

OUTREACH

RENFREW NORTH PARISH CHURCH

2018 – winter edition

renfrewnorth.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Jesus Christ had a hard start to life more than 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. His parents found themselves without anywhere to stay so that he started off life in a rough and ready, and probably smelly, stable. After the birth the situation got so bad that they had to flee the country as refugees.

It is hard to say which is more remarkable, that God created the hills and oceans and stars which so often fill us with a sense of awe, or that he sent his son into the world at Christmas time to live as an ordinary baby suffering all kinds of difficulties.

All this means that God is not just some distant supernatural being, but someone who really understands many of the difficulties of human life.

God reached out to us in love and found out what it was like to be a refugee and homeless, to feel hunger and thirst, to experience pain, bereavement and even death.

There is nothing superficial about the Christmas season. Nothing meaningless about the giving of presents and hanging of decorations. It is only right that in the middle of our lives that can be filled with so much difficulty, we celebrate the fact of God's great love, and the deep understanding of the world that Jesus has. One of the wonderful things about Christmas is that it reminds us that we can also reach out in love to others. We can donate to the foodbank or a charity, or if we find ourselves unable to do that this Christmas, we can reach out to others with happy smiles and Christmas cheer.

The comfort and joy of Christmas is knowing that no matter what we are going through, we have a God who understands us and loves us infinitely.

Every blessing

Philip



Advent Prayer Group

Date - Tuesday 4th December

Time - 7.30pm

Place - Small hall next to church

Theme - Do you have room for the Saviour?

If you have never attended a meeting before, please do come along and join us to begin an Advent Journey of prayers, poems, readings and songs. You can be assured of a warm welcome from all the regulars.

Tea/coffee/sandwiches/homebaking is served at the close of the meeting.

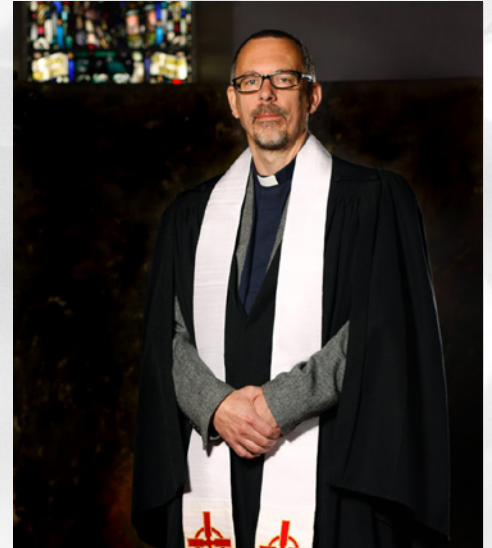
For more information and if you have a prayer request, please contact Sheila Love on 561 4535.

Renfrewshire Foodbank & Malawi Rice Challenge

A big **thank you** to everyone who donated food and other goods for Renfrewshire Foodbank. The support given by either purchasing all 90Kg of the Malawi Rice Challenge and through the large number of donations to the foodbank was once again fantastic. Sufficient was raised for 1431 meals for people in crisis in our community!

My thanks also go to the Loungers for their help in packing the boxes and bags with donations and taking carrying them through to the hall for uplift by the Foodbank.

Alison Gerrard



Church diary

December

- 2** 11:15 Morning Worship
- 9** 11:15 and 14:00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 16** 11:15 Morning Worship
- 23** 11:15 Nativity Service
- 24** 7 for 7:30 Christmas Eve Service
- 30** 11:15 Morning Worship

January

- 6** 11:15 Morning Worship and informal Communion
- 13** 11:15 Morning Worship
- 20** 11:15 Morning Worship
- 27** 11:15 Family Service

February

- 3** 11:15 Morning Worship
- 10** 11:15 Morning Worship
- 17** 11:15 Morning Worship
- 24** 11:15 Family Service – Souper Sunday

March

- 3** 11:15 and ? Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 10** 11:15 Morning Worship
- 17** 11:15 Youth Parade & Family Service
- 24** 11:15 Morning Worship
- 31** 11:15 Morning Worship

Congregational Board

- Wed 9 January at 7pm
- Wed 6 March at 7pm

Kirk Session

- Wed 6 February at 7pm
- Wed 3 April at 7pm

(Please note: These dates, details and times may be subject to adjustment)

Junior Church

All sections of Junior Church have been delving into the old testament this autumn with Spill the Beans, learning the 'stories of beginnings' in Genesis and then discovering something of Joseph's amazing life. Here are lighthouse groups thinking what some of it means.



Seeing how vinegar and baking soda fizzes up just like anger when Cain was jealous of his brother Abel

Which languages do people speak around the world? Though all very different God loves them all.



Now we are busy preparing for the nativity service on Sunday 23 December:

The toy service will be on Sunday 25 November. We again look forward to being able to help the Salvation Army by providing a good number of toys for their Christmas distribution.

Following last year's successful all age

The Tower of Babel where everyone spoke different languages.



Christmas party, we will be having a similar event for all our Junior Church families on Friday 21 December where you can enjoy a fork supper, games, dancing and a visit from Santa, if he's not too busy! Get your ticket soon!

Aileen Winch

Finance

A BIG Thank You to All! We will reach the end of 2018 financially bruised but still with a positive bank balance - that is with grateful thanks to all of you who supported our Fund Raising, in particular the Voltage Voucher campaign and those who have increased their regular giving.

One year ago, I wrote in Outreach raising the double concerns of Electrical Repairs to the Halls costing some £30,000, while levels of giving had fallen 11% from the previous year.

Barely a month after writing that, including

a throwaway comment that problems never come singly, we suffered a water leak in the Manse which ultimately cost even more than the Hall repairs.

By March I was seriously concerned how we were going to make it through 2018.

A number of matters worked in our favour: a one off opportunity to pull forward our Gift Aid reclaims, a very generous and timely bequest, successful claims to the Cargill Bequest and to Presbytery for a reduction to our Ministry and Mission payments for 2018. Absolutely key however was your energy and generosity!

And on the other subject of giving, I am pleased to report that at the half year we

were 1% UP against 2017.

2018 saw the highest level of expenditure in our history. We have come through without having to commit ourselves to any loans. Our resilience has however taken a dent and another double hit like this would be very, very serious.

Let us take the positives however and congratulate yourselves that we can continue the good work of Renfrew North!

John Collins

Finance Convenor
John.collins@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Brownies

The Brownies and Guides had a joint Halloween party and a joint Firework celebration! The Brownies are also working on their Promise, Road Safety and Discovering Faith Badges.

We meet on Tuesday nights from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

For further information please contact Valerie Wilson at:
2ndrenfrewbrownies@gmail.com.

Valerie Wilson

Brownie Leader

We had a great turnout when the session began back after our summer break. The girls have enjoyed our recent trip to Bowling as a treat for this year's session. We have just had our joint Hallowe'en party with the brownies! All the guiders were very impressed by the effort made by all the girls. We had Angels, Monkey's and even a Granny join in the activities. Everyone is looking forward to our annual fireworks night coming up in November as well as our usual programmed games night and plenty of badge work flung in for good measure. Can't be having too much fun -right??

Guides is on in the Church Halls on Tuesday nights 7:30-9pm. If you are/know any girls who would be interested, aged 10-14, please come and see us!

Chloe Anderson

Acting Guide Captain



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Boys' Brigade

Once again, we are up and running at the 1st/3rd Renfrew! We've had a good start to the session with around 30 Anchors, 14 Juniors and 19 Company Section.

Already this session we have had our first coffee morning which raised around £500, which was a fantastic result!

We also had our BB Big Brunch, which was a national event run across over 100 companies in Scotland. Our Guild was involved, being partners with the Boys' Brigade over the next three years. They were a great help with their home baking and serving tea and coffee. The soup and sandwiches went down well and we raised £600 to split between Tearfund and the BB World Mission project 'Playground for the StARs'.



Men's Association

Our new season got off to a good start with some new blood and we are now getting into our competitions.

We played host to our friends from Erskine Hospital at the beginning of October, introducing them to twelve spot dominoes, which was enjoyed by all!

We next play host to Trinity Church men's club at the beginning of November and Sandyford Church men's club at the end

of November. As this is the winter edition of 'OUTREACH', may I wish you all the very best for the festive season from the Men's Club and remember the BIG QUIZ is coming! We always have space for new members and you will be sure of a warm welcome so come and join us.

Alan Canavan

Secretary

Register

Baptisms



Beth Lorna Margaret Wilson (Hood)
2 September 2018

Olivia Angela Carol-Ann Conway and
David James Thomas Conway,
16 September 2018



Oliver William Stewart, 21 October 2018



Isla Louise Bishop, 28 October 2018



Christopher Junior Brown, 4 November 2018

Deaths

Roll No	Name	District	Date
273	Annie Cook	9	Aug 18
705	Margaret Pillans	52	28 Aug 18
502	Pauline Findlay	57	17 Sept 18
17	Matthew Waddell	51	19 Sept 18

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Loungers



The Loungers meet at 11:00 for breakfast every Sunday. Come join us for food, faith and discussion! We are also working on projects to support Tearfund and our local community.

We have started a Discovery group for 16-25 year olds on a Sunday evening at 7PM. This is an inclusive group of young adults discussing faith over free Pizza!

We are currently following the Christianity Explored series. For more information please contact Valerie Wilson at: renfrewnorthyouth@gmail.com

Valerie Wilson

Plate Duties

Jan 6, Mar 3 & Apr 28 - Leader: John Collins, Vivian Collins, Lesley Dargo, Charles Hamilton, David Henderson, Stuart Irving, Cameron Jeffrey, Gill McKay, Linda Smith

Jan 13, Mar 10 & May 5 - Leader: Annette Russell, Catherine Adamson, Rena Bradley, Elizabeth Bruce, Jim Bruce, Alan Canavan, Rene Canavan, Alistair Corkindale, Roddy Lawrie, Ellen Strachan

Jan 20, Mar 17 & May 12- Leader: Gus Muchan, Jim Bain, Margaret Cumming, Fiona Hendrie, Scott Jeffrey, Lesley McFarlane, Rhona McNeil, Sandra Moir, Pamela Philp, Lesley Smith

Dec 2, Jan 27 & Mar 24 - Leader: Eric Smyth, Evelyn Brown, John Buchan, Mary Dempster, Vicki Gerrard, Scott Mitchell, Andrew Scott, Aileen Winch, Jack Winch, Catherine Young

Dec 9, Feb 3 & Mar 31 - Leader: Brian Donaldson, Dixon Drye, Adam Loutitt, Campbell McGregor, Robert McRae, Carole Melvin, Robert Melvin, Sheryl Pickering, Bruce Wallace, Marion Wallace

Dec 16, Feb 10 & Apr 7 - Leader: Eleanor Burns, Christine Barr, Betty Graham, Marion Henderson, Sheila Love, Charlie Newlands, June Newlands, Bob Parker, Betty Wilson, Valerie Wilson

Dec 23, Feb 17, Apr 14 - Leader: Stewart Gilchrist, Alison Gerrard, Christine Louttit, Gary Louttit, Aileen Mitchell, David Mitchell, Sandra Muir, Gordon Simpson, Linda Simpson, May Stevenson

Dec 30, Feb 24, Apr 21 - Leader: Jim Mackie, Jacqueline Boyd, Elizabeth Cameron, Gordon Ferguson, Marian Ferguson, Marjorie Grant, David Kerr, Sandra Kerr, Jim McNeil, Ellen Weir, Marion Weir



The Guild

Over the next 3 years the Guild are looking at six projects:

Guild Project -

Malawi Fruits Growing the Future

Malawi Fruits is a Scottish Christian charity committed to working in Malawi to support young farmers-their aim is to lift hundreds of small - scale farmers out of poverty, and see opportunities to bring great help through and crop processing.

Through the guild project they hope to:

- Work with youth groups to train and support the young people to grow cash crops using modern methods
- Provide solar pumps to enable the young people to grow crops using irrigation
- Provide access to a tractor and plough as part of the 'green revolution' for these young farmers

Throughout all of this, they will work with youth groups to help young people recognise this help as a blessing from god and as a connection with the Global Church through the guild and Malawi fruits

This session we have had a varied programme with speakers from **Playlist for Life** – demonstrating the value of personal music for individuals suffering from dementia.

- Rev Yvonne Smith spoke about her first year as a parish minister.
- 'Meet the author Alex Gray' gave us an insight into how she chose the path of a writer.

As you read this we will be approaching our festive programme.

One of our own Liz McLay will inspire with Christmas desserts, Jordanhill Parish Church handbell ringers will delight us with their music and we will finish the session with our Carols Coffee and Candles just before Christmas.

The Guild would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas!

Our new session begins on **Wednesday 9th January 2019**, when we will meet for lunch at the Piccolo Mondo at 2pm.

Articles for Spring 2019 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 27th January 2019**.