



The Springfield Cambridge Record



December 2017

The Son of God did not want to be seen and found in heaven. Therefore he descended from heaven into this humility and came to us in our flesh, laid himself into the womb of his mother and into the manger and went on to the cross. This was the ladder that he placed on earth so that we might ascend to God on it

Martin Luther

Minister

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A word from our Minister ...*Christmas is coming!*

At a recent Chaplaincy Team meeting for our Bishopbriggs Academy Christmas Service, the Chaplains were planning what to do this year. Each year it seems to me that Christmas comes around ever faster, and I have to begin my preparations earlier than I would like. We always like to review the TV ad campaigns of some of the country's leading stores to see if there is anything topical that can give us a fresh angle to share with the school community. Even if that means explaining to the young people that before Elbow sang a particular song, the Beatles sang it first! There is truly nothing new under the sun.

And of course, at this point of the year, we see less of the sun each passing day as we move towards the shortest day just before Christmas. On dark November and December evenings I like nothing better than to draw the curtains, as if to shut out the darkness, and settle down in the Manse to relax, reading or watching the TV. Of course, that isn't always possible, there are always meetings to attend and people to visit and tasks to be done. So, I must venture out into the darkness, against my better judgement. However, as we move into the season of Advent I remind myself that Christmas is coming. The one for whom we have long awaited will return. "*The light,*" as St. John puts it, "*shines in the darkness and the darkness shall not overcome it.*" That gives me hope and makes those bleak evenings when I must venture out seem so much more bearable. Christ is coming! And through him grace and truth shall come and we will have reason to celebrate and rejoice. Again I say rejoice! The Lord is coming!

Rev Ian Taylor

Another word from our Minister ...*acceptance*

Sometimes my opening article provokes a reaction from our readers, but not always. Last month having read about radical acceptance, a few members shared with me their experiences and difficulties in accepting the circumstances of their lives. One of our members has kindly agreed to me sharing their personal aphorisms which they have found helpful over the years having undergone a period of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for a stress related illness.

"Be compassionate to yourself"

"Worry is like a rocking horse.....it gets you nowhere"

"Be kinder than is necessary, for everyone you meet is facing/fighting some kind of battle"

"No one is in charge of your happiness but you"

"Frame every so called disaster with these words 'In five years wills this matter'"

"Make peace with your past so it won't mess up the present"

"It is easy to fear every day or to fear the future but instead say 'Well look at what I've done today, you never would have thought it' "

"The idea of finding something to do is a big help. If I find I really cannot face a job, I find something else to do but don't just sit there thinking"

From the perspective of faith, I conclude this piece drawing upon a famous sermon by the theologian Paul Tillich. Preaching on grace, Tillich said in his sermon '***You are accepted***', "Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness...Sometimes at that moment a wave of

light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying: 'You are accepted. *You are accepted*, accepted by that which is greater than you, and the name of which you do not know. Do not ask for the name now; perhaps you will find it later. Do not try to do anything now; perhaps later you will do much. Do not seek for anything; do not perform anything; do not intend anything. *Simply accept the fact that you're accepted!*' If that happens to us, we experience grace. After such an experience we may not be better than before, and we may not believe more than before. But everything is transformed. In that moment, grace conquers sin, and reconciliation bridges the gulf of estrangement. And nothing is demanded of this experience, no religious or moral or intellectual presupposition, nothing but *acceptance*.'

I like that concept of grace and acceptance, how about you? Are you ready to accept this graceful truth?

Rev Ian Taylor

LOOKING BACK

Funerals

Friday 27th October, 2017

Isabella K. McPherson,
Springburn Road

Tuesday 31st October, 2017

Arthur Black,
Erskine Home

Friday 10th November, 2017

Janet H Dougan,

Clachan of Campsie House Care Home

God of grace and peace, in your Son Jesus Christ, you have given us new birth into a living hope. Strengthen us now to live in the power of the resurrection and keep us united with our loved one from whom in death we are not divided. For you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

LOOKING AHEAD

Vestry Hour – Wednesday mornings at 10 am .

Should anyone wish to see the Minister, Ian will be available on the **13th and 20th of December, 2017** from 10-11 am. Should you wish to see him at another time, please contact Ian on ☎0141 772 1540 or ✉ ITaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk and another arrangement can be made.

Mid-Week Services – Cambridge Chapel 11.10 am.

The Wednesday morning Service will be held in the Cambridge Chapel. The Cambridge Chapel will also be open Monday – Friday from 10 am – 12 noon for anyone who wishes to find a quiet place to read the Bible, pray or reflect during the course of the week.



On **Saturday 2nd December, 2017** between 10 – 12 noon and on **Sunday 3rd December, 2017**, our **Jars of Grace for UNICEF** will be received.

On **Sunday 3rd December, 2017 (the first Sunday in Advent)** gifts for children will be received during this Service. The gifts will be used by local social work agencies at Christmas and throughout the coming year. You can wrap your gift if you wish, but please attach a label to the outside indicating whether the gift is suitable for a boy or girl, and what age group. Or, you may present your gift unwrapped, with accompanying paper attached and a note of sex/age of child. In this way these gifts can be used during the coming year for birthdays and the like, if unused at Christmas.





There will be a Service at Callieburn Court on **Sunday 10th. December, 2017 at 2.30 pm.** This monthly Service at Callieburn Court is open to any member of the congregation who would like to join the residents for a short Service lasting about 20 minutes or so. The Service is held in the Lounge.



On Monday 18th December, 2017, at 9.30 / 9.45 am., the children (P1) and staff of Thomas Muir Primary School will come to the Church for their Christmas Service. This is open to all.



Sunday 24th December, 2017 the Sunday School and Bible Wayfinders join us for our Nativity Service at 11am

Sunday 24th December, 2017 - Christmas Eve - A Family Service will be held at 6.30 pm. **Our Watch Night Service** will begin at 11.30 pm with Carol Singing from 11 pm.

There will be a Retiring Collection in aid of the Glasgow City Mission at these Services.



On Christmas Day, Monday 25th. December, 2017 the Bishopbriggs Churches of our Parish Grouping will hold a Joint Christmas Service at **Kenmure Church.** This **10.30 am Service** will be a **Family Service** and will last for about half an hour. After

this those who wish to remain may do so for a Service of Holy Communion, aimed principally at adults, although all are welcome to the Lord's Table.



Our Sunday Service on **31st December, 2017 at 11am** will take the form of a Songs of Praise.

Treasurer's Report

This being the final magazine of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Thanks to all the "regular" givers in the congregation for your offerings in 2017. Your support is very much appreciated and this means that we can meet our planned expenditure throughout the year.

We have recently received settlement from HMRC of our Q3 General Fund tax claim for £4,325 along with the balance of our Gift Aid Small claims allowance for 2017/18 tax year of £826.

By the time you read this article we will have made our final payment of £7,864 for our Ministries and Mission Allocation for 2017.

***As you can see from the figures below we have a surplus on the General Fund for the year-to-date of £15,377. As previously stated this is due to late settlement of HMRC General Fund tax claims that should have paid to us in 2016 totalling £19,899. If this figure is removed, then we are sitting a deficit for the year to date (21/11/2017) of £4,522.**

Income from Offerings	£
	ACTUAL
FWO Scheme	14,118
Open Plate	6,339
Gift Aid	69,602
Tax Recovered	35,629
Total	125,688
Other Ordinary Gen Income	25,284
TOTAL ORD GEN INCOME	150,972
GENERAL EXPENDITURE	135,595
Surplus for the Year to date	15,377

Jim Kerr, Treasurer

On the Front Cover this Month

As is known, celebration of Christmas in Scotland is a relatively new innovation; Christmas Day itself was not designated as a public holiday until 1958 (Boxing Day as a public holiday came later in 1974). The origin of this “non observance” emanated from Martin Luther who advocated the principal of *sola scriptura*; that is that Christians should be guided by Scripture alone. The first “reformers” in Geneva applied this principal literally, in that no date is listed in the bible as to when our Lord was born here on earth. In this they were indeed correct as the first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25th was in 336, during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (the first Christian Roman Emperor). A few years later, Pope Julius I officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th December. (Some people also think that December 25th might have also been chosen because the Winter Solstice and the ancient pagan Roman midwinter festivals called 'Saturnalia' and 'Dies Natalis Solis Invicti' took place in December around this date - so it was a time when people already celebrated). The Calvinists decision to dispense with “Roman Holidays” migrated with John Knox to Scotland and during the start of the Scottish Reformation, a clear stand against the observance of Christmas was taken by the Kirk in 1560 and again in 1566. (England went one stage further and by an act of Parliament all Christmas activities, including dancing, seasonal plays, games, singing carols, cheerful celebration and especially drinking were banned by the Puritan-dominated Parliament in 1644. This Act was repealed in 1660 when Charles II was restored to the throne).

Yet, surprising to report, Martin Luther’s approach to Christmas did not actually tally with subsequent Reformed initiatives in non-observance. Martin Luther married Katharina von Bora, a former nun, in June 1525 and they had a family of six children. (Martin Luther took a wife in accordance with *sola scriptura* as nowhere in the bible does it say a priest requires to be celibate – and in fact the virtues of married life are extolled within the bible). And it is said that they took great joy in celebrating Christmas – as allegedly depicted

on the engraving shown on the front cover. (If one looks closely – five children can be seen – we must presume number six is hiding under the ornate table!). It may be apocryphal, but in Germany it is a widely held belief that Martin Luther added lighted candles to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles. Hence the tree shown on the front cover picture.

What has a degree more substantiated provenance is that it is certainly true that in the theological tumult that was Martin Luther's life, the great reformer seemed to be heartened each year by the great festivals of the church, particularly Advent and Christmas. The man who "invented" the Protestant parsonage was also sustained by a great sense of humour and a happy home life. It was open house all year in the large converted monastery at the east end of Wittenberg where Luther, his wife Katie, and their six children lived, along with numerous students who stayed there as well.

The quote on the front cover comes from a sermon delivered by Luther in 1543, based on Isaiah 9:6.

The verse listed on the inside back cover is from Martin Luther's carol *"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"*

In this year of the 500th anniversary of The Reformation – allied to the sadness of the increasingly secular modern-day Christmas celebration - we can take great heart to reflect on the observation of one of the students who stayed awhile with the Luther family and who wrote that as Christmas approached, Martin Luther grew increasingly cheerful: *"All his words and songs and thoughts concerned the incarnation of our Lord. Then he sighed and said, 'Oh, we poor people that we should be so cold and indifferent to this great joy that has been given us. For this is indeed the greatest gift, which far exceeds all else that God has created. Yet we believe so sluggishly, even though the angels proclaim and preach and sing, and their lovely song sums up the whole Christian faith, for 'Glory to God in the highest' is the very heart of worship."*

James Robertson

Half Price Sale of 150th Anniversary Goods



Why not take this opportunity to purchase some of the remaining few 150th Anniversary Goods, pictured above, which have now been reduced to half price.

Pictures now £2.50

Chrystal Tea Light Holders now £5

China Mugs now £4

Recipe Books now £3

Coasters now 50p

Fridge Magnets now 50p

Note Pads now 20p



If anyone would like to purchase any of the items above, please contact **Sandra McDougall** or **Springfield Cambridge Church** on **0141 772 1596**.



LODGING HOUSE MISSION

The Lodging House Mission have decided to move away from the shoebox donations as each one needs to be opened, checked to ensure that contents are similar, and wrapped again before being given out.

Cash donations, however, will enable the Mission to provide a Christmas gift to be given out on Christmas Day to all the service users and to this end a plate will be placed in the Hall of Fellowship on Sunday 3rd and Sunday 10th December for any donations you may wish to give.

Christine Mackintosh

Flower Calendar

December 2017

Distributor:

Mrs E Osborne

Donors:

Mrs M Smith, Mrs E McEwan (9th and 25th), Mrs S Lyle, Mrs M Johnstone (11th), Mrs H Izatt (14th), Mrs M Shade (16th), Mrs C Copeland, Mrs M Kinloch, Mrs G Round, Mr A Fleming

January 2018

Distributors:

Mrs C Mackintosh 563 2187 and Mrs H Gray 772 8889

Donors:

Mrs M Potter, Mrs M Dickson (31st), Mrs J C Sutherland (Lee Crescent) (31st)

May the Blessings of Christmas be with you now and throughout the coming year.

From the Flower Committee

65th Glasgow Company - The Girls' Brigade

Since the beginning of our session the girls have been busy with their badge work. We were pleased to welcome back old and new faces and currently have 46 girls in the company.

The Brigaders' topic this year is 125 years of Girls Brigade. They have been contacting companies in other countries through messenger and email and are hopeful of a good response to see how GB differs around the world. They have been working on the theme of HOPE. We welcomed 2 trainee officers from Gartcosh who needed experience of working with Brigaders. It was great to have them with us and we wish both Karen and Suzanne all the best as they complete their training.

The company had a very successful girl and guardian evening raising just over £200 for company funds. Adults joined in games, crafts and a quiz giving them a flavour of what happens on a Tuesday evening and the Brigader sweetly cones were a big hit. Our dedication service was well attended in October and girls represented GB at both our church and George Square for Remembrance Day. Look out for the girls' stories in the next edition of the magazine.

Brigaders feel they are too old for a Halloween party now so spent the evening carving pumpkins and creating latex horror make up. Our bag pack at Morrison's on Sat the 18th of November was a great success raising a staggering £663.67 for company funds. The Brigaders have also been looking at reporting and as part of this exercise interviewed Explorers, Juniors and Officers for this article. Our group had the opportunity to go and visit the Explorers and their officers. We asked what their topic is for this year and were advised that it was "All things pink and beautiful". We also asked them what they had been doing. The Explorers gave us a quick insight on what they have been doing including, princess games, ballet, Halloween cards, hockey, dodge ball, an assault course and they have even been making cakes. Their Halloween party had the church filled with every Disney princess imaginable and a treasure hunt became find the princess. The officers told us what the explorers can expect next - Christmas crafts including Christmas slime. All in all, they will be experiencing a fun full month like the past 2 months.

Reporters - Beth, Kelsey, Mahari and Edhli

This session the juniors have had a lot of fun. Their themes have been public speaking where they held a debate. Praying with purpose for the spiritual part of the badge and have been learning about different types of sugar by making smoothies and doing tasks. The girls have enjoyed completing their badge work this session with their favourite activities being making healthy smoothie as an alternative to sugary drinks and loved the food tasting, making crafts and mindful colouring. At Halloween they had a fun party they played amusing games for prizes of yes sweets.

Touring the church was another thing the girls liked doing. As part of mindfulness they walked around the church and were asked to calmly look for something they hadn't seen before - so learning something new.

The juniors all enjoy the tuck shop with one commenting "the tuck shop is amazing especially the gummy worms"

Their plan for the next few months include making jars for mindfulness going to the panto and bag packing. They have had a great few months and are excited for the future.

The juniors have welcomed help from Callum Russell and Amy Kerr who are completing their Duke of Edinburgh voluntary service. Amy is also gaining points towards her Brigaders Brooch.

Reporters: Tatum, Kirsty, Caitlyn and Lucy.

Katie Byrne, Captain





The Guild

The North Presbyterian Council of the Guild held its Autumn Meeting on 26th October, in Cadder South Halls when we had a very interesting and amusing review of Russell Barr's year as Moderator. He included accounts of his overseas visits with the Guild National Convener and talked on the importance of love which is the theme for this year. He was pleased to tell us that he was a Guild member and was sporting his Guild tie.

On 30th October, we recalled many happy memories of sails "doon the watter" as Paul Semple gave an illustrated talk on 70 years of the Paddle Steamer Waverley - the last ocean-going paddle steamer. His talk recounted the work done since the Waverley had been bought for £1 by the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, to keep this famous boat running. The upkeep costs however run into millions now, but the tours are very popular and, in particular, the sails in the Thames and south of England are always fully booked so it is hoped that we will have the pleasure of summer sails on the Clyde for many years to come.

We were treated to an uplifting talk and demonstration by Denise Winton on 13th November on "Look Good - Feel Good" and were astonished at how rapidly she altered the appearance of her outfit by changing the accessories. We were instructed on where to wear our medals or brooches and different ways to tie our scarves. This was followed by a scarf tying practice session which raised much laughter. Did you notice how much more glamorous the Guild ladies were at the Dedication Service held on Sunday 19th November?

For this Guild week we are hosting the three Bishopbriggs Guilds at our meeting on 20th November when Andy Lowndes will be telling us about his involvement in the care of older people suffering from dementia and as the Music Detective on his work on Playlist for Life. We shall then be on to preparation for Christmas with a demonstration of Christmas Flowers by Margaret Craine on November 27th and our Christmas Party will be held on December 11th.

If you see something on our syllabus and wish to join us or just come along for an evening to hear something of interest to you we hope you will find friendship and enjoy the fellowship which is such a major part of Guild meetings.

Ellen Robertson



GB and BB Dedication Service - Sunday 29th October 2017

268 Glasgow Company The Boys Brigade Springfield Cambridge Church Bishopbriggs

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERIES

Our Christmas Card Delivery service is once again being made available for all “G64” Postcodes. Please provide all cards fully addressed with flat numbers and postcodes as omissions may mean that we cannot guarantee delivery

Still a Bargain at only 25p per card

Dates to Remember

Last Collection Date 10 December
Deliveries Completed by 20 December:



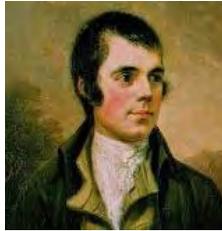


SPRINGFIELD
CAMBRIDGE
CHURCH
FUND RAISING GROUP
are pleased to report
that the



*QUIZ & FISH SUPPER NIGHT held on FRIDAY 24th November
raised the splendid sum of £688.50*

*Thank you to all who helped organise the event.
Thank you to all who attended and supported the event
And so on to news of our next exciting happening !*



SPRINGFIELD CAMBRIDGE CHURCH
FUND RAISING GROUP



are holding a
**BURNS
LUNCH**
on *SUNDAY 28th*
JANUARY 2018



**after the Morning Service
in the CAMERON HALL**

**Tickets are available on Sundays from 7th January
in the Hall of Fellowship**

DONATION PRICE: £5 (Adults), £2.50 (Children)



From heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:
To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

[Http://SeminaryGal.com](http://SeminaryGal.com)



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Springfield Cambridge Church

Sunday 3rd December

Worship at 11am
including "Gift Service"

Sunday 10th December

Worship at 11am
Service at Callieburn at 2.30pm

Sunday 17th December

Worship at 11am

Sunday 24th December – *Christmas Eve*

Worship at 11am

Sunday School and Bible Wayfinders join us for our
Nativity Service

6.30pm – *Family Service*

11pm – *Carol Singing*

11.30pm – *Watch Night Service*

Monday 25th December – *Christmas Day*

**10.30am - *Joint Christmas Family Service
at Kenmure Church.***

*After which, a Service of Holy Communion
(for those who wish to stay)*

Sunday 31st December

Worship at 11am – *in the form of a Songs of Praise*