

# The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Winter 2017



## Editorial

First of all, an apology to Christopher Watt for omitting his name from the foot of his article on his visit to the Holy Land.

Everyone's perception of God is different. Many have experienced a "Damascus Moment" but so many more have not. A previous minister in our Church said that within the congregation there were those who believed implicitly in the teachings of Jesus and the Bible, but many more that were still searching. It was perhaps their main reason for coming to Church.

Sadly, many hymns give the impression of God far removed up in the heavens and even after the Crucifixion Jesus we are told He ascended to heaven to the right hand of God. It seems to imply He is up there looking down on us, almost a spy in the sky. It is better to believe that he is sitting beside us, in the Church, in the car, on the park bench, in the café. You only need to stretch out your hand to grasp His and experience His peace and comfort. But the wonderful thing is that even if you do not stretch out your hand He will still be there. This Christmas, amidst all the festivities just stretch out your hand to someone.

## Wellwood Grierson

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

<b>Interim Moderator</b>	Rev. John Paterson Tel. 01290 420769
<b>Locum</b>	Mrs Christine Stewart Tel. 01563 850486
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs Sandra Wyllie, Office Tel. 267520 E-mail <a href="mailto:office@castlehillchurch.org">office@castlehillchurch.org</a>
<b>Session Clerk</b>	Mr. Douglas Owens, Tel. 442062
<b>Church Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.castlehillchurch.org">www.castlehillchurch.org</a>
<b>Charity Number</b>	SCO01792

## 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 Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

As Advent approaches individuals and families will be making, if not already completed, plans for the Christmas season; food and drinks for meals and parties, tickets for events such as pantomimes, travel arrangements to join family and friends, presents for our loved ones and all other aspects of the season which are important. Does Church enter into your plans I wonder?

The Christmas story, regarded simply as a story, has many intrinsic attractions and has in St Luke an admirable narrator. The romantic tale of the infant born in humble and sordid circumstances, who is in fact of royal lineage and destined to greatness, in various forms, has fascinated people from the time when story-telling began.

Here, the pastoral setting and the supernatural hints of the real nature of the baby and his future glory enhance the story's appeal.

Just as a story it is better than Cinderella. Still keeping to the level of the art of the story teller, we may note, however, that in one respect it differs from most stories of the Cinderella kind – it is incomplete; it needs a sequel, it points beyond itself to the Good Friday story and the Easter story; it arouses our curiosity to ask what happened to the baby whose birth is described so remarkably, and what was his life.

But, of course, if we remain on the level of romantic fiction we miss the whole point. The story is presented to us not only as true, but as deeply significant.

Without looking further than indisputable facts, it is evident that the birth story of Christ is totally different from all other stories; it has really no significant resemblance to tales like Cinderella. It is a story which shook the world, and, because it was widely told and believed, the course of history was changed. To understand it at any deeper level we must look for its meaning.

Why not include Church in your Christmas plans so that you can catch the first act of the Jesus story and can then travel with him and us through the year to hear of the wonderful acts and teaching that characterised Jesus life. A teaching, which, when believed, can transform lives and provide promise and hope for those who receive the wonderful Christmas gift, offered freely to all, the Christ child given freely and in love to all – especially YOU.

Have a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Yours in Christ,

**John Paterson**

**Christmas services Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December morning as usual at 11.00 am**

**Family service 7.00 pm . Watchnight Service 11.30 pm**

**No services on Christmas Day**

# What does Christmas mean to you?

Soon it will be the time for the Christmas nativity play  
All the children getting excited waiting for that day.  
Finally, the day arrives and that is when  
they find out if they are going to be sheep again  
Christmas is buzzing in every child's head  
Every night they ask "will Santa come tonight" before they go to bed.

Finally, it's Christmas Eve and all is quiet  
But soon Christmas will dawn and there will be a riot.  
Little boys and girls will be filled with delight,  
but for Santa it will be a long busy night.  
His sleigh is packed high with children's' toys  
rushing through the night to the girls and the boys

The sky is full of white fluffy balls  
with Rudolph leading the way to answer the calls,  
pushing the clouds aside as he passes through  
"Oops hold on Santa we don't want to lose you"  
Santa looks down and sees all the lights  
guiding him safely all through the night

He has remembered his special key  
if no chimney he can see.  
He has to pull extra sleighs  
with so many toys there can't be any delays  
at last he lands safely down on the ground  
and quickly unloads the sleigh without a sound  
He slides down the chimneys and opens the doors  
placing all the presents on the floors

He grabs a snack whenever he can,  
he is all of the children's number one fan  
but soon daylight will be breaking through the sky  
and Santa will have to say goodbye  
he must get back before the children awake  
but he finds some time to grab another piece of cake

Then off he goes smiling with glee  
leaving lots of presents for everyone to see  
that great day dawns and lights are switched on everywhere  
squeals of excitement fill the air  
later families all get together from far and near  
children are hoping they might be allowed a ginger beer  
Thanks for giving us this magical day  
"Three cheers for Santa Hip Hip Hooray,  
So let's all pray for peace on earth  
and celebrate the Baby Jesus' birth  
He was the greatest gift of all

**Georgina Howie**

ADAM AND EVE WERE THE FIRST PEOPLE TO NOT READ APPLE  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS



## Castlehill Church Boys Brigade

Our new session started at the end of August with our annual enrolment barbecue. It's always a great way to kick off the session with all the boys and their parents catching up after the summer.

We welcomed back good numbers in the three sections. Each Section have been working through their award programme. The Junior Section has visited the police station, the fire station, the territorial army base in Chalmers Road as well as taking part in an orienteering event at Rozelle. They enjoyed a Halloween party and are looking forward to a Christmas event with an evening in the company of snakes, lizards and spiders!

The Anchor Boys partnered with the Rainbows to hold a Halloween party and will be partnering them again for their Christmas treat to the Farm Park.

The Company Section took part in their first competition of the year, the annual six-a-side competition but we didn't enjoy the success of previous years. We are more hopeful for the next two competitions which are the two we won last year, the swimming gala and the bible quiz, I will report on the outcome in the next magazine

### Visit to New Lanark

On the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November we took the Junior and Company Section to New Lanark youth hostel.



It is the fourth time we have visited this facility which is part of the New Lanark Heritage site. We had a full programme of activities, the highlight of which was a murder-mystery-tour of Lanark following clues and directions to find a culprit and a weapon. The boys loved it.

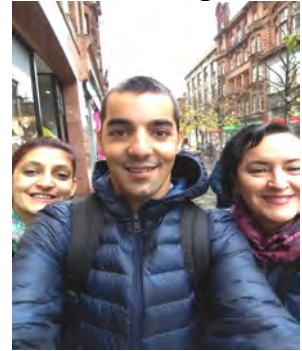


We also walked along the Clyde to the very impressive Falls of Clyde. On Sunday we visited the David Livingstone visitor centre in Blantyre. The centre closed in October for eighteen months to facilitate a £6.5 million pound refurbishment but when we contacted them they agreed to open for us, for which we were very grateful. We wanted to visit this site because, Robert Owen, who built New Lanark, also built the mills at Blantyre where Livingstone worked before going into his work as a missionary. We look forward to returning once the centre has been refurbished.



## Romanian Evening

The highlight of the session so far has got to be our Romanian evening. On 27<sup>th</sup> October we welcomed the director of the Foundation, Ibi Ungar with two of her charges, Allin and Mudra. We also welcomed family, friends and a large number of the congregation. The evening was a presentation of our trip to Romania. Gavin Drysdale, Stewart Veitch, Andrew Miller and Craig Auld shared the presentation, each focusing on different elements of our trip. We are very grateful for the number of people who attended the evening. We had a very positive response from those who were there. It was good to reacquaint ourselves with our Romanian friends, we look forward to seeing them again in 2019.



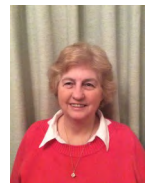
The same weekend of the Romanian evening we held our annual dedication service in the church. After the service we held our annual soup and sweet lunch which raised a very good sum Thanks to all who attended and those who helped.

The Boys and Officers of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ayr would like to thank you for your continued support throughout 2017 and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

**Ian Queen**

## REFLECTIONS

As I take a few minutes to put together a wee note for the Magazine, I am reflecting on the joy it has been to me to be your locum minister for over two years. I know that it is a mixed blessing, because the fact that I am still with you means that you don't yet have your own full-time minister.



It has occurred to me, however, that you have been ministering to me as a congregation during this time. My faith has been strengthened, and I feel you have taken me to heart as I have taken you to heart. During these last few weeks when life has been a little more difficult than normal following the experience of surgery and now in recuperation time, I have been overwhelmed by the care and kindness of members of Castlehill Church in the cards, flowers, phone calls, visits and Facebook messages.

Thank you, and may God bless you each and every one. May you have a blessed Christmas.

Love, **Christine Stewart**



## Let's get crafty

A Christingle is a symbolic object used in the advent services of many Christian denominations. It has its origins in the Moravian Church.

At Christmas 1747, Germany, Bishop Johannes de Watteville thought about how he could explain the love of Jesus to everyone, and what Christmas really meant to the children in the church. He decided to make a simple symbol to express the message of Christmas in a fresh and lively way. Pastor Johannes de Watteville gave each child a lighted candle wrapped in a red ribbon, with a prayer that said 'Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these dear children's hearts'. This was the first Christingle Service.

### Make a Christingle?

Adult supervision needed; wash hands before handling the sweets and fruit.

**You will need:** An orange; red ribbon; cocktail sticks; foil; candle; dried fruit or sweets.

Fasten ribbon or tape around the middle of the orange. Cut a small cross in the top of the orange and lay a square of silver foil over it. Place a candle on top of the foil and wedge it firmly into the orange (the foil should catch the hot wax as it drips). Load 4 cocktail sticks with a mixture of sweets and/or fruit and insert around the base of the candle.

**THE ORANGE** represents the world.

**THE RED RIBBON** indicates God's love wrapped around the world and the blood Christ shed on the cross.

**THE DRIED FRUIT AND SWEETS** are symbols of God's creations. For many people, they also represent the four seasons.

**THE LIT CANDLE** symbolises Jesus, the light of the world, who brings hope to people living in darkness.



## Let's get crafty

This snowflake is so easy to make. The children will have fun selecting what colour they want theirs to be. They'll decorate your tree and/or window

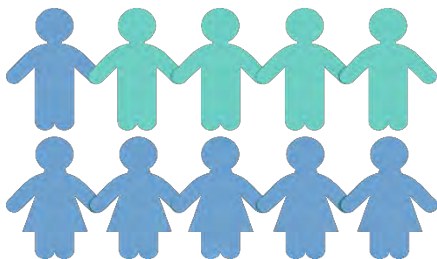
**You will need:** 2 silver pipe cleaners 3 blue pipe cleaners

Cut the 2 silver pipe cleaners in half. Put 1 piece aside so you have 3. Twist these 3 pieces together in the centre so that you have a shape with 6 points (look at the photo for help with this).

Cut the blue pipe cleaners in half and then in half again. You will have 12 pieces. Twist these onto the silver base to decorate your snowflake.

If you want to hang your snowflake, take the piece of silver pipe cleaner you put aside, fold in half and twist the ends to one of the snowflake points to make a loop.

## Let's make a prayer chain



Many people brought their friends and family to Jesus. You too can bring your friends and family to Jesus by praying for them. Why not make a prayer chain to help you remember?

- 1 Take a long strip of paper and fold it six times to make seven sections.
- 2 On the top section draw the shape of a person, making sure that the hands and feet touch the edge.
- 3 Cut through all the layers to make a chain of people. (Don't cut the folds or the people will not be joined together!)
- 4 On each person write a day of the week and someone you would like to pray for.
- 5 Hang up your prayer chain near your bed. When you get up or when you go to bed, pray for that day's person.



# Nehemiah builds the wall

We all like to share good news but news isn't always good.

Put a tick by the pieces of news below which you think are good and a cross by the ones you think are bad.

The car has broken down. We can't go on holiday.

☐

It's my birthday.

☐

My friend is sad because his hamster died.

☐

Granny's not well. She's in hospital.

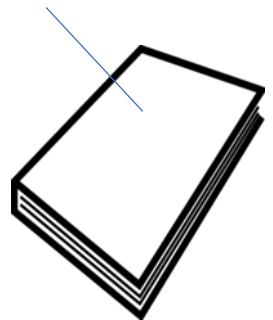
☐

My friend has asked me to tea.

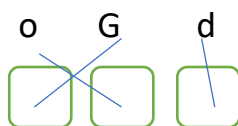
☐

Hello I'm Nehemiah.  
I work for King Artaxerxes. I don't feel much like talking to you today. I've had some bad news

**Nehemiah Chapter 1, verse 3** to find out what the bad news was.



Who did Nehemiah decide to talk to about his bad news? Follow the lines.



Prayer  
time

Nehemiah knew that God cared even when he was sad. If you are feeling sad, talk to God about it now. Or you might like to pray for people who have heard bad news today.

## Financial Update

Our financial year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December and we currently have a deficit which means our expenditure is more than our income.

Each year we have to make a Ministries & Mission contribution to Church of Scotland headquarters and for 2017 this was assessed as £61,515. We received a reduction of £10,920 because we have a vacancy for a minister which meant a payment of £50,595 but we also pay the salary and travel expenses of our locum. The Presbytery of Ayr levies an amount for Presbytery Dues and Property Levy and this was £1729.

The cost of insuring the church buildings and the manse was £2344.30 and to date heating and lighting the church, manse and halls has cost £6319. Maintenance and repair of the buildings cost £9484.99 to the end of October and further work has been identified and needs to be done.

The Annual Fabric Appeal raised £3580 and we received £817.50 in Gift Aid claims.

If you are a tax payer and make offerings by standing order or the Free Will Envelopes we could claim back the amount of tax you paid via the Gift Aid Scheme. We can claim 25 pence for every £1 you donate and we received £8444.33 to end of October from HMRC in claims under the scheme. There are Gift Aid Declaration forms in the vestibule and they are also available from the office or on the church website [www.castlehillchurch.org](http://www.castlehillchurch.org) under the Publications heading. Completed forms can be returned via the office or given to Margaret Devlin.

**Margaret Devlin**

## Autumn Fayre

In October we held a successful Fayre. Over £1950 was made and thanks are due to the organisers and stall holders and to those who knitted, baked and brought in items for sale. The Quiz was won by Mrs Dorothy McCormack whose entry was drawn from several correct entries. Thanks to all who participated in that as well.

**Liz Reid Social Committee**

**WHAT IS MISSING FROM CASTLEHILL CH CH  
U R**

# The Light of Christmas



My Christmas message this year is yet again not quintessentially British because the inspiration behind it comes from the American poet Emma Lazarus. In 1893 she wrote a poem called The New Colossus where she says, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" (engraved on a plaque within the Statue of Liberty)

Emma's choice of words in that verse makes me think of me of family and how no matter what happens we can always come home. Whenever I hear the line "where the love light gleams" from the song "I'll be home for Christmas" I'm reminded of how Jesus is just that, a beacon of light shining in our lives.

In Jeremiah 29: 11 to 13 we are told, "I have it all planned out— plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. When you come looking for me, you'll find me" reinforcing that just like our family and friends Jesus is always there for us when we need him.

Christmas is that special time of year when we can be that gleaming light of love for someone else who needs it. Everyone has the right to celebrate advent in their own way but I choose to be surrounded by family and friends remembering the baby born on that first Christmas Day.

**Kirsty Wyllie**

## Castlehill Church of Scotland Guild

As we look forward to the Season of Advent the last three themes of The Guild seem to be very relevant - Go in Peace , Go in Joy, Go in Love. The Guild ladies manage to live out these themes in very practical ways. They live out their faith by looking after those that they love, by encouraging helping and spending time with their friends. They enjoy worship with their Christian family and they care for others by contributing to Charities and by doing volunteer work. So as others have said before "Where would we be without The Guild!"

Best Wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas

The Guild Committee



Rainbow Services offers more than simply the delivery of Care Services. If you are looking for a service that lets you or loved one keep on enjoying life at home why not look at our website:-[www.rainbowcareservices.co.uk](http://www.rainbowcareservices.co.uk) or give us a call on T:-01292 294180.

## It's Competition time again

Here are some well known Ayrshire landmarks. Can you name them?

1  
1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



Entries to the Office by 31st December 2017 Prize for all correct entry £20 voucher



# Castlehill Bowling Club



The Club restarted for the winter session on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September with 26 bowlers present, with three new members to the Club. The aim of the Club is to promote Fellowship, Fun and Fine Bowling in equal quantities on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. The trophy competitions are now under way, also with the Points League where bowlers play in different teams each time and where all have the chance to win, with lots of fun involved.

Alas in October we were all saddened by the passing of our most senior member, Pat Patterson, after a short illness. Pat was a well loved and respected member for many years, a regular winner of trophies and will be missed by us all. We are pleased that his wife Jean has been able to back and enjoy the fellowship and the bowling again.

In recent years new names have appeared on the trophies which stimulates the Club to keep the competitions going in the right direction.

The Bowling Club sends its good wishes to Christine, our minister, for a speedy recovery from her operation and also to John McDermott after his knee operation. As I write I realise that in a few weeks-time we will be stopping for Christmas and having our Christmas party on 14<sup>th</sup> December. Sadly, time and tide wait for no man or woman.

**David Kerr President**

## GIRLGUIDING

All our Girlguiding Units are back in full swing after the Summer. Our numbers are still healthy. The Rainbow, Brownies, Guides and Anchor boys had a joint Hallowee`n party and they are going to have a joint Christmas event at the Farm Park.

Some of our Leaders attended a Recruitment afternoon/night at Forehill Primary School along with other organisations and we had a few notes of interest.

Our Guiders Christine McLean, Angela Lindsay and Yvonne Blair were honoured to be asked to represent Girlguiding at Prince Charles` garden party at Dumfries House to celebrate 10 years of the work which he has carried out there. They had a very enjoyable afternoon and Prince Charles took an interest in their Guiding work and was interested to hear that Angela had got into youth work through the Prince`s Trust.

Girlguiding have stated that there are 70,000 girls on waiting lists but not enough volunteers. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please go onto Girlguiding UK`s website for details. It is very rewarding working with the girls and we get as much fun and adventures out of it as they do.

**Linda McClurkin**

## FABRIC REPORT

I hope you can hear the bell on a Sunday morning this has had some maintenance done on it at a cost of £90. We also are doing maintenance on the bell tower at a cost of £1950 this is to be done every three years to keep it watertight and safe.

We have been vandalised in the church and also the manse outbuildings. The hut, the garage and also the garden. David Kerr had the garden looking lovely. We have now made this area more secure and have installed security lighting and a team from the committee have repaired and secured the garage and hut and we hope that this will solve the problem. We have informed the police but it seems it is not only us that have suffered but others in the surrounding area.

Moving on to next year we hope to progress on the steps at the back of the north hall. We are also looking at the roofline on the left-hand side of the main building. Last year we did the right-hand side.

We have been donated paint by Jim McClurkin to refresh the fellowship area and the passageways and we are hoping to get volunteers to help with this.

**Liz Reid, Convenor**

## Seniors Afternoons

In October we had a very successful afternoon with entertainment by Vintage Blend. Their 60s 70s and 80s music brought back lots of memories, obvious by the way the company joined in the singing. A few energetic souls got up to dance as well.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Party Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, held in the main hall and this year at 2.00 pm. The entertainment will be by the Forehill Primary school choirs always an enjoyable occasion. Come along you will enjoy it and you will get a cup of tea and some "goodies".

The first meeting in the new year will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February back in the North Hall at 2.30 pm Take a note of these dates for your diary.

## Wellwood Grierson



Castlehill Herald



Winter 2017



## Deaths

September

Pat Patterson Orchard Avenue

October

Don Thomson Glendale Crescent

## Keeper of My Heart

Think of me at night when  
sleep is near  
and I who love you so far away  
Think of me then and I will  
come to you  
nor leave you until the night  
turns into day  
Stretch forth your hand and  
through the depths of dark  
another hand will touch your  
fingertips  
and as of old my voice will  
breathe your name  
and press a kiss upon your  
sleeping lips

**M L Williams**  
**Funeral Directors**

We create every funeral individually, just for you.

M L Williams are here to support and guide you, offering a friendly and professional service.

Call us for immediate support, advice or to arrange a home visit.

We are here to help 24 hours a day.

**Ayr**

**01292 262 277**

1b Falkland Park Road,  
KA8 8LL

[www.mlwilliams.co.uk](http://www.mlwilliams.co.uk)

Gas safe No.563441

**Andrew penman**  
**Plumbing & heating services**

**Andrew Penman**  
Plumbing & heating services  
**01292 440126**  
mob. 07974687832  
**3 woodlea place**  
Ayr. KA7 4ta

**Jim McClurkin Painting & Decorating**

All interior and exterior work undertaken

71 Lochlea Drive  
Ayr  
KA7 3DS

01292287048  
Mob:07521074271  
[james.mcclurkia@sky.com](mailto:james.mcclurkia@sky.com)





Windows



Doors



Conservatories



Roof Trim

Unit 2, Block 3  
North Harbour Industrial Estate  
Ayr KA8 8BN  
Tel No: 01292 288445

## -Barry Whelan- Funeral Directors

A Privately Owned Firm – Offering a  
24 Hour: Genuine, Caring &  
Professional Service

(01292) 611 148  
River Terrace, Ayr  
(01292) 531 400  
Dalvennan Avenue, Patna

**JOHN FERGUS**  
*Electricians*

SJIB APPROVED

Sponsored by:

**DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL**

Rewires : Showers : Security Lighting  
No Job Too Small

Over 27 Years Experience  
Quality Workmanship at  
Competitive Prices

**Discount to Club Members**

**FREEPHONE**  
0800 955 2242

Mob: 07713 222086  
18 LANSLOWNE ROAD, AYR

## **PRESTWICK DECORATORS** INTERIOR & EXTERIOR DECORATORS

George Brown

Tel. 07907 527227

Sales Office: 01292 861474

E-mail: prestwickdecorators@yahoo.com

Lynven, Lochmark Avenue KA6 7BE



**facebook**

Follow us on Facebook  
@ Castlehill Church

**We appreciate support from all our  
advertisers and hope that you will  
support them too.**

**Please mention "The Herald", when  
using any of their services.**

## Harkness Tree Services

All Kinds of Tree Work Undertaken

Removal/Reductions/Pruning/Thinning

Fully Insured

City and Guilds Qualified

Free Estimates

Phone: Archie on 07816146974

## **ALTON LANDSCAPES**



12 Links Crescent

Barassie, Troon

Ayrshire KA10 6SS

Tel: (01292) 317162

Mobile: 07702 157 404

**MURRAY GRIERSON**