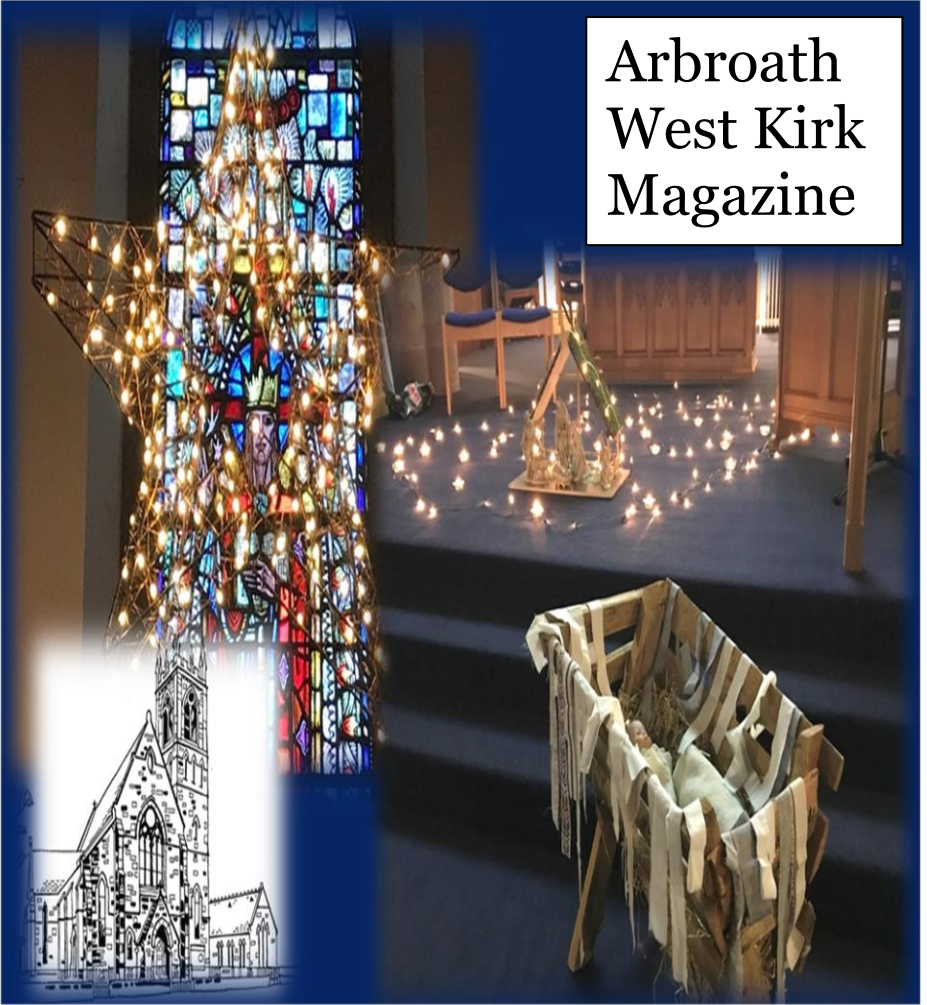


Arbroath West Kirk Magazine



**Issue 303: December 2023 & January
2024**

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Website - www.arbroathwestkirk.org

Chris's Chatter

Advent is a strange time of year – a time of contrasts. On the one hand, we are coming to the end of the Gregorian calendar year with the start of the season of hustle and bustle culminating at Christmas then allowing for a season of reflection on the year that has been whilst on the other, in the church, it's the start of a new calendar year as we wait and ponder again the unique, mind blowing event of the birth of God's Son on earth.



There seems to be a distinction in our lives between the December deadlines that affect us all – card writing, present purchasing and wrapping, cakes to make and food to order, concerts to attend and participate in, family to visit and invite and the list goes on – no less in the church than in our homes – and the quiet contemplation of the words of the prophets that foretold the birth of a saviour, not in a blaze of trumpets, colour and light but in a dark and dreary cowshed. Somehow, somewhere along the line there is a disconnect and as I go about my wonderfully varied day to day activities, I have found this past year that the same hustle and bustle and pressure of the “to do” list on the schedules of so many across differing sectors of our society is such that the quiet time of contemplation and reflection is being squeezed. I meet so many wonderful, dedicated staff in schools, in healthcare, in shops and their counterpart employees and volunteers in our churches and carers at home who are at times weighed down by their responsibilities and meeting expectations.

Rev Peter Nielsen, convener of the special commission that wrote the Church Without Walls report, writes that the externals, the day-to-day responsibilities can sometimes force the pace of our lives and mean that we function in ways that are at odds with who we are in the core of our being.

Jesus says, “love the Lord your God with all your ...soul.” In this Advent season as we come to the end of one kind of year and the start of another, as we prepare and decorate our homes and our churches to welcome others, as we enjoy the mince pies and the carols, let’s also make space for the following;

Time to stop and listen.

Look to the Lord and his strength. Seek his face always. (Psalm 105:4)

Time to stop and look.

Look to the Lord and his strength. Seek his face always.

Time to stop and pray.

Look to the Lord and his strength. Seek his face always.

Time to stop and see with new eyes.

Look to the Lord and his strength. Seek his face always.

Bless the Lord, O my soul! All that is within me praise his holy name.

(Rev Peter Nielsen)

For it’s in the rhythm and discipline of prayer and contemplation, as we seek the loving God who entered the world as a fragile baby in an occupied land, whose family were immediately forced to flee (tragically like so many across our world this Christmas), that we find our souls, our true selves. We find ourselves loved, refreshed and able to look forward to all that lies ahead in the coming year.

Christmas blessings from Mike and me,
Chris.

December.... Another year nearly over. Where have the months gone. As always it’s been a busy one in the Church family. Our Kirk Session have been working hard and I am grateful for their commitment over the year and thank them for their continued support.

As we approach 2024 and move towards the proposed Union, we look forward to our continuing fellowship and united worship that we have enjoyed this year.

The Kirk Session wishes you all a joyous Christmas and a peaceful New Year and we look forward to welcoming you all.

Audrey Shepherd.

Remembrance 2023

It has been a busy Remembrance season again this year and not simply the traditional marking of wars past and present.

On Friday 27th October 1953 the Robert Lindsay lifeboat sank just outside Arbroath harbour with all lives but one being lost. It was a very special privilege to be a part of the commemorations with Rev Nick Baker from St John's Methodist Church, to meet descendants of those lost not only from the lifeboat but also the Islandmagee, the boat that was also lost that night and almost certainly fired the flares which initiated the lifeboat launch and to observe most poignantly two lifeboats laying a wreath in rough seas just outside the harbour in memory of those who died. The service in the West Kirk was attended by the current crew, other emergency services and many from the town and beyond.



The week leading up to this year's Remembrance weekend was a busy one for the Guides, Brownies and rainbows of Arbroath and the area. Vicki White and Carla Ingram organised a programme to enable the girls to earn their "Olive" badge, Olive being just one girl representing many guides who were

employed by MI5 in World War 1. The girls looked at what they did and what Remembrance means through relays, secret messages and crafts. These evenings were held in the west Kirk, Friockheim Church and St Andrew's. A HUGE thank you is due to Vicki and Carla for all their work and for the wreaths that we were presented with which we used as part of our Remembrance service on 12th November. Together with assemblies and class visits looking at children who were evacuated and the challenges of peacemaking, our young people have certainly learned how remembrance is relevant to them.

Young people were also in evidence at the War Memorial this year as hundreds came in the sunshine to mark the silence at 2pm and lay wreaths.



Congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Cooper who were married in the church on the Saturday of Storm Babet! It wasn't a day for photos outside! We wish Sarah (who comes to Toddlers) and Dale health and happiness and lots of days of sunshine rather than rain!!



TimmersTeaRoom@theKirk



In November we were pleased to welcome Arbroath Rotary to the tearoom as they presented the school with a cheque for £100 as part of their Rotakids initiative, the funds to cover their ingredients costs so that all the donations can go to their chosen charity and this year all classes are raising funds for a defibrillator.

December's tearoom with a festive flair, will be on Thursday 14th December at

10.30am and in 2024 the first tearoom will be on Thursday 8th February.

Church Fayre

It was a beautiful morning for the church fayre this year which made going between the halls with stalls and teas a pleasure! A BIG thank you to everyone who came along, who donated goods and especially to the stall holders, the tea and pancake makers, the counters and the Scouts who provided extra tables and a tent!





Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

This takes place next year from 18th-25th January and the theme for 2024 is taken from Jesus' words, "You shall love the Lord your God ...and your neighbour as yourself...", prepared by the churches of Burkina Faso. On the Sunday of this week, which will be Sunday 21st January, there will be a service across the town's churches to renew our commitment to this call and strengthen our unity as Christians. Watch out for more details of time and venue.



Christian Aid Christmas Appeal 2023

Christian Aid have been in touch with regard to their Christmas Appeal 2023.

If you would like to donate, all details of how to do this are on their website www.christianaid.org.uk. You can make a monetary donation or give a charity gift with real meaning this Christmas. Every gift you buy supports Christian Aid's work and helps transform lives around the world. Every purchase acts as a donation and the local partners use the money to work on a specific programme or project.

Please also remember to pray for Christian Aid this Christmas.

Janice Tracey,
Christian Aid Co-ordinator.

CHURCH CALENDAR	DECEMBER 2023
Sundays	
10 th December 17 th December Christmas Eve 24 th 31 st	11am Sunday worship Gift Service Nativity 'Festive Fred' Refreshments + mince pies served after service 17 th December - In Harmony Concert @ 2pm 11am Christingle Service 11.15pm Watchnight Service Ecumenical Service @ St Andrew's Church
Mondays	
4 th 18 th	Guild Craft Afternoon 2-4pm The Guild Christmas Lunch at the Golf Club
11 th	Kirk Session 7.15pm
4 th & 11 th	7.30-9.30pm Male Voice Choir 18 th December Arbroath Male Voice Choir Concert, 7pm. Doors open 6.30pm.
Christmas Day	11am Family Service – wear a Christmas jumper
Tuesdays	
5 th & 12 th	In Harmony Choir 'See concert details above'
12 th	7-8.30pm Knit & Knatter
Wednesdays	
6 th & 13 th	9.15am Toddlers@Westkirk Christmas Party – 13 th December
6 th	1.30pm Wednesday Club
6 th & 13 th	7.30pm Scottish Country Dancing
20 th	9.45am School Christmas services – Muirfield School
Thursdays	
14 th	Timmers Tearoom at the Kirk 10.30am
7 th /14 th	5-6 pm Quiet Space in Church

Thursday (cont'd) 7 th & 14 th	6-8.30pm Youth Club (P3-5 6-7pm & P6-S1 7.15-8.30pm)
21 st	10 am School Christmas services – Timmergreens School
Fridays	
1 st /8 th /15 th /22 nd	10am – 12 noon Coffee Stop
	JANUARY 2024
Sundays	
7 th /14 th /21 st /28 th 28 th	11am Sunday worship Tea & coffee after service
Mondays	
15 th & 22 nd	2-4pm Guild 22 nd Burns Celebration
22 nd & 29 th	7.30-9.30pm Male Voice Choir
Tuesdays 9 th & 23 rd	7-8.30pm Knit & Knatter
9 th /16 th /23 rd /30 th	7.30-9.30pm In Harmony Choir
Wednesdays	
10 th /17 th /24 th /31 st	9.15am Toddlers@Westkirk
10 th /17 th /24 th /31 st	1.30pm Wednesday Club
10 th /17 th /24 th /31 st	7.30pm Bible study by Zoom
10 th /17 th /24 th /31 st	7.30pm Scottish Country Dancing
Thursdays	
11 th /18 th /25 th	5-6 pm Quiet Space in Church
11 th /18 th /25 th	6-8.30pm Youth Club (P3-5 6-7pm & P6-S1 7.15-8.30pm)
25 th	7.30pm Prayer Group by Zoom
Fridays	
12 th /19 th /26 th	10am – 12 noon Coffee Stop

The Flower Calendar dates for 2024 will stay the same as this year unless anyone wants to stop donating. Two dates however are available for next year - 15th September and 17th November. Your donations of the flowers are very much appreciated by those who receive them and they enhance the Church on a Sunday morning. Many thanks.

Ruth Ferguson.



Public Use Defibrillator



Thank you to all those who have contributed towards the cost of installing a public use defibrillator at the West Kirk – we are nearly there! Final donations are welcome, and we look forward to its installation early in 2024!



Remembering those we have loved...

Missing someone we have loved is difficult throughout the year but when the inevitable family gatherings are arranged over the Christmas season, there's always that extra poignancy – whether the loss is recent or many years ago.

For some the Time to Remember Service (elsewhere in the magazine) is a place to acknowledge that loss, others prefer to remain alone with their thoughts.

However you mark this season we are thinking of you and remember especially those who have lost friends or family recently.



Irene Kerr, Monkbarns, DD11 2DS
Barbara Robb, 34 Victoria Street, DD11 2BP

God of compassion, in this Christmas season and everyday
when I feel helpless in my grief,
hold me to your heart.

God of gentleness, in this Christmas season and everyday
in those moments when life is dark,
keep me close to you.

God of comfort, in this Christmas season and everyday
when I am overcome with sadness,
shelter me under your wings.

Ever-faithful God,
help me to find reassurance and hope
in these words of hope to all your people -
"Because you are precious to me,
because I love you,
there is no need to be afraid,
for I am with you." (Isaiah 43

Duty Rota		
December 2023		
3 rd Team 03 :	D Spink	
10 th Team 04 :	J Tracey	
17 th Team 05:	L Bird	
24 th Team 06:	S Nelson	
January 2024		
7 th Team 07:	L Gibson	
14 th Team 08:	A Ferguson	
21 st Team 19:	D Langlands	
28 th Team 01:	A Shepherd	
February 2024		
4 th Team 03:	M McIntosh	
11 th Team 04:	B Cargill	
Flower Calendar		
December 2023	Donator	Arranger
3 rd	Ruth Ferguson	Ruth Freguson
10 th	Bill Clark	Barbara Cargill
17 th	Christmas Flowers	
24 th	Christmas Flowers	
January 2024		
7 th	Flower Fund	Ruth Ferguson
14 th	Marion Jarret	Liz Aiken
21 st	Moira McIntosh	Moira McIntosh
28 th	Joan Macgregor	Isabel Bell
	Linda Bird	Linda Bird
February 2024		
4 th	Margaret Hagan	Barbara Cargill
11 th	Sheila Kerr	Alison Cresswell

Guild

The Guild continues to meet fortnightly on Mondays at 2pm in the Large Hall.
4th December – we are having a Craft Afternoon when we be trying our hand at making Christmas Decorations.

18th December - Guild Christmas Lunch at the Golf Club

15th January – on our first meeting of the New Year, Morag McKenzie, of the Learning Tree is coming along to tell us more about this project.

22nd January – Burns Celebration.

If you are interested in any of those meetings you are most welcome to come along and join us. A copy of the Guild Syllabus can be found on the Notice Board in the large hall.

DJ Club

We are currently planning a fun Christmas activity for the children to enjoy.
We will be on holiday on Sunday 31 December 2023 and Sunday 7 January 2024 restarting on Sunday 14 January 2024.
We wish you a safe and peaceful Christmas.
Leza Gibson.

Life and Work

The price of the magazine is a total of £42 for the yearly subscription.
Payment when you are ready. Thank you
Kathleen Bruce.

FWO Envelopes 2024

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.

Answers to Joan's November Brain teaser. More next edition!!

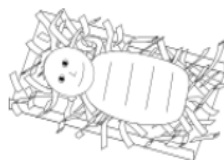
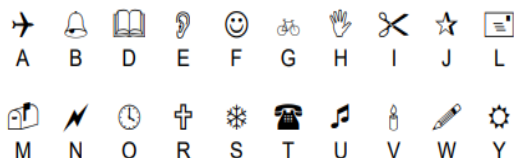
1. Arbirlot 2. Lunan Bay 3. Brechin Number 4. Auchmithie 5. Arbroath 6. Glamis
7. Monifieth 8. Montrose 9. Carnoustie 10. Edzell 11. Kirriemuir 12. Barry
13. Forfar 14. Glen Esk

Christmas Activities'

What did Gabriel say to Mary? Use the code to find out.



Luke 1:31



All about Angels

Find these words in the puzzle.

Angels come from **HEAVEN** to bring a **MESSAGE** from **GOD**.

CHERUBIM, **SERAPHIM**, and **ARCHANGELS** are kinds of angels.

GABRIEL and **MICHAEL** are two angels who are mentioned in the Bible.

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

Scouts Christmas Post

It's hard to believe that a first-class stamp is £1.25 and second class 75p!! If you are sending Christmas cards in the Arbroath and Carnoustie area why not use the Scout Christmas postal service instead. There will be a box in the large hall from 1st-14th December for all your local cards. Last year the cost of a card was 30p – a huge difference!

Posada – An Advent Experience

As we move towards a union of the churches in and around Arbroath, we're going to adapt a South American tradition which began 400 years ago in countries like Mexico and Guatemala.

The idea is that in the season of Advent we reflect on the

journey of Mary and Joseph and the donkey to Bethlehem and on the number of places that they tried to stay. In South America, the tradition is that over 9 days, each day representing one month of Mary's pregnancy people dress up as the characters and go from house to house looking for a place to stay. They will be rejected at some until a place of hospitality is found.

This tradition has been developed in all sorts of ways the figures moving around the homes of church families, the shops within a community etc. This year Mary, Joseph and the donkey will move around our 9 churches during Advent taken by members of one church family to another. There will be a very short explanation and shared prayer together as we reflect on the birth of our Saviour and the ways in which we all serve him together.

Mary and Joseph's progress will be advertised in intimations and on social media so please look out for them.



Christmas Services

2023

Advent 1

Sunday 3rd December at 11am
and at 2pm



Advent 2

Sunday 10th December at 11am

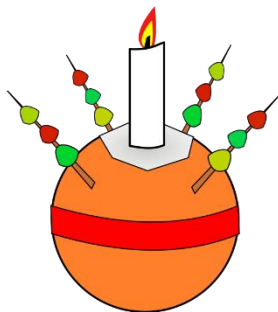
As last year, we will be giving our small, wrapped gifts residents of the care homes in the town. Suggested items include socks, slippers, toiletries, chocolates, puzzle books, pens, calendar, blankets



Advent 3

Sunday 17th December
at 11am
Nativity Sunday – this year
featuring Festive Fred!





Advent 4

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve
Christingle at 11am



Watchnight at 11.15pm



Christmas Day – Monday 25th December

Family Service at
11am -in your Christmas Jumper!

Image by Pikisuperstar on Freepik



Sunday 31st December – United Service at 11am

St Andrew's Church,
21 Hamilton Green, Arbroath, Angus DD11 1JG

In Harmony Christmas Concert

is in the church on Sunday 17th December at 2pm. We hope
you can come and enjoy our Christmas music.

We will have a cuppa in the hall after the concert.

Joan Macgregor

Arbroath's Male Voice Choir

in the West Kirk

MONDAY 18th DECEMBER 2023 - 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

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

From the Transition Team of Arbroath and District

November 2023

Dear Member,

Towards Arbroath and District Church of Scotland

As you will remember from a previous communication, a congregational vote must be taken to implement the Presbytery Mission Plan to unite the nine churches in this area into one Arbroath and District Church of Scotland.

A vote was held earlier this year and two churches voted against the union.

Since then:-

- a) Further discussions and question and answer sessions have been offered to all congregations which we hope have clarified some issues.
- b) Several very successful joint services and activities have taken place to increase our understanding of one another and inspire us to see what we can achieve together.
- c) The transition team have spoken to Perth Presbytery with whom final decisions rest.

Sadly, despite our best efforts, the next congregational vote will not include all nine congregations. The congregation of Arbirlot will not be taking part and this is a source of considerable regret and sadness for all involved in this process. From the date of union, they must make a decision to join or to be dissolved, but their former parish areas will still be part of the new union. It is against this background that another vote for the union will be held after worship on **Sunday 3rd December**. Voting is in person only and further details of the basis of Union and Basis of Team Ministry are available at [:https://www.arbroathwestkirk.org/about/proposed-union-page/](https://www.arbroathwestkirk.org/about/proposed-union-page/) with paper copies available from all churches from Sunday 19th November.

We look forward to seeing you on 3rd December,

The Transition Team

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 Liz Aiken/Mrs Audrey Cherry	872429

*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 15th 2024, 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

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Fridays 9am – 1pm