

OUTREACH

RENFREW NORTH PARISH CHURCH

2017 – winter edition

renfrewnorth.org.uk

Dear Friends,

I write this letter in October, but I am conscious that you will not read it till December. Prominent in the news at present is the Rohingya refugee crisis. More than half a million people have fled the destruction of their homes and persecution in the northern Rakhine province of Myanmar (Burma). They have risked death by sea or on foot in a bid to reach Cox's Bazaar - a district in Bangladesh. I have no doubt the crisis will still be ongoing by the time this is in your hands. However, the media may no longer be focusing on the crisis and it may gradually fade from the public consciousness.

When their lives are threatened, people often seek refuge in another land. These Rohingya people are Muslims and they faced ethnic cleansing in Myanmar. They have fled from troops, backed by local Buddhist mobs, who have burnt their villages and killed civilians. In recent years we have heard of refugees arriving in Europe, escaping from Syria and sailing across from Turkey into Greece or fleeing from parts of Africa and crossing from Libya into Italy.

Part of the Christmas story tells of how Joseph took the baby Jesus and his mother and fled from Judaea to seek refuge in Egypt. King Herod the Great wanted to kill the child who had been born to be "the King of the Jews" and ordered his soldiers to kill all the boys of Bethlehem under the age of two. It is not a part of the Christmas story that we like. We tend to avoid it because it does not fit in with our light-hearted approach to the festive season with Christmas trees and fairy lights, parties and big meals, presents and Santa Claus. We are happy enough to hear about the baby born in a stable because there was no room at the inn, the angel announcing news of his birth to shepherds in nearby fields



Rev Alistair Shaw, our Interim Moderator

and a bright star guiding wise men from the east first to Jerusalem and later to Bethlehem, but please don't tell us about the threat to the Christ child's life or the slaughter of the innocent children.

However, the story is important because of what we are told earlier in the narrative. Before Jesus was born, Joseph was told that his birth would fulfil a prophecy of Isaiah concerning a child to be called Immanuel, a name which means "God with us". We come to the heart of the Christmas message when we realise that with Jesus' birth God was entering our world in a quite unique way, coming alongside his people to share in their lives.

That means God is with us in happy events such as our celebration of Christmas, but he is also with us in the less pleasant experiences, such as illness or sorrow. The world's attention may drift away from the Rohingya refugees, but God will still be with them. We may even forget about God, but he does not forget about us. We may lose our grip on God, but he still has a firm grasp of us!

With warm good wishes for a joyful Christmas!

Rev Alistair N Shaw

Church diary

December

- 10 11:15 & 2pm Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 17 11:15 Nativity Service
- 24 11:15 Service of Lessons and Carols
- 24 7:30 Family Christmas Eve Service (Singalong from 7:15)
- 31 11:15 Morning Worship

January

- 7 11:15 Morning Worship with short Communion
- 14 11:15 Morning Worship
- 21 11:15 Morning Worship
- 28 11:15 Family Service

February

- 4 11:15 Morning Worship
- 11 11:15 Morning Worship
- 18 11:15 Morning Worship
- 25 11:15 Family Service - Souper Sunday

March

- 4 11:15 Morning Worship
- 11 11:15 & 2pm Sacrament of Holy Communion

Congregational Board

Wed 10 January and 21 March at 7pm

Kirk Session

Wed 7 February and 4 April at 7pm

Trustees Meeting

21 March at 7pm

Congregational AGM

25 March at 12.30pm

(Please note: These dates, details and times are subject to adjustment by the Interim Moderator and the Locum Minister)

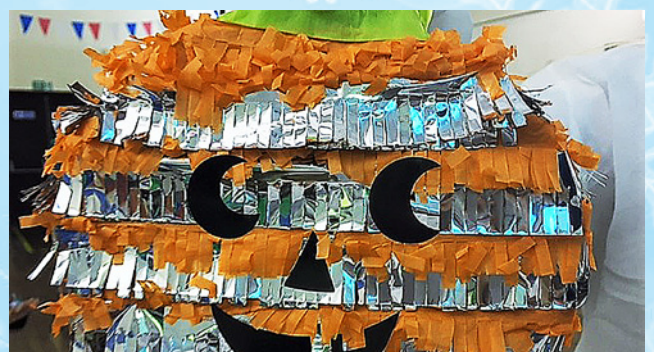
Brownies

Brownies have been completing their Computer Badge, they've been to Deep Sea World and had their Hallowe'en Party. Tuesday 7th

November was a fireworks celebration night with soup and hotdogs! We have started our Crime Prevention badge, then we will have Christmas Crafts and a Christmas Party to look forward to!

Please join us on a Tuesday night from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm!

Valerie Wilson, Brownies Leader





Boys' Brigade

What a great start to our new session! - numbers good in all sections, with around 35 noisy Anchors, 20 Juniors and 18 Company Section members.

Battalion Competitions are now well underway, with success and trophies already. The Juniors won the Battalion football competition and the Company Section came second in the quiz competition with a composite team including Innes McCready winning the quiz.

We have already held our first coffee morning which raised £350 profit for us, and QuizCo took place in November which provided us with good fundraising.

We also have had a couple of boys attending PowerPoint, a Christian Worship Event for youth. This is open to all youth and we are trying to encourage boys to go along with other young people from the church.

We have a busy session ahead - including



our Juniors and Anchors going to the Paisley Players pantomime at Gallowhill. Our Juniors and Company Section will be going to Kingswood Dearne Valley Centre, near Doncaster at the end of May for an

activity weekend.

Our Juniors could do with some leader help - if anyone would be able to volunteer, even if on an occasional basis, please contact me.

Andrew Scott (Captain)

Renfrew Community Coffee Bar

The Coffee Bar will be marking Christmas with its Christmas Party on the morning of Thursday 21 December – a great event going by the experience of past years!

The Coffee Bar will be closed over the Christmas period on 25 and 26 December, but will be open again on 27, 28 and 29

December. Over New Year, it will be closed on 1, 2 and 3 January, but will be open for 'business as usual', starting on Thursday 4 January.

Gus and the Coffee Bar Team wish you all "A Very Happy Christmas and a Guid New Year!"



Finance Update

We are continuing to see a significant fall in receipts through both Freewill Offering (envelopes) and Standing Orders. Whereas 3 years ago, quarterly income from both sources was over £23,000 per quarter, it has now fallen to below £20,000. For the first 9 months of 2017, there has been an 11% fall compared with last year.

Problems never come singly. Following a recent inspection by our Insurers we have had to survey our complete electrical installation at a cost of £2,000, requiring a further £8,000 of work to be undertaken by early December and a further £20,000 of rewiring is required over the following year.

Do we have plenty of money in the bank?

Up to a point, we could access the funds if absolutely necessary. However, OSCAR (the Charity Regulator) recommends that we should have 5 months of 'operating revenue' in reserve - we only have 4 months' worth!

Our Reserve Fund currently stands at £47,000; £30,000 of electrical work would eradicate most of that! If that amount of money were to be taken out of the Reserve Fund, it would be very difficult to replace. Remember, problems never come alone – we may have some other unexpected expense just around the corner. We also have the expected expense of redecorating and some carpeting work at the manse, should a new minister arrive!

In the Spring Edition I asked if you could spare an additional 50p per week for the Church and I am most grateful to those who

have responded. Many of us are 'just about managing' these days, but for those of you who could afford a wee bit extra - please:

- Review your Standing Order - when did you last change?
- Pop in that wee bit extra in your envelope
- If you are a taxpayer, or your spouse/partner in the same household is, and you have not signed a Gift Aid declaration, then please do so as soon as possible! Forms are available from the leaflet stand in the Lesser Hall.

Just a little by a lot will do a lot.

Thank you in anticipation of your support!

John Collins, Finance Convenor

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GLYNHILL
HOTEL

JUNIOR CHURCH

This autumn our Lighthouse children have been discovering the story of the Exodus: following Moses and the Israelites fleeing from slavery in Egypt across the Red Sea, wandering through the desert finding manna to eat and drinking water from rocks, making a golden calf and receiving 10 commandments and finally crossing the Jordan with their new leader Joshua into the Promised

Land. Little Stars have also been hearing stories of the Old Testament from The Jesus Story Book Bible. This book interestingly shows how all of the Old Testament is preparing the way for God sending the Messiah. This has set the scene perfectly for our Nativity preparations.

The Nativity will be performed on Sunday 17 December with additional early rehearsals on the previous two Sundays.

Junior Church will run the popular Mystery Gift stall at the fete on 3 December and welcome donations of small wrapped gifts to sell. We can never have too many!

Numbers of young folk at Loungers are growing healthily and we are planning to divide officially into two age groups, as members now span in age from 11 to 18. More about their activities elsewhere.

2018 is designated The Year of Young People and the Church of Scotland has asked congregations particularly to support their children and youth over the coming year. This will not be a problem for Renfrew North and we look forward to sharing our projects and activities with you over the year.



Advent Prayer Meeting – Tuesday 5 December at 7.30 pm

The theme for this year is 'The Colours of Christmas':

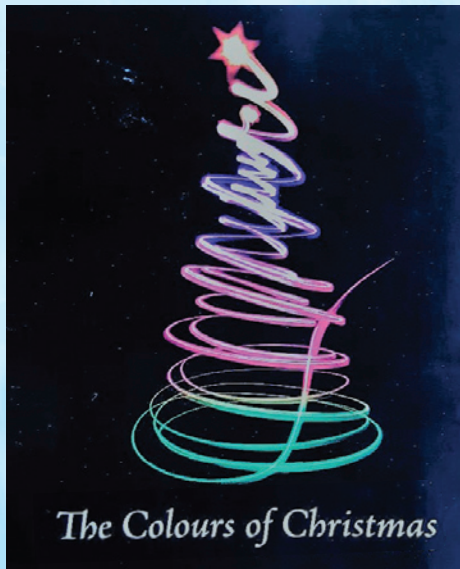
Purple – born a King

Green – new life to bring.

Our meetings are always very well attended, but there is always room for YOU!

For more information, please contact Sheila Love on 0141 561 4535

All are welcome!



The Loungers

Loungers meet every Sunday morning and have been exploring their faith through prayer and attending Christian events such as PowerPoint. During a recent trip to PowerPoint our Loungers committed to fundraising for Tearfund. On Sunday 5th November, they raised £83.56 by making and selling their own lemonade, rolls and sausage and ice cream cookie sandwiches!

Thanks to the congregation for supporting the young people with this.

Valerie Wilson, Loungers Leader



The Guild



As we head to the end of the first session of our syllabus, there have been some very interesting and varied evenings over the last couple of months, with our guests, including Rev

Alistair Shaw, Dr Graeme Simpson & Tom McGill, Charlie Newlands and Douglas Keith, who brought with them pictures and slides and regaled us with stories.

We also enjoyed an outing to Cardwell Garden Centre for a most enjoyable afternoon tea, and a wee bit of retail therapy from the garden and gift shops.

On Wednesday 13th December we shall, once again, enjoy our Christmas Lunch at the Piccolo Mondo and on 20th December, our last evening of the session to enjoy our Carols, Candles and Coffee.

We commence our 2nd session on Wednesday 18th January 2018 at 7.30pm.

President Maureen Tunnicliffe and her Committee wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Property and Fundraising



The **Christmas Fete** will be held on Sunday 3 December, after the morning service. Please do come along and support this event – get your unique Christmas Gifts and provisions here and help support the church!

We have to carry out an extensive upgrade to the electrical system in the church halls, so the Fundraising Committee will be 'getting their thinking caps on' for new and innovative fundraising activities to be carried out over the next few months.

Gary Louttit, Property and Fundraising Convener

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Baptisms

20 August

Thomas David McCrimmon, dob 30/11/16

27 August

Georgia Jillian Halligan, dob 15/4/17

29 October

Isla Georgia McCafferty

Deaths

Roll No	Name	District
22 August	Mr Brian McCammick	
28 August	Mr Neil McNeilage	59
6 September	Mrs A Johnston	36

22 August

28 August

6 September

New Members

By Profession

Roll No	Name	District
784	Miss Megan Anderson	55
785	Mr Scott Jeffrey	20
786	Mr Greig Mitchell	60
787	Mr Gordon Simpson	42

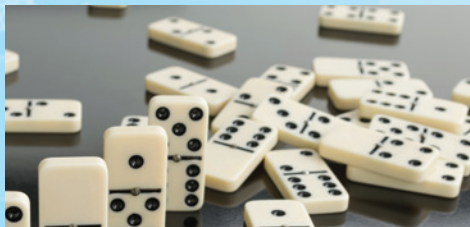
By Resolution of the Kirk Session

Roll No	Name and Address	District
788	Mrs Wilma McCammick,	65

Transferred by Certificate to elsewhere

Roll No	Name and Address	District
767	Mrs Susan Thornborrow	60

Men's Association



On Monday 2nd of October we played host to veterans from Erskine introducing them to twelve spot dominoes. An evening of fun and banter was enjoyed by all. Our next visitors will be Trinity Men's Club on 6th of November and Sandyford on the 27th.

We have started our competitions and I've been knocked out of one and through to the next round in another. It's not too late for any new member to join and take part in all our activities. So far this season, we have had four new members.

I haven't had any response from other organisations yet regarding a games night! Don't be shy – we will be glad to show any guests what to do!

On behalf of the Men's Association may I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful Happy New Year.

Alan Canavan, Secretary

Who's Who

Interim Minister:

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Email: moderator@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Session Clerk:

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Clerk to the Board:

Alison Gerrard
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Tel: 561 6540
Email: clerktotheboard@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Treasurer:

John F Buchan
5 Gala Avenue, Renfrew
Tel: 885 2061
Email: treasurer@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Plate Duties

Dec 10, Feb 4, Apr 1 - Leader: John Collins, Vivian Collins, Lesley Dargo, Charles Hamilton, David Henderson, Stuart Irving, Cameron Jeffrey, Gill McKay, Linda Smith

Dec 17, Feb 11, Apr 8 - Leader: Annette Russell, Catherine Adamson, Rena Bradley, Elizabeth Bruce, Jim Bruce, Alan Canavan, Rene Canavan, Alistair Corkindale, Roddy Lawrie, Ellen Strachan

Dec 24, Feb 18, Apr 15 - Leader: Gus Muchan, Jim Bain, Cherry Briggs, Margaret Cumming, Fiona Hendrie, Lesley McFarlane, Rhona McNeil, Sandra Moir, Lesley Smith

Dec 31, Feb 25, Apr 22 - Leader: Eric Smyth, Evelyn Brown, John Buchan, Mary Dempster, Scott Mitchell, Andrew Scott, Dorothy Scott, Aileen Winch, Jack Winch, Catherine Young

Jan 7, Mar 4, Apr 29- Leader: Brian Donaldson, Dixon Drye, Adam Loutitt, Campbell McGregor, Robert McRae, Carole Melvin, Robert Melvin, Sheryl Pickering, Marion Wallace

Jan 14, Mar 11, May 6 - Leader: Eleanor Burns, Christine Barr, Betty Graham, Marion Henderson, Sheila Love, Charlie Newlands, June Newlands, Bob Parker, Betty Wilson, Valerie Wilson

Jan 21, Mar 18, May 13 - Leader: Stewart Gilchrist, Alison Gerrard, Christine Louttit, Gary Louttit, Nancy Macdonald, Aileen Mitchell, David Mitchell, Sandra Muir, Linda Simpson, May Stevenson, Aileen White

Jan 28, Mar 25, May 20 - Leader: Jim Mackie, Jacqueline Boyd, Elizabeth Cameron, Gordon Ferguson, Marian Ferguson, Marjorie Grant, David Kerr, Sandra Kerr, Ellen Weir, Marion Weir

Harvest Thanksgiving

I would like to thank the Junior Church, members of the congregation and those that attend the coffee bar for their donations of dried goods, tins (including rice from the Malawi Rice Challenge) and toiletries to our Harvest Thanksgiving. The response was amazing!

All the goods donated were given to the Renfrewshire Foodbank. They were absolutely amazed and delighted with the amount of goods that were donated. There were so many boxes that Renfrewshire Foodbank

Property:

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Email: organist@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Beadle:

Mrs Marjorie Grant
11 Urquhart Crescent, Renfrew
Tel: 886 4919
Email: beadle@renfrewnorth.org.uk



thought that they would not have enough room in their van for all the goods. So, once again Thank You!

Alison Gerrard,
Clerk to the Congregational Board

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Articles for Spring 2018 Outreach should be sent to: editor@renfrewnorth.org.uk (or for those without access to a computer, please place articles in the 'Church Office postbox', marked 'Outreach'), by Sunday 28 January 2018.