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny

Fun for the young

The Sunday Club has been meeting every Sunday during Morning Worship since Easter following the introduction of a new rota system. Children are joining in each week and it is great to see them coming through our doors – it brings a smile to all our faces. The Sunday Club team have been coming up with great ways to keep the children amused and have produced some great artworks (*see right*), which have been put up on the Sunday Club noticeboard for all to admire.

During the warmer months we were outside a lot; building obstacle courses and seeing how fast we could complete the course and sometimes seeing if we could instruct our blindfolded partner well enough to assist them to get over the obstacles. We discovered that it takes a strong mind to follow someone else's instructions when we cannot see what is in front of us.

We have also played lots of different games: one involved moving clothes pegs from your own clothes onto other people's. Wilson



was the champion at that game, while Rachel and Lyn had some great tactics. I think Lyn has played that game before. We also had a go at building the tallest tower with

marshmallows and spaghetti. Thank you to all our volunteers for supporting our young people this year.
(Maxine Grant)

Lunch club's varied menu

Last November saw the launch of a new venture, the Lunch Club, which was started with sponsorship from the Jack and Jill Club. Initially the club had a slow start. That changed in January thanks to support from the Corstorphine Community Hub.

We have a regular attendance of about 15 people (*right*), with some others popping in, as and when they can. There is no charge, but those who attend regularly donate to the funds, which means we can have a variety of different meals, rather than soup and sandwiches.

Favourites include fish cakes, sweet'n'sour chicken, baked potatoes and lasagne. "Specialty meals" have included haggis, neeps and tatties for Burns night, baked gammon at Easter, Irish apple cake for St Patrick's Day, etc.



Birthdays are celebrated with cake and the majority of the food is homemade (we have used Bain's pies a couple of times, but they taste as good as homemade).

We start at 12 noon on Wednesdays with a chat and lunch appears about 12.30pm. After the main course we have a fun quiz, and

I have often been asked what we are doing because of the large volume of laughter! Depending on events, there may be a dessert, cakes, biscuits and sometimes all three. Home time is between 2.30pm and 3pm. If this appeals, why not give it a try. Further details available from the office. (Elaine Bissett)

Potholes and poppies

Repairs to the church driveway have been undertaken by a group of volunteers. As church members and visitors will be aware, the drive had been in a poor state of repair with many large potholes – great for Jamie’s ducks on a wet day but otherwise treacherous.

Andrew McColl ordered several tons of Type 3 gravel and on August 19 he was joined by a lively bunch of volunteers (*pictured below*) including Ord Adams, Iain Murray and his son Callum, the Grant family, Jeremy, Maxine, Matthew, Emily and Charlotte, and Lyn Chalmers.

The plan was to break for tea, but progress was so good that the group had finished the driveway before stopping. After a happy and relaxing break, where we were all well fed, the squad set about dismantling the Kaimes Road noticeboard.

From this exercise grew the idea of using the Remembrance weekend to make the most of the prime spot that St Anne’s enjoys on the main road. We gathered a team to decorate the columns at the main door with poppies (*right*) and display a large banner reminding passers-by of the importance of the week. This was topped off with our floodlights casting a red glow over the church (*top right*).

Many thanks to both teams and for the donations that made possible both the driveway repairs and the Remembrance weekend decorations.

(*Lyn Chalmers and Neil Proven.*)

Pictures: Maxine Grant and Tim Bullamore



Foodbank collection grows



Donations to the monthly foodbank table at St Anne's have now grown to the point where TWO tables are needed. In October, members of the congregation donated 58.01kg of food and £170 in cash, which have been passed to the Edinburgh Foodbank Project. Thank you!

The St Anne's foodbank collection normally takes on the FOURTH Sunday of the month. However, the December collection will be on **Sunday, December 17**. This is because the Edinburgh Food Project is also asking for selection boxes for children, as well as sweets and chocolate. We have been advised by the foodbank to have the

goods into the warehouse before December 19 so that all the gifts can reach families in need in time for Christmas.

Meanwhile, the Independent Food Aid Network (Ifan) has warned that the numbers of people needing foodbanks are still rising with the cost-of-living crisis.

The Trussell Trust, which runs the UK's largest network of food banks, expects to support more than 600,000 people between December and February. This means handing out about one million food parcels, or an average of one parcel every eight seconds, which is 11,500 parcels a day, making it the "worst

winter yet" for the charity. These figures support what workers at Citizens Advice have found, that there is a "terrifying new normal of people living on empty".

To compound the problem, many independent food banks are now running low on donations. As the manager of one such foodbank recently told the Ifan: "Surplus food is down. Our collections are under 50 per cent of what they were. It just doesn't work."

Paul O'Brien, from the social justice charity Micah Liverpool, put it this way: "Food banks cannot sustain this level of poverty for much longer."

Cooking up a storm

Twelve volunteers from St Anne's came together on Bonfire Night to provide a meal for homeless people under the auspices of Bethany House. One group created a choice of chicken or vegetable korma and made about 50 sandwiches. Another group served the meal at Haymarket Hub hotel.

Thanks to kind donations from the congregation and Tesco, we not only covered the costs but also gave out fruit and chocolate biscuits. (Neil Proven)



Who Guild the steam train?

Since the last magazine, the Guild has had some very interesting speakers at our fortnightly meetings. We resumed on September 12 with what was in effect a “catch up” on business matters, followed by a welcome cuppa and renewal of fellowship. There was also a display of old photographs for perusal. Before putting them in the archives, we hoped that members would be able to recognise lots of the people appearing in them and details could be noted.

At our next meeting Graham McGeoch, who since 1997 has helped to run a not-for-profit faculty called Unida at the University of Vitoria in Brazil, spoke to us. This is the only university in Brazil to accept female students (about 50 per cent of their numbers) and on gaining their degrees these young women are able to find gainful employment, thus enjoying a much better standard of living. This in turn improves the lives of many who live in poor areas of the country and made us appreciate the educational facilities we have in this country.

Mike Scott was the speaker at our next meeting and he told us the history of the long-closed Edinburgh-Balerno railway line (*pictured*). It ran through the Colinton Tunnel, which is 140 metres long and until quite recently was a dark and dank part of a walkway and not a pleasant area to frequent. A suggestion was made and approved to improve the lighting, and with some imagination make it a welcoming area. Community groups, including more than 600 local schoolchildren and members of the wider community, set about scrubbing away the graffiti and started creating a mural, all designed by the muralist Chris Rutherford. It mainly depicts the RLS poem *From a Railway Carriage* on one side of the tunnel,



and images showing local heritage on the other. It is well worth a visit.

Our third speaker was the Rev Matthew Bickett, who stood in at St Anne's several times during Jamie's recent illness. He gave us an insight into his theological life journey, having first gained a degree from East of Scotland College of Agriculture before attending Church of Scotland Mission College at St Colm's. He then spent six years in Bangladesh doing mission work, during which he travelled extensively in the country, often very slowly. Many of his trips took more than 24 hours to complete, and an associate suggested he always took a pillow with him to ease the discomfort, hence the title of his talk, “Travels With My Pillow”.

We have further interesting meetings coming up. Our Project Meeting is about “Pioneers UK-Chocolate Heaven”; another is entitled “Cramond Island”; and a third is “Down Memory Lane”. Both men and women are most welcome to join us.

We have had notification that monies raised for The Queen's Green Canopy in Malawi were in excess of £10,000 (the target being £3,000) and that planting of trees

has already started.

Finally, we have had no update about the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, due to take place from September 18 to 27, 2004. But events in the Middle East mean that it could hang in the balance.

Guild dates

December 5

Christmas lunch in the Kaimies Hall

February 13, 2pm

Edinburgh Guilds Together AGM & afternoon tea at Carrick Knowe Parish Church. The moderator of Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery will be in attendance

March 1

World Day of Prayer

March 15-17

Lenten Event at Coatbridge. Details to follow

March 16, 10am

Coffee morning

March 19, 7.30pm

Annual general meeting

Film Club

All welcome! Free entry, and refreshments provided.
Doors open at 6.30pm. Screening times are below.



Tuesday, December 19, NB at 6.45pm

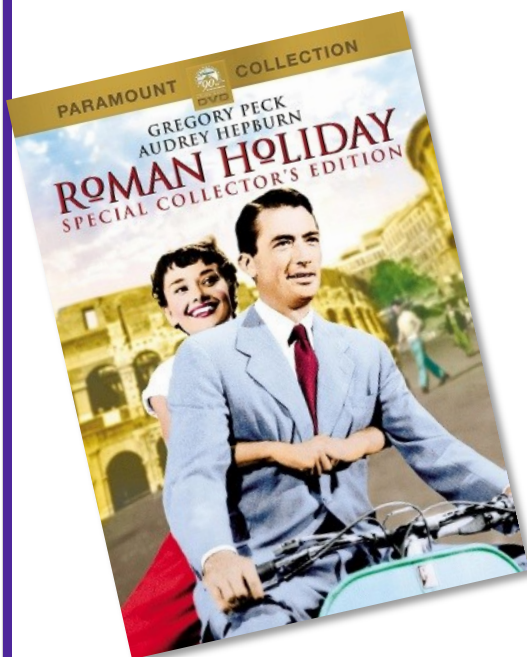
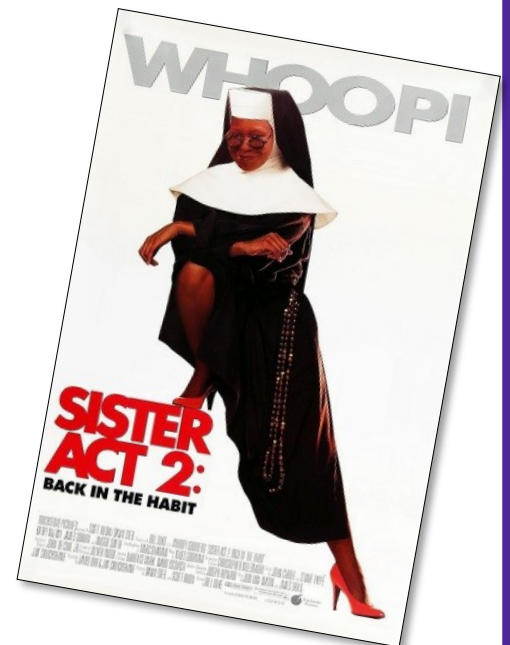
It's a Wonderful Life

A 1946 American Christmas fantasy drama film based on the short story and booklet *The Greatest Gift* by Philip Van Doren Stern. (131 minutes, B&W, U)

Tuesday, January 30 at 7pm

Sister Act 2 – Back in the Habit

Whoopie Goldberg as Sister Delores Van Cartier coming to the aid of her nun friends who need her help to save her old school. No mountain is too high! Foot-tapping fun! (107 minutes, Colour, PG)



Tuesday, February 27 at 7pm

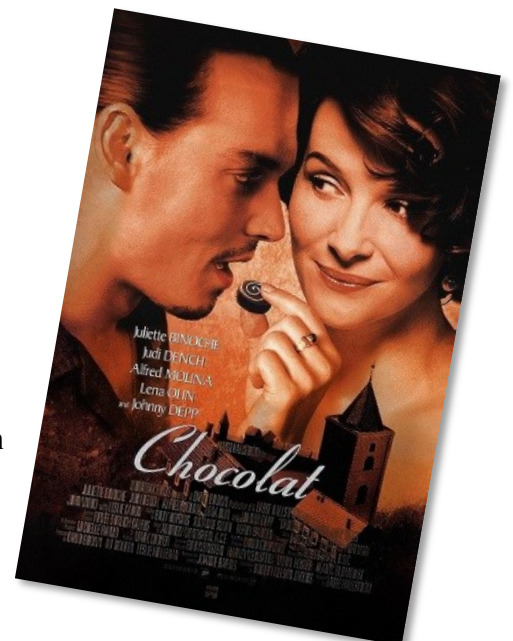
Roman Holiday

To get you in the mood for holiday planning. (113 minutes, B&W, U)

Tuesday, March 12 at 7pm

Chocolat

A thought before Easter... (117 mins, Colour, 12)



St Anne's Book Group

Meetings in Spring 2024

2024

January 10
 February 21
 April 3
 May 15
 June 26

All meetings are held in
 the Belgrave room
 at 7.30pm

Christmas shopping

Still got Christmas shopping to do? If you buy gifts, festive food, holidays, travel etc. online, why not use easyfundraising and support St Anne's? Every little helps.

To date we have painlessly raised well over £1,600 with more donations pending. Another few supporters would make this venture even more worthwhile.

To support St Anne's, visit the website below and sign up. You can also download a donation reminder app.

easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stanneschurchedinburgh



THE ACORN

You are invited to join us for inter-church Christian Fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee from 10.30am on the last Monday of every month except December when we meet on the 11th

at

ST ANNE'S CHURCH
 KAIMES ROAD ENTRANCE
 BELGRAVE ROOM

Future meeting dates are:
 December 11
 January 29
 February 26
 March 25
 April 29
 May 27
 June 24

Saturday Whist

Whist is an enjoyable game of cards, which is easy to play from a beginner level.

All are welcome to come along on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 2pm in the Belgrave room.

2024



January	20
February	17
March	16
April	20
May	18
June	15



Sleep out to help out

On one of the wettest Saturday nights in October, nine members of the Guides, one young leader and two leaders (who should know better at their age!) joined 200 other members of Girlguiding Edinburgh at George Heriot's School to give up their warm cosy beds for a night sleeping out to raise funds for Bethany Christian Trust's work with the homeless.

After finding out more about Bethany's work at the start of the event, the girls supplemented their packed tea with hot soup from the Care Van, enjoyed a wild game in the rain, completed a quiz, built shelters out of cardboard boxes and took part in a campfire.

After a very welcome supper of hot chocolate and muffins, it was time for them to bed down in sleeping bags and survival bags in the cloisters around the quadrangle. This took quite a while, and it was after midnight before everyone settled, and nearer 1am before all the talking stopped.

Even though it rained heavily again during the night, some of the Rangers braved the elements out in the middle of the Quad.



Five hours later our breakfast of bacon rolls arrived and a kickstart mug of coffee certainly helped to wake up the leaders, most of whom felt as though they had seen every hour on the clock, even if they had in fact managed to doze off for at least a little while.

We left Heriot's in another downpour, just after 8.30am, to return the Guides to their parents feeling very thankful that we had only endured one uncomfortable

night and were returning home with a greater appreciation of warm beds, safe and secure homes, and regular hot meals. We felt that our certificates and badges were well earned

Our "Bethany 12" have raised a total of £1,500 and we would like to thank everyone who supported us and gave so generously. The event itself is on track to raise £15,000 for the Bethany Christian Trust, who have worked out that £21 will give a homeless person a comfortable bed, a warm, safe and secure room, hot food and individual support to help them move on to more permanent accommodation.

On this basis the fundraising by the 183rd City of Edinburgh Guides will have helped 71 homeless people, and the money raised overall will make a difference to more than 700. Given the city council's withdrawal of funding to Bethany, a donation of this size from Girlguiding Edinburgh is hardly insignificant.

Should you wish to support the work of Bethany further, donations can be made online at: bethanychristiantrust.enthuse.com (Liz Menzies)

Caring&Sharing

From June until the end of August we held our Summer Café every Friday, which was well supported, not only by our St Anne's community but also by the wider Corstorphine community.

We were delighted to welcome some visitors from Australia who were also able to have a brief tour of the sanctuary and our hall accommodation.

We began the new session in mid-September and have heard speakers from The Carers Trust, Bethany Christian Trust and Cruse Scotland and we look forward to celebrating Christmas lunch with the FAN Club on December 15.

We have also been delighted to welcome some residents from Belgrave Lodge and hope that they will enjoy further visits.

In the new year we will hear from, among others, Mike Heffron of Under one Roof, Scotland's only charity committed to providing free and impartial information on tenement maintenance and repair management, and our own Muriel Gibson who will talk about The Acorn, an inter-church group.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to Caring&Sharing at St Anne's on alternate Fridays in the Belgrave Room. (Ellison Bishop)



The start of the football season was the cause of universal joy

Introducing St Anne

We are familiar with the name, but who was St Anne and how did a Presbyterian church in Corstorphine come to be named after the grandmother of Jesus? **Frances Tennant** investigates

If you look at the stained-glass windows in the Youth Chapel you will find one depicting a woman sitting with a young girl teaching her to read (*pictured right*). Beside the woman stands a man. The three people are St Anne, her husband St Joachim and their daughter, Mary, who will become the mother of Jesus. You will not find any reference to St Anne in the Bible, but she was popular in early Christian literature and is described in Clive James's translation of Dante's *Divine Comedy*:

Opposite Peter in that central block
You can see Anna, mother of the Queen,
So well content to see her daughter, she
Still keeps her eyes where they have always been
While singing her hosannas constantly.

Who was St Anne? According to various sources in the Encyclopaedia Britannica and its humbler derivative Wikipedia she was born into a modest family, though a painting by Adriaen van Overbeke of the birth of Anne (*below*) suggests the opposite.

She is said to have been married to St Joachim but for many years they had no children. Eventually the





Angel Gabriel announced that Anne would give birth to a special child, a daughter. This is represented in a highly improbable painting by Pietro Lorenzetti of the birth of the child, Mary (*right*). Anne is in the bed and two women, sitting on the floor, tend the baby.

A special child requires a special education and so at three years old she is taken to the Temple to be welcomed by the High Priest. This Titian painting (*below*) shows the tiny, solitary toddler Mary climbing up the long staircases leaving Anne and Joachim to watch from below.

Many pictures show Anne as a grandmother. One of the oldest in Europe (*not shown here*) comes from a fresco in the Church of Santa Maria Antiquata in Rome. Anne appears twice: in the centre she holds her daughter, Mary, on her lap. To her right she holds the infant Jesus and to her left is her niece, Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, also an elderly mother, holding her son, John (the Baptist).

St Anne was a popular saint in pre-Reformation times. Her story may have derived from that of Hannah in the First Book of Samuel in the Old Testament. They have the same name: Anne from Greek and Hannah from Hebrew. Both mean "grace". The two women were childless for many years, but in old age each had a baby whom they dedicated to God and brought to a sacred place at a young age.

In the Roman Catholic Church and in some Episcopal congregations, St Anne is venerated as

patron saint of grandparents, of the childless and of housewives. She is one of the patron saints of Canada and of Brittany, as well as of other churches around the world. Her feast day is July 26.

Our church is unique in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in being named after a non-Biblical and possibly apocryphal

saint. So why was it dedicated to St Anne and how did it get its name?

The 2003 edition of the *History of St Anne's*, originally written by William Dey, a former session clerk, informs us that with the expected increase in the size of the population of Corstorphine, the Old Parish Church would be inadequate. The first trustees of the new church contributed generously to the temporary building and chose the name St Anne because in the 15th century there was an altar dedicated to St Anne attached to the Old Parish. There was also a St Anne's croft, which may have helped to pay the stipend of the priest. Thus the new church would be firmly attached to its mother church and have a history going back to the Middle Ages. Mr Dey also gives a fascinating account of the windows.

Whatever the reason for the name, and whatever the credibility of the story, next time you are in the church, do take the opportunity to look at the St Anne window and admire the delicacy of the design, the brilliance of the colours and think of all who have loved this church and enjoyed its beauty. "Whatsoever things are ... lovely, if there be any praise, think on these things."



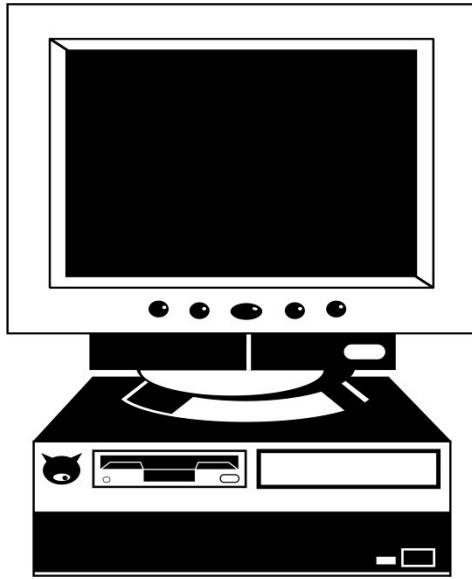
Avoiding phishers of men

One seemingly friendly phone call is all it takes to set in motion an upsetting computer experience, as **Ord Adams** discovered

Disrespecting computer hackers is extremely dangerous. I was arrogant. I thought I was smarter than they were. But I wasn't.

The phone rang unexpectedly, and I answered it. There was a delay, and the background noise of a call centre. "Hello. You're the main user of the computer." It was a female voice; nobody that I knew, with a foreign accent.

I wish I had ended the call right there, without even speaking. But I didn't. "You're



the main user of the computer," declared the caller. Not a question, but a statement. A provocative enough statement for me to reply impertinently: "How do you know?"

I thought, complacently, that I was in control, but I wasn't – even at that early stage. Phishing scams are well named. They are needle-sharp, like fishhooks, and to be handled with equivalent respect. Needle-sharp, with a barbed tip. You'd never put an unprotected fishhook loose in your pocket, so treat any potential fraudsters, scammers and hackers with that same respect. Given half a chance they could inflict more pain, and do you more damage, than any fishhook. I didn't hear the voice in my head saying: "Hang-up the phone."

Hackers are professional, ruthless and clinical. They don't throw back the fish they catch. They leave them to die, and then gut them. I was – very nearly – one of those fish.

A prayer for computer users

God of the Universe, Lord of all time and space, Your almighty Word leapt down from the farthest starry heavens to save us from slavery in Egypt and to fashion us into a holy people of truth and justice.

The finger of your almighty power casts out evil and restores order to the jumbled chaos of this fragile world. Your Incarnate Word enters everything human, speaking parables of comfort to the needy and those held captive by fear and inviting disciples to proclaim good news everywhere.

Bless again this day the mysterious computer which awaits your power and my human effort. Grant wisdom, knowledge and a clear memory to my mind as I sit before this creature of your infinite power.

Bless my heart with endless patience whenever needed. Guide my hands that I may be your faithful servant in every key I press. Enable my limited efforts to bring glory to your Name and blessings to your people everywhere.

Delete me not from your Kingdom and save me from all fear and from all error of sin and ignorance.

I whisper this prayer, mindful of the needs of all with whom and for whom I work, through the power of your Word and the life-giving energy of your Spirit. Amen

Most Rev Richard J. Sklba, Archdiocese of Milwaukee (reproduced with permission)

Book reviews

A classic retelling of the Christmas story from a bird's eye viewpoint.

This picture book has a narrative that uses repetitive phrases to engage young readers, introducing truths about the birth of Jesus.



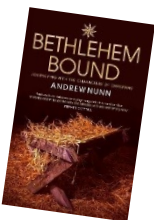
The Christmas Swallow, by Ben Harris, SPCK, £9.99

What is the Christmas story really about, and how do we share it? Through each week of Advent, a different aspect is examined: light, promise, mystery, love, peace and hope.



Sharing the Christmas Story, by Sally Welch, BRF, £8.99

Not only Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem. All the characters and creatures we meet in the nativity found their way to the manger, summoned by stars, angels or political circumstance.



Bethlehem Bound, by Andrew Nunn, £12.99

Bees in the belfry

Being away from St Anne's need not stop us finding Christian fellowship. Last summer **Tim Bullamore** visited St Mark's Church in Philadelphia to partake of some spiritual honey

In the centre of Philadelphia lies a church with a distinct buzz. At Easter 2015, two beehives were installed in the grounds of St Mark's and populated with colonies of bees.

Our loose connection with St Mark's goes back to when Lisa and I first met in 2012. She was living and working in Philadelphia, while I was in the quintessentially English city of Bath. Our trans-Atlantic commutes meant finding places of worship in different cities and of different Christian traditions. One such was St Mark's, in the heart of downtown Philadelphia, where we were always made to feel welcome.

This past August we returned once more to the city, where Lisa



St Mark's, Philadelphia. Below, its red doors with figures depicting Christ in Majesty and the legend: "Come unto me all that are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (pictures: St Mark's Church)

was speaking at a conference. This gave me the opportunity to explore on my own, as well as once more to visit St Mark's, which is currently celebrating its terquasquicentennial, or 175th anniversary.

St Mark's had its beginnings in the aspirations of a group of forward-looking Philadelphians who were intent upon founding a church organised upon the spiritual theories of the Oxford Movement.

Over the years the church has changed, adapted and thrived, while remaining steadfast in its Christian and Episcopalian principles. Today it describes itself as "a community that gathers in faith, serves in love, and proclaims hope, through Jesus Christ".

My visit was to High Mass on the 12th Sunday after Pentecost. Despite being holiday season, the church was full with people of all ages for a service led by the rector, Sean Mullen, the man responsible

for the bees. In his sermon Father Mullen talked about "the mystery of faith", using as his text the episode in Matthew's Gospel in which a Canaanite woman comes to Jesus because, she says, her daughter is tormented by a demon.

The service opened with a Bach Prelude and Fugue played on the organ; the choir were in full voice; and the 20-page order of service helpfully included the four-part music for all the sung elements of the Communion. Like the bees, I left St Mark's positively buzzing.

Have you visited another church? Why not share your experiences with members of St Anne's? Please send about 400 words and a couple of pictures to the office.



Behind the carol: O Come, All ye Faithful

Every Christmas we have the opportunity to hear and sing this well-loved carol. But how many of us know the story behind *O Come, All Ye Faithful*?

Nobody knows who wrote this well-loved Christmas carol. It was originally a Latin Christmas hymn, *Adeste Fidelis*. It seems to have first “surfaced” in English thanks to a John Francis Wade, who lived in the 18th century and who made his living copying manuscripts and, sometimes, music by hand. Wade was a Roman Catholic, and all services in the church at that time were conducted in Latin, so he knew the language well.

The story goes that in about 1750 he slipped this hymn into a manuscript he was copying for the English Roman Catholic College in Lisbon, Portugal. Thirty-five years later, in 1785, it turned up in the

*O Come, all ye faithful, joyful
and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the
King of angels;*

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in
exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above!
Glory to God, all glory in the
highest;*

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!*

Portuguese Chapel in London, where it became known as the “Portuguese Hymn”.

From there, the hymn appears to have travelled across to the Margaret Chapel in the West End

of London. A young William Ewart Gladstone, who later became British prime minister, greatly appreciated the services at this church. He said that the congregation were “the most devout and happy that I have ever seen”.

The minister at that time was Frederick Oakley, one of the leaders of the 19th-century Oxford Movement, who was later to convert to Roman Catholicism. Oakley believed strongly in the power of religious symbols and fine music, and before he bade farewell to the Margaret Chapel he introduced this hymn to the congregation. Having started as *Adeste Fidelis*, and been for a while “The Portuguese Hymn”, this carol soon became known – and loved worldwide – as *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.

One of the best-loved arrangements was made by the organist and choirmaster David Willcocks and includes a glorious descant to the verse “Sing, choirs of angels”. It was published in *Carols for Choirs* in 1961.

A prayer for Christmas

Almighty Father,

Thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus – the Light of the world. Thank you that He brought light and life to all who received Him during His life on earth and that He still brings light and life to all who receive Him.

Lord, how this broken world needs your light today. As we rejoice and give thanks for Christmas, we pray that the light of Jesus will pierce the darkness of self-interest and hatred – and change the hearts of those who do

not love you or their neighbours.

We pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit you will deliver your people from evil, and that Your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven. Thank you, Father, that because of Jesus, light will *always* shine in the darkness and the darkness will *never* be able to extinguish it.

Glory and thanks and praise to You Father God, this Christmas and always. In Jesus’ saving and powerful name. Amen.

(By Daphne Kitching)

Social media

You can follow St Anne’s on social media with the following links. Plus, don’t forget that for those unable to join us in person, Morning Worship is broadcast live on Sunday morning at 11am via the website, where the recording is also available for a week.



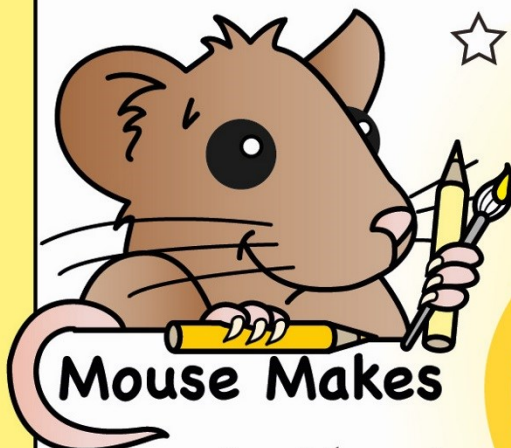
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stannescorstorphine



instagram.com/
stanneschurchcorstorphine



Mouse Makes



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

V R P R I N C E L R O D
W O R D C F A T H E R E
J A G M A N G E R G E B
O W H O E V E R W I I J
S J O Y B O R N O S G E
E S L S E R V A N T N S
P P Y J C H I L D E P U
H R O S H E P H E R D S
F A V O U R E F R W S O
B I R T H S W O F O D L
I S A V I O U R U R L O
F E C O U N C E L L O R
A N G E L B J V K D V D
B E T H L E H E M G E S
L A N G E L S R G O D V
I G A B R I E L T D S M
F P G I V E N A H U O A
E E H G A V E S R W N R
S A E G R E A T O N L Y
O C H R I S T I N N J O
N E O G O O D N E W S N
F L O C K M I G H T Y B

ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

Diary dates: Dec 2023 - Feb 2024

December

Sunday 3	11am Morning Worship
Tuesday 5	Guild Christmas lunch
Wednesday 6	10.30am Advent study group; 12 noon Lunch Club
Friday 8	10.30am FAN Club
Sunday 10	11am Morning Worship
Monday 11	10.30am The Acorn
Wednesday 13	10.30am Advent study group 12 noon Lunch Club
Friday 15	Caring&Sharing and FAN Club Christmas lunch
Saturday 16	2pm-4pm Sweetie making
Sunday 17	11am Morning Worship with Nativity (Foodbank) 7pm Carol Service
Tuesday 19	6.30pm/6.45pm Film Night: It's a Wonderful Life
Wednesday 20	10.30am Advent study group 12 noon Lunch Club; 7.30pm Book Group
Thursday 21	7.30pm Service for the Longest Night
Sunday 24	11am Morning Worship with Holy Communion 4pm Christingle Service 11.30pm Watchnight Service
Sunday 31	11am Morning Worship

January

Wednesday 3	12 noon Lunch Club
Sunday 7	11am Morning Worship
Tuesday 9	2.30pm Guild
Wednesday 10	12 noon Lunch Club; 7.30pm Book Group
Friday 12	10.30am FAN Club
Sunday 14	11am Morning Worship
Wednesday 17	12 noon Lunch Club
Friday 19	10.30am Caring&Sharing
Sunday 21	11am Morning Worship
Tuesday 23	7.30pm Guild
Wednesday 24	12 noon Lunch Club
Friday 26	10.30am FAN Club
Sunday 28	11am Morning Worship with Holy Communion (Foodbank)
Monday 29	10.30am The Acorn
Tuesday 30	6.30pm/7pm Film Night: Sister Act 2 (Back in the Habit)
Wednesday 31	12 noon Lunch Club

February

Friday 2	10.30am Caring&Sharing
Sunday 4	11am Morning Worship
Tuesday 6	2.30pm Guild
Wednesday 7	12 noon Lunch Club
Friday 9	10.30am FAN Club
Sunday 11	11am Morning Worship
Wednesday 14	12 noon Lunch Club 7.30pm Ash Wednesday (Communion)
Friday 16	10.30am Caring&Sharing
Sunday 18	11am Morning Worship
Tuesday 20	7.30pm Guild
Wednesday 21	12 noon Lunch Club; 7.30pm Book Group
Friday 23	10.30am FAN Club
Sunday 25	11am Morning Worship (Foodbank)
Monday 26	10.30am The Acorn
Tuesday 27	6.30pm/7pm Film Night: Roman Holiday
Wednesday 28	12 noon Lunch Club



Tea and coffee are served in the Kaimes Hall each Sunday after the service. All welcome!

Children and young people are welcome at the Sunday Club. Join us in the Sanctuary at 11am for the first part of the Morning Worship, then go out for activities.

