

KIN-NECTIONS

KINROSS PARISH CHURCH | DECEMBER 2021 - FEBRUARY 2022

FREE: Please take a copy



**COP26 GOALS
GROWING YOUNG**

**ADVENT
OUR CHURCH UPDATES**



Following Christ | Spreading the Word | Serving the Community

Following Christ
Spreading the Word
Serving the Community

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Kirk Session meetings are open to all: please contact Church Office for details
Minutes of Kirk Session meetings are available from the Church Office

Pre-Kirk Session Council: **7 December**
Kirk Session: **1 February**
Kirk Session Council: **7 February**
Kin-nections March-May Deadline: **25 January**



The Church of Scotland

We believe in a God who hears and answers prayer.

You can make a prayer request via our website



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Kinross Parish Church of Scotland



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kpcscotland



Find us on YouTube
Kinross Parish Worship

SUNDAY SERVICES

December 2021 to February 2022

- **Please note:** like all churches, we are following Scottish Government and Church of Scotland Covid guidance. Check for updates on our website, Facebook or contact the Church Office
- **In person:** you are welcome to turn up to 10.30am Sunday Worship and take a seat. Safety is our primary concern so we will maintain as much distancing between seats as possible. Face masks must continue to be worn (unless exempt). No handshakes or hugs - sorry! Please continue to enter by the main door only. Those arriving for tea before the service must give contact details/ use QR code.
- **Watch live:** Sunday Service livestreamed on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)
- **Recordings:** available on www.kinrossparishchurch.org, YouTube, Facebook or dial 01577 528270. For a CD recording of the service please contact the Church Office. Sermons are available on the [Worship tab of the website](#)

In our Advent services during December we will be following our series looking at King David by preparing the way for the coming of David's greater Son, Jesus Christ. During January and February we will be looking at the theme of Discipleship through a study of the 1st Letter of John.

See back cover for Christmas services.

5 Dec:	Communion Sunday - Psalm 27 - God my Saviour
12 Dec:	Isaiah 12:1-6 - A Day is Coming
19 Dec:	Luke 1:39-45 - Jumping with Gladness
26 Dec:	Christmas Sunday Service of Lessons and Carols
2 Jan:	New Year Sunday Reflections
9 Jan:	1 John 1:1-4 - A Foundation in Christ
16 Jan:	1 John 1:5 to 2:2 - A New Start in Life
23 Jan:	1 John 2:3-11 - Walking with God
30 Jan:	1 John 2:12-27 - Distinctive Living
06 Feb:	1 John 2:28 to 3:10 - A Family Resemblance
13 Feb:	1 John 3:11-24 - A Living Sacrifice
20 Feb:	1 John 4:1-21 - The Greatest Commandment
27 Feb:	1 John 5:1-21 - A Confident Future

Keeping in Contact: Every household connected to the Church usually receives a visit before each quarterly Communion. Regrettably, Covid-19 has disrupted this pattern but all households have an allocated pastoral elder. If you wish to contact your elder but don't have their details, please contact the Church Office on 01577 862570 and leave a message or office@kinrossparishchurch.org.

Your Pastoral Elder is: _____

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CONNECTING WITH GOD

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

New Members

Lesley-Ann and Robert Calvert

Linda Milne

Funerals

16 September Marion Garden

5 October Ruth Lauener

26 October Georgina Long

9 November Geoff Barlow

11 November John Webster

15 November Annabel Johnston

19 November John Russell

Baptism

Darcy, daughter of Emma and Craig

Kin-nections is looking for a new Creative Editor.

If you're interested get in touch.

Email: kinnectionseditor@gmail.com



TALKING WITH GOD

Come, Emmanuel.

Renew our faith this Advent and awaken our hearts anew to Your message. Help us create a path for You to re-enter our hurting and damaged world. Help us to remember Your assurance that You are with us always, to allow us to live our lives fully and gladly in Your presence.

Come, Emmanuel.

As we hear the familiar stories of Your Son's entry into this confused world as a baby, help us to draw fresh motivation from them to spread Your gospel. Help us to stand up for You in a world where so many have not heard, or who chose to ignore, Your message. Let this Advent be a time when hearts and minds are opened and willing to listen. Come and open wide our eyes of wonder.

Come, Emmanuel.

We know that many in our community may still feel lonely in the bustling season. Help us to be sensitive to each other's emotions and to show empathy, patience and compassion to all. Allow each of us to offer a warm welcome to our neighbours - whoever they may be. Help us to show Your Love and Your Peace to all we come into contact with throughout Advent and beyond.

Come, Emmanuel.

Lord, we are sorry for the times we forget You, and ask that, this Advent, You would help us prepare our hearts to show Your eternal love through Your precious Son. Give us time to reflect on Your Word, come to You in prayer and seek more of You in every area of our lives.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel!.

- Anne Sutherland

REFLECTIONS

The Wave of Hope

In this world with all its problems,
In the dark we grope,
Seeking in desperation
To find a ray of hope.

So let us work together
To avoid the slippery slope,
To ruin and destruction
And join the Wave of Hope.

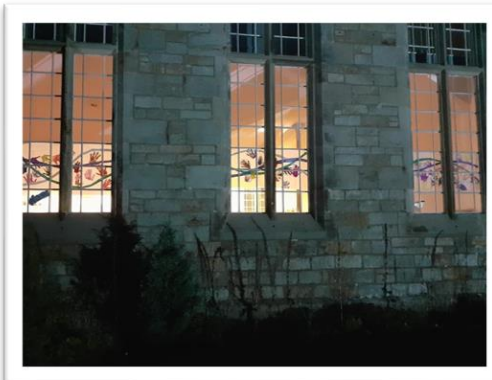
To climate change and Covid,
Et cetera, we say, "Nope!
We cannot let you wreck our
world,
We need a sign of hope!"

And God heard our earnest cry.
He knew we'd never cope,
So he sent his son to rescue us,
And bring much needed hope.

And the proof we see in Advent,
So we need no longer mope,
On the 28th of November,
We'll light the candle of hope.

So as we gaze at the waving hands,
Our hearts and eyes we'll ope,
And thank you, Lord, our Saviour,
For the blessed gift of hope.

-Irene McFarlane



The Wave of Hope artwork was made by our young people during Harvest Thanksgiving worship.

FROM THE MANSE...



Dear Friends,

Although our immediate focus is on preparations for Christmas and the celebration of all that God has given us of Himself in Jesus, I want to take this opportunity to point you slightly further

ahead into the new year. The Kirk Session at its meeting in November approved the remit of a new Discipleship working group with the aim of helping each of us to grow as disciples of Jesus. The aim is “to encourage each member of the church to grow in their faith and in their personal relationship with God and for members to support and encourage each other as they journey in faith together.” All of us are at different stages along the way with Christ but what I would like to suggest is that all of us commit ourselves in the year ahead to taking one significant step forward as a Christian.

We will start the year with a sermon series based on the First Letter of John in the New Testament in which we will look at different aspects of what it means to follow Jesus today, and during those Sunday morning services I hope to invite different people to share something of their own story of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. We have much to learn from each other's experiences as well as from resources such as daily Bible reading notes, biographies of Christians, books and videos about different aspects of walking with God in the midst of daily life, and online study courses of various kinds.

Perhaps if you only occasionally attend church you could make a conscious decision to get into the habit of weekly worship; if you are a regular church attender but don't think much about your faith during the week you could begin to use the daily prayer diary or follow a daily Bible reading course; if you have never spoken about faith with others why not join one of the weekly house-groups; if you feel there is more you could offer in Christian service, perhaps there is some training you could undertake. I will be happy to help you think about steps you could take at this time.

I hope that over the coming months new opportunities will develop for asking questions or having discussion times over coffee after services and I'm sure that as the new Discipleship Group gets established there will be new initiatives taken that will engage more people in “Following Christ, Spreading the Word, Serving the Community.”

Christmas is only the beginning. Let Christ be born in you afresh and may you be open to where He will lead you in 2022.

Your fellow-traveller,
Alan
Rev.A.D. Reid

TIME FOR PRAYER

You are invited to come before God in prayer individually and in company with others. The following opportunities are offered to assist you in sharing in this important ministry.

- The monthly Prayer Diary is available on our website and circulated by email. Printed copies are available from the Church Office.
- Each Sunday evening at 6pm there is an opportunity to gather with others to pray via Zoom (online or by telephone).
- Each Wednesday at midday there is a time for prayer in the church when our special focus is on our local community.
- On the first Monday morning of the month at 8am there is a time of guided meditation in the church on 6 December, 10 January & 7 February).
- On the third Thursday of the month you are invited to pause before bed for the late evening monastic prayer service of Compline at 9pm. This takes place in the church on 16 December, 20 January & 17 February).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY STEWARDS 2022 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



It is hoped that the General Assembly will return in person from Saturday 21 to Thursday 26 May 2022 and it is seeking volunteers for various stewarding tasks.

A couple of members of the congregation have done this for a number of years and would encourage anyone to consider contributing in this way to the smooth running of the Assembly. You can choose dates and times to suit you, the duties are varied and it is an excellent opportunity to see the Assembly in action and also to meet volunteers from other congregations. Contact assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org

MINISTRY TRAINING UPDATE

A NOTE FROM ROB PETTIFER

I am now a few months into my discernment process and I am thoroughly enjoying it. I never thought I would be at this point when I became a Christian, 13 years ago, but the Lord is wonderful and his ways are always better than ours. He has led me thus far from Derbyshire to Perth and kept me all that time, and I am looking forward to what he has in store for me next.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to be able to explore ministry and listen to the Lord's voice and I want to thank you all at Kinross for making Elaine and me feel so welcomed and loved. It has been an honour to be involved in the worship of the church, and being able to preach and lead prayers has been a great experience. So, a big thank you to everyone. The path is a lot clearer now than it was but if you could please continue to pray for us, that God would continue to lead and guide and that we would know when he has opened the right door.



AN UPDATE FROM IAN MORRISON

During an initial training meeting at 121 George Street, I was asked if I had a preference for my first placement as a student for Ordained Local Ministry. At the time, I didn't know what I needed and so left it in their (and God's!) hands. I've now completed over a third of my placement with you at Kinross, and am delighted I was placed with your church family.



I haven't had the chance to meet everyone yet but many of you will know me from Sunday mornings as I find my feet in worship. Alan has been such a patient and encouraging mentor - he makes it look so effortless! I'm blessed with the opportunity to learn with a supportive congregation too, and thank you for your kind words and prayers.

I've also been sharing in other aspects of your church life, joining the young people on a Sunday evening, attending Bible studies, Compline, the Guild; and spending time at Kirk Session. Kinross church has a packed and diverse mission programme in the local community and I'm looking forward to experiencing even more of your outreach work.

My girls wanted me to thank you for the warm and loving welcome they've received. Susan, Rebecca and Elizabeth enjoy meeting you after the service and are always encouraged by the friendship offered by all the new faces.

I'm not sure what God has planned for my future Ministry, but He's given me

the best start by bringing me to Kinross.

Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"

Congratulations to Gill Boardman who received a Gold Litter Picker Award from Perth & Kinross Council.

Pictured with Jim Smith, Kinross Parish Church Eco Team leader.



Sunday mailer: let the church keep you in touch! Contact office@kinrossparishchurch.org and we will add you to the list to receive our weekly news

SUNDAY WORSHIP - RINGING IN THE CHANGES

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEING INVOLVED IN STRENGTHENING OUR RELATIONSHIPS AS A CHURCH FAMILY

As restrictions begin to ease, and gatherings in person become possible again, we're exploring ways of how we can grow together as a church family. We've experimented during the autumn term, trying out early gatherings (Wake Up, Warm Up, Worship), having coffee in the garden before worship and changing some of the format of the 10.30am service. Some ideas have worked better than others, and we continue to explore how we can worship together as an all-age congregation and to develop friendships between the older and younger members of the Church family.

Over 40 people ranging from 8 to 80 enjoyed our first all-age excursion to Hollywood Bowl in Dunfermline. We hope to plan more events like this so that we can get to know each other better in a social context, and if this is something that you'd like to help to organise, please speak to me or send an email to the Church Office. More importantly, look out for details of the next one and join us!



There has been a team of people providing activities for children during some of the more formal parts of the morning services. As well as crafts and games, they are currently filming their own version of the Nativity, which is due to be premiered on **Sunday 19 December**. Future plans for the children are fluid, as we explore how best to

integrate our younger members into our services while still giving them opportunities to develop friendships with others of their own age. We welcome those who would like to work with us as we look for the best way to engage with the children in our parish.

As well as experiments on Sunday mornings, we have been inviting young people to meet at the church on Sunday evenings from 7pm till 8.30pm. We've been having a short service together with songs, a thought from the Bible and a time for prayer before sitting down to eat together. After that, we've had some fun games or activities. We plan to meet every Sunday night this term, finishing with a Christmas Party on **Sunday 12 December**.



Family time

If you're P7 or above, you would be very welcome to join us.

- Ruth Robertson

Scratch Nativity, Sunday 12 December - look out for details!

AN UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS? OR NOT SO UNUSUAL?

It was November and, to his surprise, the department store was beautifully decorated and Christmas music, both secular and religious, was playing out loudly. Surprised? Why surprised?

The senior doctor was in Kuwait, lecturing to young Kuwaiti doctors who were hoping to obtain British postgraduate qualifications - and in Kuwait you are expected to be a Muslim! Indigenous Kuwait Christians, of whom there are half a million out of a total population of just over four million, far from celebrating openly and joyfully the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, must keep quiet about their faith. If a Muslim decides to follow Jesus, he or she is likely to be disowned by family and community and faces harassment from the government.

Why then the Christmas celebrations in the shops? It has to be assumed that non-Christian Kuwaitis can be attracted into the shops to spend at this season, which has become so secularised even in Christian countries.

There are also thousands of expatriate workers in Kuwait, from the Philippines, India and elsewhere, many of whom are Christian. They are allowed to worship and celebrate Christmas, provided their place of worship is registered with the government.

The experience of indigenous Christians in Kuwait is far from unique. Literally all over the world, many thousands of Christians are quite unable to celebrate Christmas openly because of persecution. This can vary from a high probability of sentence of death, if you are in North Korea, to more subtle forms in the way of educational and job opportunities being denied to openly confessing Christians.

Please, as we happily and openly celebrate the birth of our Saviour, spare a thought - and not a few prayers - for our brothers and sisters in such circumstances.

- John McArthur

COP26 GOALS

By the time you read this issue of Kin-nections, COP26 will have taken place. Here is what the conference hoped to achieve. How close did the leaders come to realising these goals?

Secure global Net Zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach

Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets that align with reaching Net Zero by the middle of the century. To deliver on these targets, countries will need to:

- accelerate the phase-out of coal
- curtail deforestation
- speed up the switch to electric vehicles
- encourage investment in renewables.

Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats

The climate is already changing and it will continue to change even as we reduce emissions, with devastating effects. COP26 will need to work together to enable and encourage countries affected by climate change to:

- protect and restore ecosystems
- build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.

Mobilise finance

To deliver on the first two goals, developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year by 2020. International financial institutions must play their part and we need to work towards unleashing the trillions in private and public sector finance required to secure global Net Zero.

Work together to deliver

We can only rise to the challenges of the climate crisis by working together. COP26 must:

- finalise the Paris Rulebook (the detailed rules that make the Paris Agreement operational)
- accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society.

Pray that we may all play our part to create a greener, fairer planet.



LET'S CARE FOR CREATION

Churches throughout Scotland, including congregations of the Church of Scotland, organised worship, education, prayer, protest and support on the issue of climate change and climate justice during COP26 in Glasgow. Here are just some of the powerful statements issued by our own Church, by organisations we are closely involved with, and from the wider world Church:

Church of Scotland: 'The world belongs to God. Let's show it by being ready to engage with the opportunities and challenges that come from COP26. Our neighbours, the planet and we, will all be the better for it.'

Tearfund: 'As Christians we need to understand that creation is a gospel issue, and an issue of justice. When we show by our actions that we want to live in a fairer, more sustainable world, we are caring for our global neighbours and valuing what God has given us.'

Eco-Congregation Scotland: 'No Christian should do other than sit up and take notice, determined to pray and act differently in every aspect of our lives. Covid has taught us we can do so.'

Christian Aid: 'COP26 is a huge moment. The Church has a crucial role to play. Churches can speak with a strong moral voice. Our brothers and sisters living in the most marginalised communities in the world - who have done the least to cause the climate crisis - are paying the heaviest price.'

The Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Anglican Community have issued a joint statement urging everyone to play their part in safeguarding the future of the planet: 'We must decide what kind of world we want to leave for future generations. We must choose to live differently; we must choose life.'



KINROSS CAR SHARE SCHEME - MOVE GREENER

In September, Malcolm McFarlane from Kinross Move Greener, a local environmental charity, spoke at the morning service. Kinross Move Greener have partnered

with Enterprise Car Club to launch a car share scheme in Kinross. This is a green alternative to personal car ownership. You book the car online and pick it up from Millbridge car park. Membership of the car club costs £20 per year and trips are charged at £6 per hour, plus 21p per mile.

So why use a car club? It can save you money, particularly if you are driving less than 5,000 miles per year. For

instance, you might be working more from home and have been a two-car family out of necessity, or you are older and wish the convenience of a car but no longer make frequent trips.

The real benefits however are environmental. Each shared car takes 13 cars off the road. Car ownership is not a sustainable model. The statistics are sobering:

- Ours cars are not used 23 hours per day
- 60% of the journeys we take are less than 5 miles
- There are 32 million cars in the UK, up 28% since 2001 and by 2050 this will rise to 44 million.

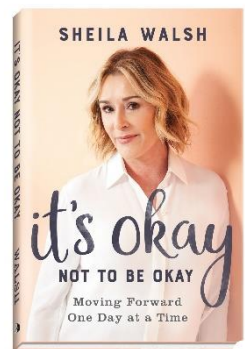
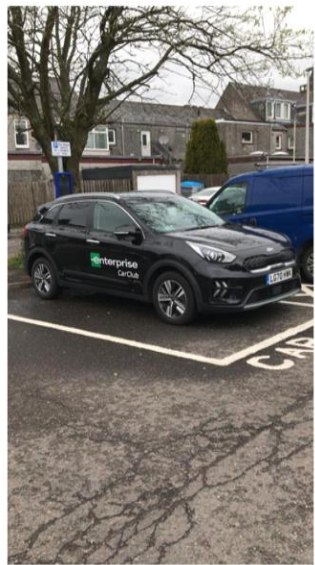
The UK government is spending £27 billion on new roads in this parliament. By contrast, the Welsh government have now suspended future road-building, saying it is essential to "shift away from spending money on projects that encourage more people to drive. Spending

should be prioritised for public transport and green alternatives such as cycle ways".

Electric cars are currently seen as the answer, but they are not guilt-free. They still consume vast

amounts of resources and energy to manufacture, maintain, charge and dispose of. The revolutionary answer is fewer cars and with Glasgow having hosted COP26, schemes like the one in Kinross are the start of this transformation.

Details of the Kinross car share scheme are at www.movegreener.org. The first 50 members to join receive £20 credit towards their driving account.



BOOK REVIEW: IT'S OKAY NOT TO BE OKAY BY SHEILA WALSH

I first came across the author Sheila Walsh when she supported Cliff Richard at a gospel concert - she has a great singing voice and has released more than 25 albums. She was born in Ayr, but has moved to America and settled there. Prior to singing, she studied theology and continued to do more theological studies when she moved to the US. She battled depression and, as she began to improve, she started to write about this time of her life, and has now authored more than 35 books. She is also a renowned inspirational speaker and hosts a TV show in the US.

Some of her books are more theological than others. *It's Okay not to be Okay* doesn't fall into the 'theological' category - it is an easy book to read, but more difficult to put into action. Although it was written in 2018 (before anyone had heard of coronavirus), it is especially relevant to the time we are now living in. It starts with taking that vital first step and being completely honest with God. The title is an expression which has been cited a great number of times in the last couple of years, but this book offers a practical plan for moving forward one step (and one day) at a time. It reminds us to let go of what we can't control (easier said than done at times) and not to panic - **God has got you**. One of my favourite things about the book is that, at the end of each chapter, there is a page called 'One step at a time', which offers ways to put into practice what you have read and move forward. Sheila doesn't expect everyone to be okay at the first attempt, and there is a chapter called 'decide to start again...and again', as well as reminding us that nothing we walk through is wasted - God can use you and your experiences, whatever they are.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who is struggling to be 'okay', or as a gift for others who may be struggling.

- Anne Sutherland

NEW YEAR PRAYER

As the dawn breaks on a New Year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear – our family, our friends, our health and our Church.

Lord, help us to keep you at the forefront of our lives in the year ahead.

We pray for the healing of the nations, for strength and vision in our Church and community.

Loving God, walk with us as we question and welcome, as we challenge and invite, as we discover and understand, for acceptance of ourselves and as we prepare for the surprises of a New Year.

Walk beside us, Lord, as we see, touch, taste and listen for the newness awaiting us in the coming year.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of the way, guiding our decisions and desires.

We ask that you will open doors for us and close the ones that need to be shut.

We ask for your wisdom, strength and power to be present within us.

We ask that you will make all things new in our hearts and minds and in our living in this coming year.

To You, Lord, be glory, honour and praise in the New Year and forever.

We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

- *By Rev Margaret Michie*

PASTORAL SUPPORT: CAN YOU HELP?

When we grouped the former districts into slightly larger areas with a team of elders and magazine distributors providing pastoral care, we intended to begin having social gatherings of members from a couple of areas at a time. However, due to the current Covid conditions and the onset of winter, we are delaying these until spring 2022.

There are, however, two ways in which members can help others in the congregation:

- Delivering magazines to some homes in your area.
- Visiting or phoning two or three members living near you. This is much the same as the telephone contacting carried out during lockdown and is a start to reinstating our Visiting Group.

If you would like more information on either of these ways in which you can help make our Church responsive to the pastoral needs of its members, please contact Rev Margaret Michie or me.

Kinross-shire Volunteers has been doing a sterling job offering practical support by taking people to Perth for vaccine boosters, having undertaken over 50 journeys in one week, one volunteer having done four trips in one day. They are always looking for new volunteers and drivers and so if you would like more information, contact them directly on 01577 862685, administrator@kvgandros.org.uk or visit their website: www.kvgandros.org.uk

- *Robert Mitchell, Pastoral Group Convener*



TABLE TALK

Table Talk is an informal group of people that meets weekly on Zoom for coffee and fellowship. We chat about anything and everything, sharing laughter and stories.

Please feel free to join us – we would love to see you there from the comfort of your own home, especially as the winter approaches.

When: Thursdays 11am-12 noon

Where: Zoom - link available on weekly email or from Church Office

Who: You!

Our church thrives on the support of volunteers! If you have a little bit of time to offer, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Church office or speak with the Minister

Advent is a time of preparation and the Traidcraft stall can help!

This year please consider giving useful but decorative gifts of Traidcraft goods. It might be Fairtrade tea, coffee, biscuits and chocolate, or it might be Kilombero rice from Malawi, lentils and chickpeas from India and delicious curry sauce and lime pickle from Eswatini in Africa!



Please come to the Traidcraft stall at the festive market or contact the Church Office and we can arrange to deliver a beautiful decorative basket to you, from small to large. These baskets are available all year round so can be given as presents, where you would like to give something you know will be appreciated and enjoyed! The basket arrives beautifully wrapped so you only have to arrange delivery or collection with your friend or family member. We also have lovely Christmas cards so please get in touch if you would like to purchase any Traidcraft item.

- *The Traidcraft Team*

The Guild

The Guild are back on Zoom for the winter months. We have been pleased to welcome some new members. In September we had an interesting talk about the Starchild Project. A total of £193 was collected for the project, which is amazing!

Please check the Intimations and website for dates and times of meetings. New members and visitors are very welcome.

- *Helena Cant*



Craft & Banner Group

A few months ago I happened to hear Rob Pettifer mention in church that he had links with the Eagles Wings Trust, a Christian charity based in Dundee. This charity works with homeless people and those who struggle with addictions. (Kinross Parish Church is supporting Eagles Wings in its Christmas special offering.)

At the Craft Group we had been looking for a project for a long time, so after some discussion with Rob I asked the members if they would like to knit for this charity. There's no stopping them – they soon had the needles clicking! A box of hats, gloves, scarves, socks & neck warmers is filling up quite nicely. We hope to pass on these items before the really cold weather comes along.

Also, if you've attended worship or watched the online services you'll have seen the lovely new harvest banner. The Banner Group ladies finished it in time for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. I'm sure you'll agree that it's beautiful!

It's good meeting up face to face again at the group but we're still wearing masks so it does make it difficult to have a conversation.

If you sew, knit or do any other crafts, please come along to our meetings on a Wednesday at the Church from 1.30pm until 3pm. If you'd like more information please contact the Church Office and we'll be in touch.

- *Margaret Clark*



Farewell from the Thursday Group

After 46 years the Thursday Group has unfortunately made the decision to disband. We are all sad about this inevitable decision but we look back at our time with fond memories. Events such as guest speakers, Christmas meals, our yearly fundraiser, the beetle drive and Ian Hunter singing are to name but a few.

The books have been audited by the Church Treasurer and the remaining funds have been shared between the Church and the Kinross Centre.

- *Maureen Porter. President*



All Friends Together

All Friends Together (AFT) welcomes adults with special needs to a monthly celebration of Jesus.

This has been a fairly quiet period for the Group. The leaders were delighted to be able to get together, outdoors, for our annual longer-term planning of future gatherings. It was so nice to actually see each other - not just on a computer screen. Although we took a break from our usual gathering in October, we were delighted to be able to attend the Prospects Across Scotland Celebration - albeit on Zoom - on 30 October. It was so good to see everyone again and to hear everyone singing. More than 30 individuals and groups joined in - from Lerwick, Shetland to the Borders. The theme of 'Freedom to be me' encouraged everyone to remember that God loves us all equally, and when we have the freedom to be ourselves, we can feel God's pleasure. We all left with a song in our hearts and a smile on our lips.

We are still considering whether we can (safely) meet together in person for our Christmas Gathering, but the hope is that this will be possible. Last year, we managed to have a successful Zoom Christmas Gathering, but it would be so nice to see each other in person again. We are keen to get back to face-to-face meetings, but we are unsure of whether this will be possible from the beginning of 2022. We would appreciate your prayers for wisdom and guidance on this issue, as we know that other groups within the Church will be going through the same decisions.

- *Anne Sutherland*

Brigade

1st Kinross Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association meets in our Church Centre on a Friday evening and buzzes with energy! Whether the children and young people are playing badminton, dodgeball or volleyball they are learning about teamwork, discipline and the art of having fun! Every week is carefully planned by Captain William Constable and his team of volunteers, so there is engaging variety, such as learning about environmental issues and Bible stories. From the youngest to the oldest (P1 to S6), Brigade members are learning about leadership and community service. The Brigade Enrolment Service on Sunday 31 October underlined the important link between Kinross Parish Church and this Christian youth organisation. The (virtual) Queen's Badge presentation showed the fantastic achievements of our local young people. If you would like to be part of the BB adventure, visit their [Facebook](#)



CHURCH FLOWERS HOW TO REQUEST FLOWERS & HOW TO BE A SUPPORTER, ARRANGER OR DISTRIBUTOR

We hope you have enjoyed seeing the beautiful, colourful display of flowers every week in church.

The ministry of flowers is of great importance and means such a lot to those receiving them. Each week after Sunday worship the flowers are distributed within the parish.

Would you like to support the Flower Fund with a financial contribution?

All Sundays are listed from December 2021 on the flower cupboard door in the meeting room. Sign up for any available date - please book early if you wish a particular date.

Perhaps you would like to join the rota for arranging or distributing the Church flowers?

Or should you wish to suggest a recipient (special birthday, anniversary, illness or just keeping in touch) please contact the Church Office.

Date for your diary: **Saturday 18 December, 10am** in Church, setting up Christmas flower arrangements. Why not pop in and meet the team?



GROWING YOUNG UPDATE

WHAT WILL WE BECOME AS A CHURCH?

At a recent Growing Young team meeting we were reminded of the importance of communicating what is going on in the process and taking the whole congregation with us in the journey of discovering what God wants us to be as His people at this time. So here is an attempt to summarise what has been happening over the last few months and what lies ahead.

It is essential to recognise that 'Growing Young' is *not* an off-the-shelf miracle youth programme but is, rather, a process which engages the whole church family in a change of culture, a journey from thinking of the church as an institution to becoming a Jesus-centred community characterised by the following six core commitments: an emphasis on Jesus' message, being a fellowship where warm relationships are in evidence, a conscious focus on young people (which research shows actually enables those of *all* ages to thrive), a practical love for the wider community, a willingness to pass responsibilities on down the generations, and a genuine interest in others, what makes them tick and what challenges they face. This is something that engages and challenges each one of us, whatever age we may be.

As we enter the second year of the process, the message of Year 1 was that there are no quick answers when it comes to culture change and that the process is more like making a meal in a slow-cooker than in a microwave. Year 2 is about expanding and building upon the experiments that emerged from last year's conversations. So what happens next?

Although we have been somewhat hampered by Covid restrictions, we have been following up some of the 'dreams' that many of you shared with us during the



course of last year about what you would like to see Kinross Parish Church become. We are looking at ideas under three headings: Inward, Outward and Forward. Probably the most significant 'inward' developments have involved a greater intergenerational focus in Sunday morning worship (following on from earlier experiments in Wake Up, Warm Up, Worship). We are working towards greater inclusion of children and young people in church in ways that will make them feel more at home as part of the church family instead of being seemingly 'banished' down the road to the Church Centre week by week. A more significant worship dimension has also been introduced to our Sunday evening teenage group, Crossfire, and we hope to build on that in partnership with KYTHE.

Looking 'outward', there has been a monthly church presence at the Farmers' Market and screens in the Church Centre entrance will soon give the opportunity to publicise the work of the congregation and the Good News of Christ to the huge numbers of people who come and go there day by day. We are hopeful that some of the money donated on the Day of Giving will be used to develop the Church garden as a welcoming community space, a place of encounter.

As we move 'forward' the next step is to integrate Growing Young thinking into every area of the church's life and to that end we plan to hold a Growing Young Café in the church for an hour at 3pm on **Sunday 5 December**. This is particularly aimed at those in the under-40 age-group and for members of Kirk Session working groups, but any in the congregation who are interested in helping to take this process forward are invited to attend. It is for *all* of us to shape the way ahead and to be shaped in our faith by the influence of others.

- Rev Alan Reid

PRAM SERVICE - COULD YOU BE PART OF THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY?

Some people have asked about Pram Service, so I thought I would give an update. It has been a big part of my life since 2000 but I have now taken the decision to step away as leader. Pram Service and its volunteer helpers used to welcome up to 35 pre-school children and their parents and carers on a Tuesday morning for faith and fellowship. It would be wonderful if someone felt they could take over - it's a unique and rewarding ministry. I would be happy to share experiences and resources. It has been a privilege to share the gospel with the Pram Service family, thank you all for a wonderful time and I send love and blessings to you all.



- Evelyn Cairns

Beware email scams: please continue to be vigilant. Never follow anything that insists you take urgent action. Always check. Be a healthy sceptic!

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Firstly, a huge thank you to all who contributed to the amazing total of £2,771.34 raised for Tear Fund - Recover Together in the September & Harvest Special Offerings.

For our December and Christmas Special Offerings our thoughts turn nearer to home and to two organisations working in Scotland working to alleviate the effects of poverty and homelessness.

To make a donation to the December or Christmas special offerings, please bring an envelope to Sunday worship marked with the name of the charity, or give online - please visit the [Giving page of our church website](#) for details.

Christians Against Poverty - 5 December Communion Special Offering

Scottish Charity No. SC038776

This debt counselling charity helps people get back on their feet, walking alongside those who need its services to find the best route out of debt, giving hope for a debt-free future. Its free service provides professional,

practical and emotional support. One person who has used its services said, "I felt ashamed at having to ask for help and I did not know what to expect. But I needn't have worried. There was no blaming or shaming, just debt help without judgement... CAP was there for me."

christians
against
poverty

CAP

Recognising the hardship many individuals and families are facing, the Kirk Session of Kinross Parish Church commends the work of this charity for your support.

Struggling with debt? Call 0800 328 0006 or visit www.capuk.org

Eagles Wings - Christmas Special Offering

Scottish Charity No. SC031493

To Scotland's shame, it has far more drug deaths per capita than any other European



country. Every single one of these deaths is preventable and avoidable and it is the work and dedication of charities such as Dundee-based Eagles Wings that strive to make a difference. Eagles Wings Trust shares the love of God by helping those who are homeless, in the midst of or recovering from addiction. Rob Pettifer, who is currently with Kinross Parish Church during his discernment period, works part-time for this organisation. The team gets alongside those who need their services - often the hardest to reach - with practical support.

The Kirk Session of Kinross Parish Church commends the valuable work of this charity for your support at the Christmas special offering.

Facebook [Eagles Wings Trust](#) or contact info@eagleswingstrust.org.uk

CHRISTMAS WRAP 2021

HOW TO SUPPORT 'CHURCHES ACTION FOR THE HOMELESS'



Kinross Parish Church has generously supported Churches Action for the Homeless (CATH) for many years - an initiative led by the housegroups. In the past the usual format has been to receive your gifts for homeless people and gift wrap them at an evening of fellowship, carols and festive food.

Last year the Christmas Wrap was not possible and, instead of gifts in kind, donations of money were given by the congregation and vouchers bought and distributed for a light lunch at the Mustard Seed in Perth. These were well received.

This year we plan to give supermarket vouchers to help those for whom Christmas brings extra pressures. CATH is currently supporting more than 110 men and women and, sadly, homelessness is on the rise but CATH has

continued to serve and support its clients throughout the pandemic.

Your donations will be very much appreciated and can be given by:

1. Cash in an envelope handed into Church
2. Online via Kinross Parish Church [website Giving page](#) Please clearly mark your donation CATH.

It would be much appreciated if donations can be made **before Friday 3 December** to allow time for Christmas cards and vouchers to be distributed. Thank you for your support.

(Scottish Charity No. SC021740)

Please pray for those who work for CATH, that they may experience God's love and support as they serve homeless and vulnerable people in our community.

CONNECTING WITH GOD

Rejoice, The Light Has Come - By Diane Taylor

“The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” - Matthew 4:16

Dear Lord,

I heard You softly whisper, *“Walk in my light, child”*. Oh but we cannot produce this light by our own accord with all that tries to dim. The worries, stresses and strains of life may be trying to pull us down, but as we turn our eyes to You, and recount the Christmas Story, we pray that You re-ignite our hearts and illuminate our souls.

The Christmas season can bring such joy, such peace and such meaning to our lives. Time spent with family, neighbours and friends, laughing and rejoicing. It can also be a time of sadness and loss and strain. Lord, You know the difficulties each of us face in our own lives, and call us close. You ask us to trust You with Your promises of love and healing and to let Your light shine in and through us. It is Your light that guides our feet, marks our path and casts away all of our shadows.

Lord, You came down to earth to save us as a sign of love. On that Christmas morn, You were born as the purest light of all. An innocent babe, born to the Virgin Mary, come to save the world from all of our sins. To wipe away all tears and show us how to live.

Oh what a wondrous sight that must have been to behold, gazing upon our beautiful Saviour. Love was sent down to save us from the world’s darkness. We need not be afraid . . . for we will know the way home. All we have to do is to respond to Your light within us.

You chose to come to earth as a helpless babe to teach us about the Kingdom of God. Lord, we thank You that You rescue us from our failings, from hesitation, from doubt and from our own limited beliefs and mindsets. You call us to imagine possibilities of hope and be a light of hope to those around us. The more we get to know You, oh Lord, the more You save us from ourselves and rescue us. May Your peace that we cannot fathom or

comprehend take over our hearts, take over our thoughts and take over our circumstances this season. Teach us to step out of the boat and dance upon the waters as we meditate on the Christmas Story and ask You to know Your light in our hearts this Christmas. Rejoice, Rejoice, for The Light Has Come!



“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you”- Isaiah 60:1



Kinross Parish Church Christmas Services 2021

We will be offering worship and fellowship throughout the Advent and Christmas season.

Sunday 19 December
Nativity Service
10:30am

Monday 20 December
Bereavement Service
6.30pm

Friday 24 December
Crib Service
4:30pm

Friday 24 December
Watchnight Service
11:15pm

Saturday 25 December
Christmas Day Service
10:30am

Sunday 26 December
Lessons & Carol Service
10:30am

