



Arbroath West Kirk Magazine



**Issue 294: December 2022 & January
2023**

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Website - www.arbroathwestkirk.org

Chris's Chatter

There's a natural tendency at the end of a year and the start of a new one to reflect back on what has happened and plan ahead – resolutions, holidays etc. 2022 has certainly been a tumultuous year – I wonder if you can remember all that has happened?

At the start of the year, we were still living in a covid regulated society and daily statistics

remained high on the agenda of news reports. In the Springtime as the restrictions receded, reports instead focused on the then new war in the Ukraine – with the terrible destruction and plight of the refugees that resulted. In the Summertime staff shortages in airports meant cancellations and heartache for many who wanted to get away for the first time in a couple of years and since then as a nation we have been struggling with the rising cost of living, inflation and interest rates, the impact of the pandemic on the NHS and the list goes on.

Reflecting in this way has always been a key part of the Queen's Christmas message – one of my Mum's favourite parts of Christmas Day and as I think back on 2022, it is still the death of her late majesty that sticks out.

Alongside the looking back, the Queen would normally highlight one or two individuals or groups whose service had especially touched her in the previous 12 months and here in Arbroath there has been a lot of evidence of that in the last year. The hard work of so many volunteers to re-establish groups after the challenges of the pandemic; the many community groups who have either extended their hours or begun new initiatives, like FFF (see later) to support those finding our present times tough and the generosity of so many to folk living further afield – just



one example of which is the tremendous total raised for Christian Aid this year in the 300,000 steps and the Great North Run.

Her message would normally conclude with a reminder of the birth of Christ, the importance to her of her own faith and the way it had helped her to reflect on the year's events. This Christmas, as you will read in this magazine, there's a lot happening, some traditions that have been either cancelled or adapted to suit pandemic restrictions returning and we hope that you will be able to join us for some or all of them and share them with your friends. They reflect the fact that as the explanation of the title Bubblegum "n" Fluff explains, there is a lot of fluff around a 21st century Christmas but we want to get to the heart of the Christmas message. In our carols, nativities, Christingles and services, we want to remember the baby born in relative poverty, whose family lived for a time as refugees, whose adult life was given over to caring for and including others and demonstrating an alternate way of living and whose death and resurrection revealed him to be the Saviour of the world – these titles and many others that are included in our Advent reflections.

This Christmas time may you know the hope that remembering the birth of this baby brings and may that hope take you forward into an uncertain 2023 with peace in your hearts.

Mike and I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Chris

Remembrance 2022

It was a busy Remembrance weekend for all ages this year. On Friday 11th school classes and Ladybird Nursery convened at the War memorial to observe the 11am silence and lay wreaths that they had made. This year Muirfield and Timmergreens made poppies using paper plates and wool. To say it was windy was an understatement and the Legion, delighted with the youngsters' work took the poppy wreaths back to the Legion at Helen Street to display them.

The West Kirk Sanctuary was open several times over the weekend for folk to view our display and reflect and we reflected on the work of military chaplains standing firm when all else is collapsing round them. Despite the mist, a sizeable number gathered at the War Memorial on Sunday afternoon to remember, reflect and lay wreaths with a very welcome cuppie afterwards hosted by the Legion! A big thank you to Christine, Liz and Catherine for putting out our display, to the staff at Muirfield and Timmergreens for their hard work creating the poppies and to Dave Findlay and his support team at the Legion for all the work they did.



What a quick year this has been. Church life has been very busy and all our groups and activities thriving. 2023 will be a challenging time for us all as we work towards the implementation of the Presbytery Plan. Let us move forward together with patience and understanding and keeping our focus on our faith and serving God.

The Kirk Session wishes you all a lovely Christmas and a healthy New Year and we look forward to welcoming you all in 2023.

Audrey Shepherd, Session Clerk.

Fayre

Thank you to everyone – whether making or donating goods or funds towards the Fayre, coming along and enjoying the fellowship, manning a stall, working behind the scenes, making pancakes or serving teas and coffees – we had a



great morning and raised a fantastic figure – the current total is just over **£2725** with a little gift aid to claim back. It's a great achievement! A particular thank you to Joan McGregor and the social group who coordinated the morning.

Gift Service – 4th December

Our worship group has discussed ways in which we can support our community over the Christmas season. Many, many people support the Angus Toy Appeal which is wonderful. However, there are also many in residential care homes who don't receive cards and/or gifts at Christmas. On Sunday December 4th during morning worship we are therefore asking that you bring a signed Christmas card that we can distribute in our local homes and, if you can, a small gift (not more than £5) a face flannel, or a shower cap, or



chocolates, wrapped in Christmas paper – with an indication of what it is and again we will work with the staff to distribute these to bring a little Christmas cheer. Thank you, in advance, for your care and support.

After 3 years it's back! Bubblegum "n" Fluff is a 2- hour programme written by a

chaplancy team in Calderside. It's a response to the fact that there is often more fluff than substance to Christmas time, this



resource helps Primary 6 children to uncover the real message of Christmas. For the last three years Carla Ingram, the St Andrew's youth worker, has adapted the material so that it could be used in school and her hard work has paid off because this year all the schools in Arbroath and surrounding villages have signed up to attend in person. Running from St Andrews Church with volunteers from across the town in the week beginning 12th December, over 300 P6 pupils will through a mixture of games, craft puppets and challenges hear the Christmas story of the birth of our Saviour. Please pray for Carla and her team of volunteers and if you would like to be a part of that team, please speak to Chris. You don't need experience or a PVG – just enthusiasm!



Book Club – coming in February

Something new for all ages – for anyone who enjoys reading, would like to delve a bit further into the lives of men and women of faith and why the church came to be as it is today. Read an agreed book each month – sometimes fact, sometimes fiction and then meet up to chat about it and enjoy a bit of fun and laughter too. More details to follow.....



Timmers Tearoom @ the Kirk

Please come along and support a new venture between the West Kirk and Timmergreens Primary School starting on **Wednesday 7th December**. Once a month different classes from the school will host a community café in the

new hall at the West Kirk where there will be teas and coffees, home baking and more. The children will be in the building all morning, baking, preparing activities for the tables and spending some time in the sanctuary, learning about the church and our faith.

The café is open to anyone from **10.30am-12 noon**. Please watch out for further information in our intimations and on Facebook.

Fun, Food and Friendship

Mondays-Fridays 4-8pm at Community Spirit, Fisheracre

Saturdays 11am-3pm at Friockheim Hub

We're up and running! FFF is a community venture created by our town's churches working together, resourced by both church and community. It's open to everyone so why not pop in. A hot meal is served from 5-6.30pm and there are games and conversation to enjoy. The meal costs nothing, neither does the fellowship so please share the details of this community café as widely as possible. FFF is staffed by volunteers so if you have a couple of hours to spare, we'd love to see you.



Remembering those we have loved at Christmas time...

As families and friends gather and share fun, laughter and gifts, our thoughts naturally turn to those we have loved who won't join us this year, perhaps for the first time, perhaps for the 5th, 10th time or more. As we remember the good times we've shared together we think of those who've lost loved ones recently....

Jessie Warren, Monkbarns House, Arbroath, DD11 2DS
Jemima MacKay, 20 Monymusk Road, Arbroath, DD11 2DB
Caroline Mitchell, 12 Alexandra Place, Arbroath, DD11 2BQ
Elsbeth 'June' Milne, Lunan Court, Arbroath, DD11 1RA
Mary McKelvie, 19 Muirton Road, Arbroath, DD11 3HQ

Lord of life and love, this Christmas time
as we give thanks for times past
grant us courage to embrace
the present
and grace to share the
future.

In memory of loved ones
dear,
kindle their flame to shine
in the dark
and light the path ahead.
Show the way that leads to life
as we cherish days gone by
and inspire us with the touch of love
that faith and hope live on.

(Annabel Shilson-Thomas)



Duty Rota ~~~~~

December	
4 th Team 01 :	M McIntosh
11 th Team 02 :	B Cargill
18 th Team 03:	D Spink
25 th Team 04:	B Cruickshanks
January 2023	
1 st Team 05:	L Bird
8 th Team 06:	S Nelson
15 th Team 07:	L Gibson
22 nd Team 08:	A Ferguson
29 th Team 09:	D Langlands
February 2023	
5 th Team 10:	A Shepherd
12 th Team 01:	M McIntosh

Flower Rota

December 2022	
4 th	Ruth Ferguson
11 th	Bill Clark
18 th	Christmas Flowers
25 th	Christmas Flowers
January 2023	
1 st	Flower Fund
8 th	Marion Jarret
15 th	Moira McIntosh
22 nd	Joan Macgregor
29 th	Linda Bird
February 2023	
5 th	Margaret Hagan
12 th	Sheila Kerr

CHURCH CALENDAR	DECEMBER 2022
Sundays	
4 th /11 th /18 th /25 th	<p>11am Sunday worship and Sunday School 4th December - Gift Service 11th December - In Harmony Concert @ 2pm 18th December – Nativity Refreshments + mince pies served after service 18th December – Churches Outdoor Carol Service 18th December Arbroath Male Voice Choir Concert, 7pm. Doors open 6.30pm.</p>
Christmas Eve	<p>6pm Christingle Service 11.15pm Watchnight Service</p>
Christmas Day	<p>11am Family Service – bring a gift and a Christmas Jumper!</p>
Mondays	
11 th	The Guild Christmas Dinner, 5 for 5.30pm
5 th	Kirk Session 7.15pm
5 th & 12 th	7.30-9.30pm Male Voice Choir
Tuesdays	
6 th	In Harmony Choir
13 th	7-8.30pm Knit & Knatter
Wednesdays	
7 th & 14 th	<p>9.15am Toddlers@Westkirk Toddlers off 21st and 28th December – holidays Toddlers Christmas Party – 14th December</p>
7 th	Timmers Tearoom at the Kirk 10.30am
7 th	1.30pm Wednesday Club
14 th	Wednesday Club at the Townhouse Christmas Meal
7 th /14 th /21 st	7.30pm Bible study by Zoom
7 th /14 th /21 st	7.30pm Scottish Country Dancing

Thursdays	
8 th /15 th /22 nd	5-6 pm Quiet Space in Church
1 st /8 th /15 th /22 nd	6-8.30pm Youth Club (P3-5 6-7pm & P6-S1 7.15-8.30pm) No Youth Club on 29th December – school holiday
22 nd	School Christmas services – Muirfield in the morning, Timmergreens in the afternoon
Fridays	
2 nd /9 th /16 th /23 rd	10am – 12 noon Coffee Stop



Sundays in January
15th and 29th
From 3-4pm

Learn to play or improve your
skills for free!



Arbroath West Kirk
SC 006482
CCLI 655090
arbroathwestkirk.org



CHURCH CALENDAR	JANUARY 2023
Sundays	
*1 st /8 th /15 th /29 th	11am Sunday worship and DJ Club *1st January – United service venue to be confirmed, also No DJ Club on this date. Tea & coffee after service
29 th	
15 th	3-4pm Making Music
Mondays	
9 th & 23 rd	2-4pm Guild
9 th /16 th /23 rd /30 th	7.30-9.30pm Male Voice Choir
Tuesdays	
17 th & 31 st	7-8.30pm Knit & Knatter
10 th /17 th /24 th /31 st	7.30-9.30pm In Harmony Choir
Wednesdays	
11 th /18 th /25 th	9.15am Toddlers@Westkirk (Toddlers off 4th January - school holidays)
11 th /18 th /25 th	1.30pm Wednesday Club
11 th /18 th /25 th	7.30pm Bible study by Zoom
11 th /18 th /25 th	7.30pm Scottish Country Dancing
25 th	Timmers Tearoom at the Kirk 10.30am
Thursdays	
5 th /12 th /19 th /26 th	5-6 pm Quiet Space in Church
12 th /19 th /26 th	6-8.30pm Youth Club (P3-5 6-7pm & P6-S1 7.15-8.30pm) No YC on 5th Jan – school holiday YC Xmas outing – 19th January
26 th	7.30pm Prayer Group by Zoom
Fridays	
6 th /13 th /20 th /27 th	10am – 12 noon Coffee Stop

Guild

It is amazing we are now in the last month of this year and things are a bit more normal. The Guild meet for a Christmas meal together on Monday 12th December 5-30 for 6pm.

Meetings will resume in the new year on 9th January when we will be joined by our Minister Chris and on Monday 23rd January we are having a Burns Celebration.

If you would like to come to any of the Guild meetings but are not a member we will be happy to see you.

Best wishes to all for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

DJ Club

We are having a pamper afternoon on Sunday 11 December. We will be taking part in the family service on Sunday 18 December, then we will be off on holiday for two weeks, restarting on 8 January 2023.

The DJ Club wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Leza Gibson

Life and Work

The price of the magazine has gone up in price by 50p per copy making it a total of £42 for the yearly subscription. It has been the same price for a few years now so it was quite inevitable that the price would rise.

Payment when you are ready. Thank you

Kathleen Bruce

FWO Envelopes 2023

It is my hope that these will be ready for distribution by the beginning of December and will be placed in the anti room, as normal, for Elders to collect and distribute. Please listen out for this to be intimated.

Thank you.

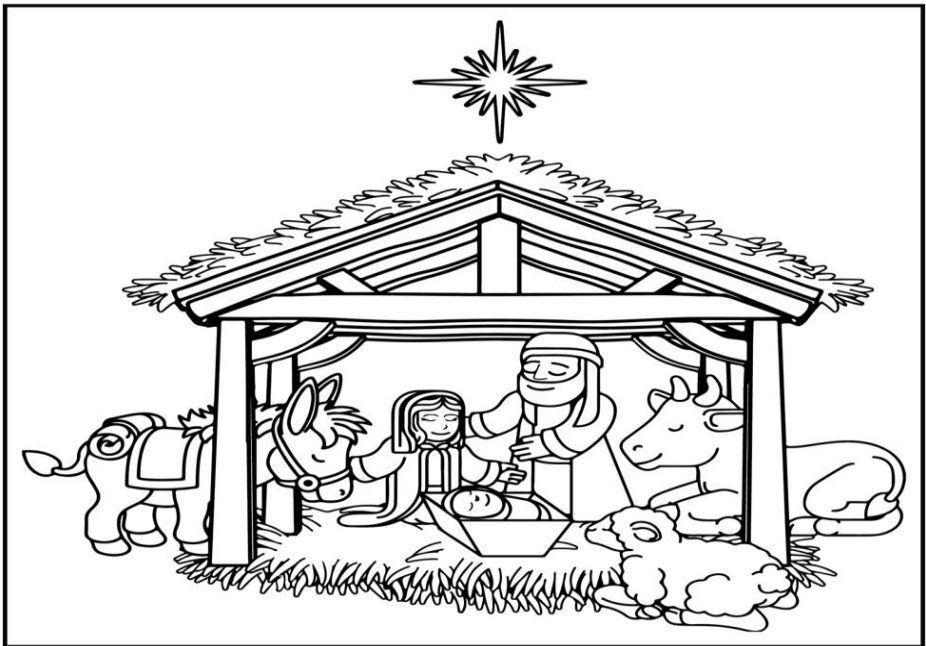
Myra Scoular

School Christmas Services

We are delighted that this year our local schools will be able to come to the church for their Christmas services. On Thursday 2nd December Muirfield will be coming down to the West Kirk in the morning and Timmergreens will attend in the afternoon. Please come down and support them – one of the best experiences at Christmas is the sound of children’s voices singing Christmas songs and taking part in nativity plays.

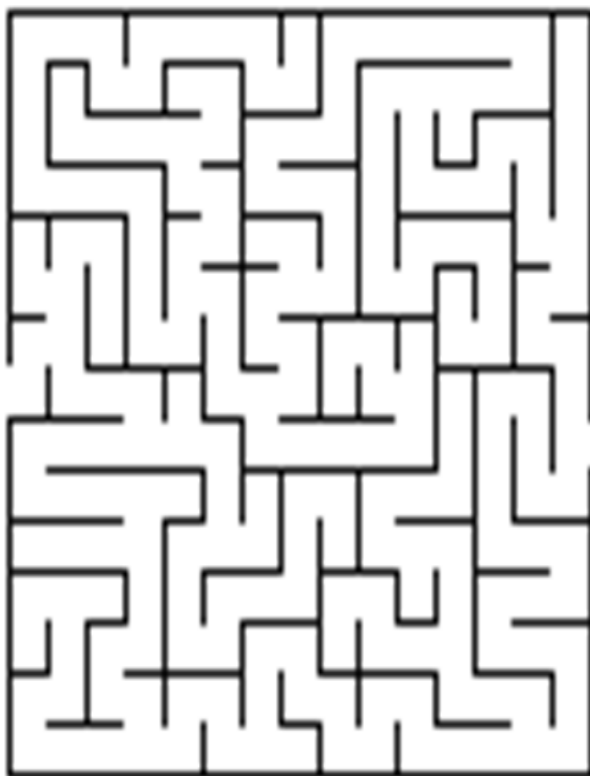
Scout Christmas Post

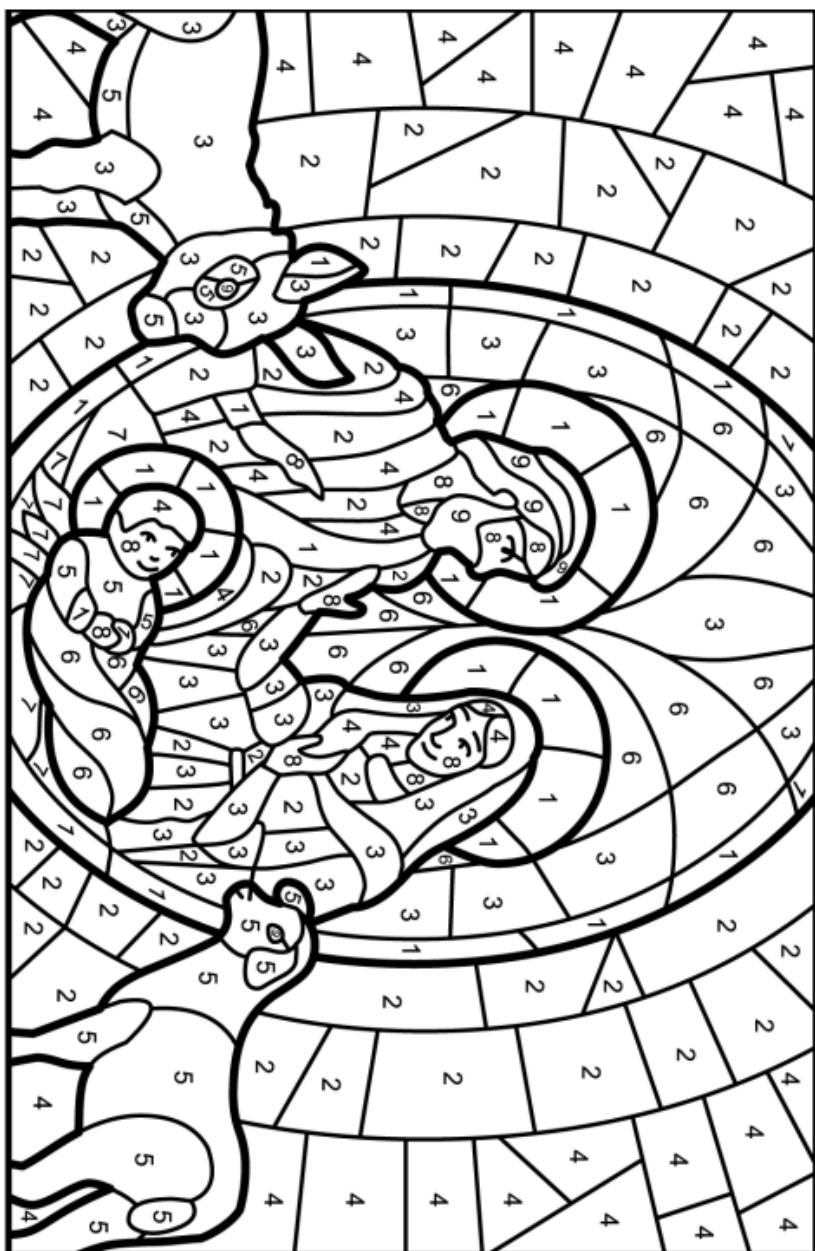
With all the delays and uncertainty with Royal Mail, why not support the scouts and use them to deliver your local Christmas cards? There will be a box in the church vestibule and large hall during the coffee stop this year. Look out for further information via intimations and Facebook.



Christmas

Help the 3 Wise Men get to
the North Star!







Christmas Concert

Sunday 11 th December
2022

2.00 pm

West Kirk
Arbroath

Tickets £8
Available at the door or
from any Choir Member





ARBROATH'S MALE VOICE CHOIR
in the WEST KIRK

JOINING THE MALE VOICE CHOIR are

MONTROSE INSTRUMENTAL BAND &
MAKATON CHOIR

SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER 2022

CONCERT starts at 7.00PM

Doors open 6.30pm

**TICKETS : £10.00 available on the evening at the
door.**

If you require further information contact
Frank Tenant on 01382 293599

Minister – Rev Chris Hay, The Manse, 1 Charles Ave	554189
Session Clerk – Mrs Audrey Shepherd, 25 Bishoploch Rd Asst. Session Clerk - Mr Bill Clark	870080
Treasurer - Mr David Spink, 45 High St	434721
Fabric Convener - Mr Ross Cargill, 4 Lochlands Pk	876405
Roll keeper - Mr Derek Atkinson, 3 Seaton Pl	872818
DJ Club Leader - Miss Leza Gibson, 62 Warddykes Rd	872467
Magazine Distribution - Mrs Kathleen Bruce, 39 Ladyloan	870953
Freewill Offering Convener - Miss Myra Scoular, Church Office	434721
Gift Aid Convener - Miss Myra Scoular, Church Office	434721
Secretary/Church Office – Miss Myra Scoular	434721
Safeguarding - Mrs Jean Cargill, 21 Duncan Ave	874722

If you want to submit any of the magazine articles by E-mail then send it to : - westkirkmag@gmail.com. Alternatively use the box in the vestibule area. All material for the next issue of the magazine should be submitted by end of day of Monday, January 16th 2023, thank you. All articles are subject to copyright, data protection and editorial discretion, Thank you.



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On Facebook at Arbroath West Kirk

***YouTube channel at
<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3tXCAWSP-YNx5x4Ph7EYfQ>***

Website: www.westkirkarbroath.org

Opening Times: Monday, Tuesday & Friday 9am – 1pm

Change of Address

If you have moved house recently, or are about to move, either within or out-with the town, please fill in the address slip below and return to the Roll keeper, Mr D Atkinson, 3 Seaton Place, DD11 5DS. Thank you

Name

**Former
Address**

**New
Address**
