



# The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church  
Winter 2022

## Editorial

This December marks 30 years since I first entered Castlehill Church and I've been reflecting on all I have been involved in throughout the past 30 years. I've been baptised, attended crèche and Sunday School. Last month marked 20 years since my gran, Nancy Queen, passed away, who's funeral was at Castlehill. I went to Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, I helped out with the Anchor Boys and even dabbled in some Bell Ringing. Many of my school services at Belmont Academy were held at Castlehill. Now you have to suffer having me as Editor of the magazine. Who knows what the next 30 years at Castlehill will have in store but I look forward to finding out.

Back to the present day, there are many festive celebrations detailed in the magazine, I hope you can get involved, whether it's a Sunday Service or one of the concerts taking place. Perhaps you'll have a New Years Resolution to start a new club— of which there are many to choose from.

Wising you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Rachel Queen, Editor**

### **Castlehill Parish Church, 1, Old Hillfoot Road, Ayr KA7 3LW**

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## Have your say

If you have any comments to make on the Magazine, please feel free to do so by letter or email to [herald@castlehillchurch.org](mailto:herald@castlehillchurch.org). We are always pleased to consider any articles for the magazine from members of the congregation. These can also be sent to the same email address.

## From The Manse



**“Christmas is coming: the Church is glad to sing...”**

### **Dear Friends**

December is often referred to as the “Sad Season” because the darkness that increases each day towards the winter solstice can drag our spirits down generally and more specifically, can cause some to suffer from depression. This winter has been well proclaimed in advance with one of the gloomiest forecasts - not for the weather but for the atmosphere and attitudes anticipated in our country and around the world because of the cost of living rise, the fuel crisis, the plethora of strikes, rampant inflation and an ongoing war which shows no signs of dissipating in Ukraine at least. In that long list there is not much cause for rejoicing and some might say that the Church’s carolling might sound hollow in such hard times.

The very first Christmas did not occur in a trouble free time: foreign occupation, a local tyrant king, a forced census that insisted on relocation to your place of origin, a threat to all the young baby boys, Mary and Joseph forced to flee abroad to save their new son. But out of that came “good news of great joy” heralded by the angels and the encouragement “do not be afraid”. “Peace be with you”. The first Christmas message of Immanuel, God with us, transformed the interpretation of current circumstances and I believe that same promise can achieve the same for us this year as we look into 2023. It is our role to proclaim that message as modern day good news and to show and share joy as we do so. That will not remove the darker side of our situation but it does provide us with hope and love to see us through this time. We do not do it alone and we have so far used these times to increase the amount of contact we enjoy at Castlehill each week. Our Thursday afternoons have been well supported and with them and our other activities make of Castlehill a cosy place where we can share fellowship and perhaps save the cost of personal heating not just at Christmas but throughout the winter. We shall be extending our advertising of this through social media and by more traditional means over the next few weeks for 2023. As always our chorus is “All are welcome at Castlehill” and that is a refrain we ARE glad to sing. It is our role in our community not to identify problems and bemoan them but to recognise them and identify shared solutions that can embrace all who look for company in difficult days. God reached out to us in Jesus with an unchanging love: we follow Jesus when we reach out to others with a similar untiring love. Let us enter the festive season and a new year with that resolution.

‘And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."  
And he replied:  
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."  
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.  
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.’

That familiar poem has a timeless relevance for us: look forward with hope, draw closer in mutual love, and despite all the bad news that is out there, know God’s blessing of peace in your hearts and your homes this Christmas.

I look forward to sharing another Christmas with you in worship.

Paul

### **ADVENT SERVICES**

Monday 5th December at 6.30 p.m. in Church  
Sunday 11th December at 6.00p.m. in Church  
Sunday 18th December at 6.00p.m. in Church  
These are half hour reflective services: all are welcome.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Christmas Eve All Age Service: Saturday 24th December at 7.00p.m.  
Christmas Day Service: Sunday 25th December at 11.00am.  
This will be a briefer service for us to celebrate together on Christmas Day.  
New Year's Day: Sunday 1st January at 11.00a.m.  
This will be a short informal service with tea and coffee and shortbread available.  
All are welcome to our festive worship.

### **FOREHILL CHOIRS**

The two Forehill Primary Choirs are visiting Castlehill to give a concert on Tuesday 20th December at 1.30p.m. They will sing in the Church and then the audience will move through to the Main Hall for tea/coffee. There is no charge for this and you are encouraged to come along yourself to Castlehill and bring friends — there will be in the region of 70 children singing. Please pass the word around and let's create a capacity audience for the young folk and their teachers. We value our ties with the school and appreciate their offer to come back to sing Christmas music for us.

### **BELMONT ACADEMY CONCERT**

All are welcome to come along to the Belmont Christmas Concert on Monday 19th December at 7.00p.m. in the Church. It will be good to welcome the young people back for a Christmas selection of entertainment.



### **Ayr Presbytery**

The Presbytery of Ayr had their final meeting in September. Rev Michael Dickie did the honours of cutting the cake. Michael has been a minister for 67 years and is often found in the congregation at Castlehill.

### **Harvest Service**

Many thanks for all the contributions for the Harvest service. A great volume of food was donated as can be seen on the right.



Our enrolment took place on August 26<sup>th</sup> with our annual BBQ for the boys and their families which was a great success and we increased our numbers. Margaret Graham and Colin Reid had presented to Forehill Primary School to each age group and we appear to have benefited from their evangelising of the Boys' Brigade.

The 17th Ayr mourned the passing of one of our former Captains, David Lynch, one of the most charismatic Captains to have taken charge at Castlehill. His funeral took place at Roucan Loch Crematorium in Dumfries on 31<sup>st</sup> October, the service was conducted by Rev Ian Bell who had been an officer in the 17<sup>th</sup> Ayr while David was Captain. I received a card from David's wife, Helen, in which was a cheque, the cheque was the monies raised from the retiral collection at the funeral. Helen and her son Graeme wanted the 17<sup>th</sup> Ayr to have the money, we are very grateful.

The Junior Section have been visiting some of the emergency services. The boys had a very interesting visit to King Street police station where they were put into the cells. They held the battering ram the police use to break through doors. They also visited the fire station. Here they saw all round the station and had explained to them all the equipment on the engines and what it is for. The highlight for the boys was holding the hose with the watering pumping twenty feet ahead of them. The other notable event was their Hallowe'en party.



In the Anchor Boys Craig McGeechin has stepped into Margaret's shoes and has taken charge of the section with great success. The numbers in the section have grown and recently we have had some new recruits from Kincaidston Primary which we are very pleased about. The highlight of the session so far was the Hallowe'en party.

Our annual dedication service is always one of the highlights in our BB calendar and Paul manages to express the importance of it for all those who participate. As always we had our Soup and Sweet lunch after the service. Thanks to all who attended. Everyone was very complimentary of the soup and the sweet. All the food was prepared fresh on the day by Margaret and William Graham. Our thanks go to them both for such a fantastic lunch. Two weeks later we were back in church for the Remembrance Sunday Service. Our BB Wreath was laid by two Anchor Boys, Lucas O'Hanlon and James Hanton.

On the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November we went on our weekend "camp" to Lapwing Lodge in the Gleniffer Braes, just south of Paisley. This is a Scout facility which we have visited a number of times previously. On the Friday evening we enjoyed a chippy takeaway courtesy of the Bowmans who have started to give an annual donation for a takeaway in memory of their son Alistair who famously enraged me by phoning for a Chinese takeaway late one night at one of our camps. Thanks to Eleanor and Bill. On Saturday morning we visited the transport museum which the boys loved, especially the tall ship. In the afternoon we had our



own World Cup tournament. The boys were in four teams for the weekend with each one choosing a country from the World Cup. Spain won, this was the officers' team. Saturday night is always a quiz night with a music, sport and logos rounds and one round on the activities of the day. On Sunday morning we had a Sunday Service which focused on Hope, the focus of the first Sunday in Advent. After the service we went on a treasure hunt round Paisley which took the form of a two hour walk round paisley following directions to pick up clues,. The boys loved it. After lunch we finished off the weekend with a team building exercise where each team had to build a shelter from newspapers which would be big enough to house a boy. There were varying levels of success. It was another successful weekend which owes a lot to the commitment of the officers, thanks to Graeme Watt, Colin Reid, Sharon Reid and helper David Moore.



We now look forward to Christmas, to our parties and to a well earned break. The 17<sup>th</sup> Ayr wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Ian Queen**

# Youth Church



Does your child want to learn more about the stories in the bible? Bring them over to Castlehill Church on a Sunday morning from 11 to 12noon.

For more information contact: [maggie641.mg@gmail.com](mailto:maggie641.mg@gmail.com)



## Remembrance Service

Wreaths from left to right:  
Church, Belmont Academy, Boys' Brigade, Forehill Primary School, Girl Guiding, Kincaidston Primary School, Guild

Colours: 17th Ayr Boys' Brigade and Girl Guiding

# Award Winner

Congratulations to John and the team at Prime Cuts Butchers who won the Silver award at the Scottish Craft Butchers Steak competition in October.



## Prime Cuts Butchers

Unit 2  
49 Maybole Road  
Ayr  
KA7 4SF  
01292 443445

It all started some 3 years ago when in discussion with some friends, we realised that we really needed a place to store classic cars. We thought it was a very simple task, surely such a place would be easy to find.

We viewed some unused farm buildings and some empty factory buildings but most left me feeling very unsafe to be in. So that proved more than a bit disappointing. Time went on, as did the search then out of the blue I found the place which fitted the bill but, there was a small issue. In fact it was a pretty big issue, it could hold 35 cars, not to be deterred, my thoughts were that if I had the problem other car collectors must have too. So undeterred I acquired the building in the hope that I could convince other classic car owners to use my storage space whilst paying me some rent to help cover my costs.



The work started installing lighting, heating, security systems and of course lots of painting and talking to other car owners about what some people referred to as the crazy scheme. I was very often I was asked "what makes a car a classic car" in most car clubs they would reply, "if a car is more than 25 years old it's a classic". In my view "if you want to store it, it's a classic" we have cars stored that are 30 years old and cars that are two years old.

Time moved on and so did my campaign and within 2 years the building was full of classic cars, which made me realise than I still had not solved my problem. I still did not have a place to store my classic car. I think often of advice I was given many years ago when first starting my business life, "If you have a goldfish and keep it in a jam jar, you will have one fish to care for, if you buy a fish tank you will end up with lots of fish to care for" so the search restarted and as luck would have it the building next door became available, so I had no real choice but to acquire that and history repeats its self, the work starts all over again.

This time, as we had the experience, I thought it would be easier, but as we all know since Covid try and buy anything or find tradesmen. You will find it's ten times harder and much more expensive, however we managed to complete the extension this year. We can now store about 80 cars and to date I have a small corner to store my classic car. Customers keep coming and demand increases, I may still have to look for a small place to keep my classic car. The interesting fact is that we don't advertise, in fact it has been said that we don't make it easy for customers to do business with us, no one is allowed access unless they prove they have a car to store. We like to think that we value our customers property. I have kept the premises very secluded and secure, it just works. I may describe it as a hobby business, but I assure you HMRC consider it a business.



**George Brown**

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## South Ayrshire Foodbank - Castlehill Parish Distribution

Well, it does not seem like eighteen months ago we started the Foodbank Distribution in the church and now we prepare for Christmas 2022.

We have been getting busier each Friday over the past few months, seeing seven or eight requests in one week.

The volunteer teams are working well together and are now split into three groups so we work a one week in three rota with a co-ordinator. A specific list of required donations will be updated every six weeks and will be included on the intimation sheet each Sunday, which, we understand people are finding useful regarding what to donate.

Once again our sincere thanks for all the donations left on a Sunday morning. Between ten and twelve carrier bags a week are being returned to the Prestwick warehouse for further packing and distribution.



Thanks to Sandra, Church Secretary, for producing the Advent Calendar available from the table in the vestibule - please pick one up.

You are always welcome to pop in any Friday to see what happens and say hello.

**Andrew Graham & Margaret Gerrard**  
Joint Co-ordinators

## Christian Aid

The 2022 AGM of the local Christian Aid Branch was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, the first held since 2019. It was decided to take note of the altering circumstances of our society due to both the Covid-19 Pandemic and demographic changes.



As churches now remit collection monies directly to Christian Aid HQ, there is no need now for a bank account or treasurer. However, a secretary is required, and it was decided to proceed with a 'Rolling' Chair.

The committee will concentrate on Christian Aid Week (in May), The Holy Fair, Carol Singing and other ad hoc collections such as the Kilt Walk, as they come along.

**Allan Jack**

## GIRLGUIDING REPORT

### Castlehill and Doon District



All units have again been keeping busy.

In September, a few of the girls from one of our Brownie units joined Dalrymple Brownies at a Girlguiding Scotland event at Blair Drummond Safari Park, both girls and adults had a terrific day and it was a great opportunity for the girls to meet other units from all over Scotland.

We were all saddened to hear of the death of our Patron, Queen Elizabeth and flowers were laid at the Church's Jubilee tree. The flowers were coloured red, yellow and blue for the colours of Rainbow, Brownies and Guides.

In October, Monday night Brownies had a Pack Holiday at our local centre, Nether Auchendrane This was based on a Halloween theme and in November Tuesday night Brownies had a Pack Holiday also at Nether Auchendrane based on an early Christmas theme. Tuesday night Guides will be having a weekend residential also at Nether Auchendrane in December again based on a Christmas theme.

We had representation at the Remembrance Service on 13<sup>th</sup> November with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and with a full colour party from the Guides. We were pleased that our Leaders and representatives from our unit in Dalrymple joined us.

We are manning a stall at the Church Fayre and we are making preparations for that.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December two Brownie Units and two Rainbow Units are attending a special Girlguiding showing of the film Matilda and both girls and adults are looking forward to that.

Dalrymple Brownie Unit are having a Christmas night at the ten pin bowling and we are sure there will be more Christmas activities happening.

We are continuing to work on our badges and unit meeting activities and more awards should be presented in the near future.

All units were invited to take part in Pencil Express which was a Resource from Girlguiding encouraging girls to express themselves through art and writing. All the girls in every unit were given a pencil for this purpose.

We have welcomed a new Leader in Training to work with the Rainbows and a number of Leaders have now obtained their Leadership Qualification.

We wish everyone at Castlehill a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2023

From everyone at Girlguiding - Castlehill & Doon.



## Finance

Our financial year ends on 31 December and it has been a better year as things improved following the pandemic.

Our Ministry & Mission payment to the Church of Scotland was set at £51,718 and due to be paid over 12 months. It was agreed we could reduce this to £2000 each month and we have paid the shortfall every 3 months and will have paid the full amount by the end of December. The Ayr Presbytery dues and property levy was £1,609. We continue to get income from outside groups which use the halls and this is a welcome addition to our finances.

To the end of October income from FWO envelope was £6,478, Standing Order income was £37,733 and Open Plate income was £4,712. During this period gas & electricity costs for the church and halls came to £5,474 and insurance costs were £1,883.

There have not been any major repairs or maintenance to the church, halls or manse this year. We installed a new projector in the church at a cost of £8,356 and a new loop system at a cost of £823.

## Wee Kirks



Thanks again to everyone who filled up their Wee Kirks once more. Your contributions, particularly in the present time, are very much appreciated. I know the collectors enjoy their visits and feedback from them is that you all look forward to them coming to see you. It is amazing that the amounts given have not really dropped much at all.

Take care everyone and thank you again.

**Wellwood Grierson**



'Prepare The Way For The Lord' is the theme of this year's Church of Scotland Advent calendar, which runs from 1 December until Christmas Eve (Saturday 24 December).

You can now sign up to receive daily emails from 1-25 December.  
[www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

## **Castlehill Church Calendar**

**The Church Calendar is now available, many thanks for all contributions—we hope you like our choices! If anyone would like to purchase one please speak to a member of the Publicity Committee. The Calendars cost £3 each or buy two for £5.**

## Fabric Report

We are replacing the strip lights with new ones - we have done three already and will continue until all are done. We now have a security camera up and running at the North Hall. This is for security and to prevent youths gathering at the dunny area. We have to thank William for putting in drainage on the path to the North Hall as this was always flooding. We have installed a fan in the kitchen as it gets very hot when the ovens are on. Thanks also to everyone who came to put up the Christmas tree and to the people who came to clean up day. We need your support to keep the church at its best. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and New Year.

**The Fabric Team**

## Social Report

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Fayre and it was a good start to your Christmas shopping, also the cuppa and mincemeat pies. We are going to have a few other events next year and we will give you plenty of notice for these events. We hope you have a lovely Christmas.

**Social Team**

## Guild



The new session of the Guild got off to a great start with entertainment from Maybole Concert Party.

Paul Russell was the first of the Speakers with an interesting and thought-provoking talk on this year's theme, "Wee Seeds, Big Trees".

Following Paul, we had the Boys' Brigade talking about their fifth trip to Romania. The boys and Officers were so enthusiastic about both travelling all that way and helping those less fortunate when they got there. They've been going for so long over the years that they feel as though the children there are part of their BB family.

The next week, we had Michaela Marsh on her charity 'Starchild' which was inspired by her 'twin' brother whose mother (from Uganda) abandoned him in Glasgow. She has written a book about the charity which will be turned into a documentary. Filming begins on this in the New Year.

Then we had Alastair Swan whose photographs showed us the wonderful world of nature shown along to various pieces of music. We were also amazed at how many animals roam our gardens at night.

We have a wide range of Speakers coming up before and after Christmas. If anyone would like to come along to the North Hall on a Wednesday evening, they will be made most welcome. Our annual outing to the Pantomime is in the middle of December followed by our Christmas party at a local restaurant.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

**Dorothy Jack, Secretary**

# The Wise Men

Have you ever wondered about the identities, origin, even the number of the Wise Men - otherwise known as Kings or Magi? Magi comes from the Greek word 'Magos' from where the English word 'magic' comes. From further back in its derivation, it refers to Zoroastrian priests, but we would know them as Astrologers. That profession, in those days, held a greater status than that deemed such in today's world.



So, already we have some questions to answer. Did they exist? Were they all from the same observatory or separate sites? Did they know each other before this trip? And why should astrologers travel to see a new-born child?

I will have to refer to what is known as 'Tradition' which is a polite way of saying 'guesswork' to come up with some of the answers. 'Tradition' has the Wise Men existing so let's follow that premise.

It is amazing what has sprung from a few verses in only one of the four Gospels. Verses 1-12 of Matthew Chapter 2 hold the only reference to the 'wise men from the east'. They had seen 'his star in the east' but seemingly turned up twelve days after the birth. I doubt that – there must be an undocumented time jump.

There must have had been at least two wise men (note the plural) but nowhere is mentioned the number three. More than likely the listing of three gifts has been transferred to the number of wise men. Early 'tradition' had twelve wise men – a guess? – but it does imply that there may have been multiple gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (and probably others).

Again, resorting to 'tradition', we are given the name of three of the wise men. Melchior was either from Persia or Sheba (Yemen) and is associated with the gift of frankincense. Balthazar could have been from Arabia or Tarsus or Macedonia or Egypt and is associated with myrrh. He is always portrayed as dark with a black beard. The final one was Casper/Gasper/Jasper from either India or Arabia and was supposed to have had white hair and beard and is associated with gold.

The gifts have hidden significance. Gold is associated with Kings while Frankincense indicates Worship. Myrrh is for Embalming of the Dead, foretelling Jesus' fate.

Did these men know each other? There were no emails or internet allowing them to be in touch with one another. Perhaps they all saw 'his star in the east' and met up at a convenient spot – maybe Damascus which was, at that time, the greatest city on earth. No-one in these days travelled alone – each of the wise men would have had a retinue bearing supplies, especially water. To this day, life in the Middle East is governed by the availability of water. Hence, the caravan which travelled to, first, Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem would have been a major one. Images of three lonely men on camels approaching a stable is, I'm afraid, a myth.

Where would the wise men have picked up their gifts? Or, in today's terms, where would they have gone Christmas shopping? Of course, they could have brought them from home, but there is another theory. Around that time, the great trading city of Petra (in modern-day Jordan) was at its height. Petra lies between Damascus and Jerusalem, and I think that it is highly possible that the wise men stopped there on their way westwards.

What was the star? It has become such a symbol of the Holy Birth that it appears in nearly every depiction. Scientists have theorised on a comet, a (super)nova or a planetary conjunction usually of Jupiter and Saturn. Comets can be regular (e.g., Halley's) or irregular or one-time visitors. Novae leave stellar nebulae which are difficult to date. At the end of 2020, Jupiter and Saturn came into conjunction at around the time of Christmas. Scientists tell us that in 7BC, there was a triple conjunction of the two planets which must have stirred astrologers to proclaim a royal birth. The phrase 'in the east' could mean either that the star was seen in the eastern sky or that the Magi saw it when they were east of Jerusalem.

The assumption that the birth of a future king of Israel would be in Israel's capital, Jerusalem, was reasonable. We would anticipate that a royal birth in the UK would take place in London. But it could happen in, say, Balmoral or Windsor or Sandringham.

King Herod was NOT happy. Perhaps his astrologers were not as diligent as the Magi as it seemed that the Magi knew the ancient scriptures better than the locals! Herod certainly sent his advisers to find out where such a birth should take place. They reported back that the prophecies pointed to Bethlehem. The devious Herod directed the Magi to the village/town/city which lies only a few miles to the south.

Here we must look at the timescale of this tale. There were no railways, aeroplanes, buses, or cars in these days. Very few had horses, only donkeys. Caravans were made up of camels which travelled at an average speed of 2-3 miles per hour. That is if the camels behaved themselves. They are notoriously cantankerous beasts. Very rarely did a caravan travel in a straight line - as above the routes were controlled by waterholes.

Assume that the Magi left their homes after the third of the three conjunctions on or around 5<sup>th</sup> December of 7BC. One could then expect the gathering of Magi from around the Middle East and deciding amongst them to travel to Jerusalem to take months, perhaps even a year.

Their stay in Herod's palace would probably be days, perhaps weeks, long. I'm sure Herod would interrogate the Magi as to when this child was reckoned to have been born.

This would mean that by the time the Magi moved to Bethlehem, Jesus could easily have been between 1 and 2 years old. This would give horrible logic to Herod's order to massacre all boy children up to 2 years old.

How did the Magi find the Christ child in amongst all the children born at the same time as Jesus? No doubt, the only celebrated one would have been Mary's child.

That Jesus and his family were still in Bethlehem suggests that they were welcomed by Joseph's extended family. Mary may have had a difficult confinement and the journey back to Nazareth was too strenuous for her. Medicine was primitive then (no NHS) and time would have been the great healer to her.

The Magi were obviously clever and intelligent men. They would know that Herod wasn't to be trusted. A dream where God warned them not to go back via Jerusalem would be confirmation that they should go back (to Damascus?) another way. Did they also voice their suspicions to Joseph prompting the flight to Egypt?

Were the Wise Men real? Or were they a device to show that the birth of Jesus was relevant for all mankind from the lowest (unclean shepherds) to the highest (Wise Men/Kings/Magi)? One thing is for sure – without them, no-one would have given or received a Christmas present!

## Castlehill Bowling Club

Allan Jack

The Bowling Club started again on 3<sup>rd</sup> October after over two years and it was agreed that in the meantime we should hold it on Mondays only, to see how things developed. There have been attendances of around 20 each Monday. Sadly, over the last two years, many of our members have passed away and others are not able to bowl now, but it is great to see several new members, who are enjoying the afternoons. At present it has remained at one day per week and so far we have not started any competitions but this will be reviewed in the New Year. Our Christmas party will be on 5<sup>th</sup> December, which will be the last meeting and we will resume on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023. If you feel like coming along, please do so. It is good fun, good exercise, and good company.



Wellwood Grierson

## Pause for Thought

I came across a bookmark recently. It was sometime since it was given to me and I thought I'd share it with you. I do not know the origin of what it says.

### *Keep Rooted*

There are times when we want to run away.  
There are times when we want to stop the World turning.  
There are times when we want to shout .....not me !!!!!  
So what keeps us rooted - what keeps us together.

### *A Button.*

When a button is lost. We feel lost and alone.  
When the button is found , we rejoice and keep it safe.  
When a button is fastened to clothing, we feel secure.  
When a button is present, we feel at rest.

### *Prayer*

God, our life is like the button, safe attached to you,  
Fearful when we are lost, strong when resting in your presence.

Help us to always be rooted in your love .....  
For it is here we want to stay.

Amen

Andrew Graham

## T'was the night before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas,  
God glanced over the earth.  
He looked to and fro,  
All over it's girth.  
They missed it again He said with a sigh,  
A heavy heart and a tear in his eye.  
I gave them my son,  
So they could be free.  
My greatest gift,  
To them from me.  
They traded me in,  
For a man in red.  
A little tree,  
And horse drawn sled.  
How do I save them,  
And make them see.  
My love is complete,  
My grace is free.  
How do I help them,  
When all they know.  
Is a talking snowman,  
And a box with a bow.  
Maybe next year,  
they will stop and see.  
The biggest gift of Christmas,  
Is the little child from me.



## Funerals

### **September**

Adam Gemmell	St Leonards Court, Ayr
Margaret McMillan	Glendale Crescent, Ayr
Helen Robertson	Lochlea Drive, Ayr

### **October**

Ian Rodgers	Belmont Drive, Ayr
Ronnie Duff	Hillend Cottage, Waterside, Patna

### **November**

Joe Holland	Gorse Park, Ayr
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## Baptisms

Heidi Walker

20th November



## Thanks from the Family of David Lynch

We would like to thank Rev. Paul Russell, Kirk Session & Congregation for lovely flowers received.

Would also like to thank our many friends at Castlehill for cards and messages that made us realise how well David was liked and how much the work he did for the Church was appreciated.

Rev. Ian Bell gave a lovely service at Roucan Loch Crematorium and it was nice to see so many of our Ayr friends there. Wellwood gave a humorous last toast to David at Hetland Hall Hotel.

We thank you all for your love and support at this sad time.

The collection taken on the day has been donated to 17th Ayr Boys' Brigade.

Love Helen, Graeme, Trish, Jack & Sam

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