

The Livingstones Herald

Come let us
Adore
Him



ISSUE No 76 DECEMBER 2017

Editor's letter



Welcome to the December 2017 edition of our magazine. Did you know it is now 500 years since the publication of Martin Luther's 95 theses, in November 1517? It is said that the young monk nailed his propositions to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg in Germany. A copy of one of the books produced by Luther has been put on display in the London Library to mark the 500th anniversary. I wonder if Martin Luther ever dreamt that this act would result eventually in the birth of the Reformation and though it was not his aim, in the birth of Protestant Christianity.

We spent a couple of days recently in two German cities, Hamburg and Bremen and while sightseeing there we visited three Lutheran Churches. St. Michael's is a special one in the city of Hamburg and it is considered to be one of the finest Hanseatic protestant baroque churches. The church was purposely built as a protestant one unlike many other Hamburg churches and has a massive statue of Luther holding the theses, outside,

In Bremen we visited St Peter's Cathedral. It was most impressive being in the style of Early Gothic from the 13th century. After the Reformation the original Catholic Cathedral eventually became the Bremen Evangelical Church (an amalgamation of Calvinist and Lutheran Congregations.) On the Chancel to commemorate the 500th Anniversary, a large table was set for thirteen in the form of the Last Supper. The table cover had the text "This Do In Remembrance Of Me," in both German and English.

When we visited St Martin's Church on the bank of the River Weser, we interrupted a special congregational meeting of young church members who were finalizing a programme of events to commemorate the Anniversary and the Pastor was good enough to open up the Sanctuary just for us.

Letter from the Minister



Dear friends,

Every year I look forward to the Advent season and Christmas. I really enjoy being able to lead worship and share in the lives of so many people in the preparations for Christmas, Christmas Day itself and then through into the New Year; and there's much to look forward to.

In addition to our worship services, including Communion, Gift Day, Nativity Services and so on, I also have the privilege and pleasure of sharing with Glencairn Primary and Ardeer Primary Schools.

It's a time for sharing but it's also a time for remembering that many people face this time alone, perhaps their first Christmas on their own.

I know that it can be difficult but one of the great promises God our Father has for us is this: we are never truly alone. Jesus said that He would be with us always, even to the end of the age.

In following the greatest Commandments to love God and to love our neighbour, we can be in fellowship with each other and in a right relationship with the Father.

As church families at Livingstone and Ardeer, we can also look forward to a number of different services over Christmas before looking to 2018. Over the last few months, I've been preaching about the characteristics of discipleship and our walk with God as a church family and individually and as we go forward, we'll have time to explore what that means for each one of us.

Over all this time, we can sit under another promise of God: "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8 NIV) Wishing you all God's blessing at Christmas time.

Dave

News from the Kirk Session



Livingstone Parish Church

**We celebrate the Sacrament of
Holy Communion at 11.30am on
Sunday 3rd December 2017.
Please join us in fellowship and
worship.**



David McNaught

Many of you will already know that David has given up his position as Church hall keeper and cleaner. This is a position that he held for many years. He first started as a support to Maureen his wife and in recent years has diligently carried out the work on his own, often ably assisted by other family members.

We thank David for his dedication in fulfilling all aspects of this job - cleaning the halls, kitchen, toilets and the church, washing towels, ensuring soap etc. was available, setting out and clearing up of the halls for the organisations and church events, gardening and liaising with funeral directors in their organising of funerals in the church. Over the years everything David did was done in his own unassuming, quiet way.

The Kirk Session has informally presented David with a gift as a token of the congregation's appreciation for his many years of service.

Christmas Gift Service

Last year the local social work department was extremely grateful for our contribution of Christmas gifts and money for food parcels for many needy families in our area.

I have been in contact with them recently and they would be delighted if we could assist them in a similar way this Christmas. We will once again hold our annual Christmas Gift Service on Sunday 10th December at 11.30am. This year they have asked for gifts suitable for children aged 8-12.

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support in showing God's love to families in need in our local area.

Sandy Hershaw
Session Clerk.

Prayer Thoughts



Recently we have been treading in the footsteps of those on pilgrimage to Jerusalem by considering 'The Psalms of Ascent'. Woven through these Psalms is the picture of the follower, the disciple, exploring and living out their relationship with God. As we seek to deepen our relationship with God we too must follow the disciples' path, just as they sought to follow Jesus. For Jesus' disciples, having been built up by his teaching and example, it must have been quite traumatic, quite faith shaking to realise that he was going to leave them. Reading **John chapter 17** tells us that Jesus was well aware of their position with their subsequent exposure to the pressures and temptations that the world would exert on them. In this conversation with God, His father, Jesus prays that the disciples will keep to the way that he has set out for them. **Verse 11** "-----keep them and care for them – all those you have given me –so that they will be united just as we are."

Verse 17 *“Make them pure and holy by teaching them your words of truth.”*

But it's not just the disciples of his time on Earth that Jesus prays for,

Verse 20 *“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me because of their testimony.”*

What an amazing thought that, 2000 years ago, Jesus prayed for us, as we seek to be his disciples today. Read this chapter and see how deeply Jesus cared for those who follow him.

Themes

Approach: Be thankful that God does not have appointment times and that we can turn to him in prayer at any time.

Confession: Bring before God the times you have not resisted this world's temptations and ask for his forgiveness and aid in not repeating those errors.

Thanksgiving:

- Ministry – give thanks for Dave Sutherland and his ministry with us.
- Activities – give thanks for the activities that take place within our buildings and pray that it will strengthen God's place in our community.
- Fabric Group – give thanks for their continued care and maintenance of our buildings.
- JAM club – give thanks for the leader's enthusiasm and their monthly contribution to our services.
- The Sunday Service Support – give thanks for the contribution to music, technology and sound system which underpins every service.

Intercession:

- Vision – pray for guidance in the vision of our next steps in faith within our community.
- Wellbeing – pray for those who are weighed down by ill health, poverty or addiction that they will gain relief.

- Christmas Season – pray that the real meaning of Christmas will shine through.
- Young People – pray for our young people and their schools that they experience good teaching and learning.

Andrew Tomlinson

Letter of thanks



My grandchildren sometimes laugh at my lack of skill using the iPad. However one thing that I have mastered is listening to the Sunday Church Service on my iPad.

I would like to thank all the willing people who selflessly give their time and knowledge to make it possible for people who, for one reason or another, cannot attend Church.

I have really appreciated being able to join in worship on a Monday after Ross posts it on the Internet. It has kept me feeling that I'm still part of the Church even if I'm not there in person. So thank you all so much, it has meant a great deal to me.

Yours gratefully,
Joan Smith

Ayr Community Gospel Choir

On the evening of the 11th October Ardeer Church was full, to welcome the Ayr Community Gospel Choir, all ninety of them. What a treat was in store for us. They sang a mixture of songs and hymns and there were parts of the programme where we joined in the singing. There were also soloists, guitar and ukulele playing.



The whole experience was joyful and uplifting. The happy evening was rounded off with tea and refreshments.

Mary Wilson

A Christmas Poem

It was on that night when Wise Men three
Followed a star just to see,
Shepherds also followed the road
That guided them to the poor abode.
At last they came to a stable bare
Found a Babe held in His mother's care,
Oh the story we have heard before



How the Saviour born and is the door
That opens His love to us once more.
The light that shines above that stall
Calls to us one and all.

Jean Paterson

Christmas Stamps



Mary Wilson has received a letter from the Presbytery of Glasgow thanking her for the donation of stamps from Livingstone Church and asking that she pass on their thanks to us and urge us to keep collecting for the Stamp Appeal 2017/18. Included with the letter was this information about the current appeal.

World Mission Stamp Appeal

In 2017/18 the Stamp Appeal will support the Giffen Institute of Theology (South Sudan). This Institute of Theology was established in 1974 by our partners the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. 75% of

its ministers are trained at the Institute, which plays a vital role in equipping students for ministry. However it has suffered terribly from the violence in South Sudan over the last few years.

The Institute has twice had to relocate in order to ensure the safety of its staff and students, and sadly has lost many of its resources. Now re-established in a refugee camp in Kenya, the institute needs your help to rebuild its resources, including the books lost when its library was burned to the ground.

Let's all endeavour to bring along to the church as many used stamps as we can, to support this really worthwhile cause. This will help raise funds to support the Institute, and ensure its work in training the future ministers of South Sudan can continue, despite the many challenges faced.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Gillian and Chris McDade on the birth of their daughter, Rose on Thursday 19th October, a new granddaughter for Pat and Gordon Gray.

Joint Service at Ardeer (Sun. 29th Oct.)

The Service began with the Rev. Dave Sutherland giving the intimations, the forthcoming attractions and the commercials, followed by the Breakfast which was brilliantly organised by Mary Brannan and Kay Tudor with a lot of helpers both in and out of the kitchen. The breakfast went like clockwork and was much enjoyed by all.

The theme of the service was Unity and Fellowship within our Church Family. This we had in abundance with the two congregations joining together in this inaugural joint service with a full crowded hall. The youngest was Kirk only three weeks old



and well behaved. The oldest I dare not mention as there were so many contenders. (They behaved as well)

This was a superb 'first' enjoyed by the approximate one hundred or so who attended. It is the intention that we have them again on the fifth Sunday of those months with five Sundays.



Waiting for breakfast



John Pringle

The Guild Report



The Guild has enjoyed eight meetings so far this session.

We have had our annual Macmillan coffee afternoon which raised £235 for the charity. Our autumn visit was to Barony Craft Centre in West Kilbride with afternoon tea.

We have had a variety of speakers and subjects - musical conundrums; the Guild project for Street Pastors; 'Play List for Life' got us thinking of the music, important to us during our life, and the memories it brings back; Bones and osteoporosis. The last talk was interrupted by a power cut but Dr Thow has promised to come back next session.

At the end of September a popular magazine "That's Life" appealed for help in a project to supply the ladies and teenage girls in a village in Zambia with pants which they cannot afford to buy. It was important that the packets of pants were donated before the end of October so that they could be sent to Zambia for Christmas.

Once more the Ladies of Livingstone Guild rose to the challenge. We collected over 50 packets of various sizes which Mary Wilson volunteered to deliver to our nearest collection point at Radio Clyde in Clydebank and so they are now on their way to Africa. Well done, ladies!

Now as I write this, we have ten meetings until Christmas:- a mixture of talks, Presbyterian Council Meetings - Big Sing and Carols, a concert with Glencairn Primary Choir; and our annual visit to South Beach House to entertain the residents.

Our Christmas celebration this year is Alternativity - a service and meal taking us back to basics - the true meaning of Christmas. A simple meal to enjoy each other's company without the commercialization of the Festive Season.

Dorothy Penno.



Stroke a cat and you'll have a permanent job.

Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail. ~~~~~

News from the Explorer Scouts



On Thursday 26th October the S.A.S, (Saltcoats, Ardrossan, Stevenston) Explorer Scout Unit held a presentation night at Livingstone Church in Stevenston.

Queens Scout Awards were presented to Ryan Conlan and James Galloway by the Regional Commissioner, James Cumming. This high award was the result of several years of hard work by both Ryan and James with both deserving this award.

James Galloway was also presented with his Wood Badge by District Commissioner, Jackie Tulloch on the completion of his Scout leader training.

The Explorer Scout Unit was presented with the Bronze Youth Approved Award by the Regional Commissioner, James Cumming. This award, one of the first presented by Scottish Headquarters was issued in recognition of how the Unit works with its youth members.

On this night the Unit welcomed 8 new members from Ardrossan and Saltcoats Scout Troops. Members of the Unit took part in the annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) event held at Ardrossan Scout hut on 22 October when they spoke to Scouts from all over the world by short wave radio. This included speaking to Scouts based at the World International Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland. The Unit will be going to Kandersteg next summer with Scouts from Saltcoats and Denniston.

On the weekend of 13 to 15 October the Unit went to the National Scout Outdoor Centre at Lochgoilhead. 5 leaders took part in a training course to allow them to take out younger Scouts in kayaks. They will be returning in March 2018 to complete this course. Whilst the leaders were taking part in this course the Explorer Scouts took part in mountain biking, gorge walking, kayaking and abseiling. The weather was not kind over the weekend but everybody enjoyed themselves.



Alastair Dodds
Explorer Scout Leader

Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you so much for supporting Blythwood Care's Shoe Box Appeal.

This year we had a terrific response to the appeal. We delivered 75 filled shoeboxes, £220 and many knitted items to the Blythwood depot in Hillington.



“Your kindness brings unforgettable joy into the lives of people who feel left out.” Doesn't that make it all worthwhile? By filling a shoebox with warm clothes, a few essentials and something a wee bit special, we have given not only practical

help but have shown that someone cares.

Thank you for your continuing generosity and support of this worthwhile charity.

Dorothy Hershaw

Church Flowers



"I would like to thank all the ladies for their help over the year arranging and delivering flowers, and thank you to all who donate to the flower fund. It is lovely to see a different arrangement in the church each week and the flowers are greatly appreciated by all who receive them. Many thanks to you all for your contributions.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Liz Canavan

JAM Club

I can't believe it's nearly Christmas and what a lot we have packed in so far. However our numbers of children are down and we would specially welcome new members.



In September our theme was the Creation and in October we discussed the Good Samaritan. During November we have been looking at the Good Shepherd, and of course we will be concentrating on our Nativity during December.

This session I have been teaching bible stories through 'Godly Play'

The highlight so far has been our play "The Mean Green Dragon" but coming up.....date to remember is Christmas Eve when Alexander will take the service and the Jam Club will serve the tea afterwards. We do hope everything goes to plan.

The children and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with a special thanks to my volunteers and all who support us.

Luisa Chisholm

Guides 90th anniversary

We have just celebrated our 90th year of the unit being opened. To commemorate this we have recently completed our Traditions of Guiding badge to look at how different eras guided. We had great fun trying on old uniforms, looking at old badges, trying semaphore and making pet ropes.



Two girls have completed their Baden-Powell Trefoil this year. This is the highest award a Guide can earn and we are very proud of them.



Over the summer, three Guides, two Leaders and a Rainbow attended the Ayrwaves International Camp held at Eglington Park. Over 600 girls attended with visitors from Canada, Singapore, the Netherlands, New Zealand and America there. It was a rather damp week but this did not dampen spirits and we had a great time!

We currently have 14 girls and now have 3 leaders and a unit helper. We are also restarting the Ranger unit as some of our older girls are ready to move up to that section.

Joanna Blane

Fabric Committee Report

This is the time of year again when we have to supply the Pantomime team with “props”. This will be a big project this year.

We have also been very busy with redecorating the Large Hall. The lower half of the walls (Dado) have been cleaned, prepared and painted. The top sections are obviously too high for the committee members to tackle and would take too long in terms of time. So a contractor will need to be employed to complete the work and it will start after the organisations which use the church have stopped.



The problems with the projector system in the church have been corrected and everything is working in fine order.

It would greatly help with Health and Safety regulations if each organisation deposited their rubbish in the dustbins outside. There is a specific problem caused by food remains.



In conclusion we would like to extend to everyone our Best Wishes for the Advent Season, and we hope Santa brings us some new paint brushes.

Finance Report



Main Fund Balances	Jun 30th	Sept 30th
General Fund	3009	-4031
Designated Funds	3806	3854
Restricted Funds	1272	1285
Fabric Fund	7257	7630
Beneficiary/Reserve Funds	138839	138935

Comparison of Offerings 2017(Jan-Jun)	2017(Jan-Sept)
Plate	856 1127
Gift Aided	12944 19237
Free Will Offering	4429 6618

Comparison of Offerings up to the end of September:

2016	26384	2017	26982
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Overall income is up 2.26% compared to same period last year.

Comparison of Expenses

2016	38393	2017	42818
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Overall expenses for the three quarters of 2017 are up 11% compared to 2016.

Ministry and Mission at £4554 per month on its own is greater than our monthly income.

Hopefully things will improve next year as our Ministry and Mission contribution has been reduced. A further dispensation from Presbytery has reduced it further. However that reduction is assigned to specific areas and is restricted in its use.

Freewill Offering envelopes for 2017 are being distributed now. If you do not receive a set please inform your elder or myself. Likewise if you receive a set but give by standing order tell your elder who will pass the information to Robbie Burns our envelope organiser.

Finlay Kerr (Treasurer)

Cinderella

Pantomime season is upon us once again! Livingstone Players are proud to present their 2017 pantomime - Cinderella. Written by Roy McGregor and directed by Shona Paterson. We have an amazing 24 children in the junior cast which is the largest number for almost 20 years! As ever, they are extremely talented and have been working really hard every Sunday afternoon. They are sure to entertain on stage with an array of songs and dance routines.



Like most years, we have welcomed new faces to both the adult and junior cast. There might even be an appearance on stage from a weel kent face who has been travelling from England to attend some rehearsals. If you want to know who it is you'll just have to come along and see the show. The pantomime is sure to be filled with laughs, fun, music and dance as we follow the story of Cinderella. Will Prince Charming find whose foot the glass slipper? Or will the evil Baroness continue to make Cinderella's life a misery?



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to

This year is an extra special one as we celebrate over 50 years of shows/operas/musicals/plays & pantomimes here at Livingstone. The 'Opera Group' name may have changed to 'Livingstone Players' but our objectives remain the same – to have fun, entertain our audiences and raise some money for Christian Aid along the way. Look out for our commemorative programme which shares memories from the past and the history of the Opera Group as well as information about the current team involved in this year's pantomime. It is sure to be a great read and will be available on the performance nights for a very reasonable price!

This year, the pantomime will take place on Tuesday 5th- Friday 8th December in Livingstone Church Hall. Tickets are priced at £7 for adults and £4 for children except for the opening night where all tickets are priced at just £4. Proceeds will go to Christian Aid. The tickets have designated row and seat numbers and are on sale now. As usual, tickets sell quickly so don't delay as we are limited to 185 people in the hall each evening. If you don't know any cast members or can't buy tickets on a Sunday after morning worship then you can buy your tickets online at our website: www.livingstoneplayers.org.uk. Here, you will find lots of information about our past productions. Our Facebook page also has regular updates about Cinderella and future performances: facebook.com/livingstoneplayers At the time of going to print we have already sold over 650 tickets. We are extremely grateful to our audiences who return each year and hope you will come and support us again. We are also very thankful for the efforts of the work party who have been busy painting the hall and making props to enhance the show. Along with our increasing range of merchandise available at affordable prices, our 2017 pantomime is sure to live long in the memory - oh yes it will! We look forward to seeing you there!

Livingstone Players

Recipe for Empire Biscuits



I used to find making empire biscuits a bit of a drudge until I started using this very simple recipe.

Ingredients

8oz butter or marg.

1 cup cornflour

1 cup icing sugar

2 cups self raising flour

Cream butter and icing sugar. Add flour and cornflour and knead well. Roll out to about a quarter inch thick and cut into rounds. For Christmas you can use cutters in different seasonal shapes. Place on greased paper on greased tray. Bake in oven at 170° (160° fan assisted) for about 20 minutes. When cool sandwich biscuits with jam and spread icing over the top. Enjoy!!

Did you know.....

Five million Christmas puddings are thrown away in the UK, every single year.

We throw away the equivalent of over 250,000 turkeys during the festive period.

Church Diary



Sunday 3rd December

Communion

Services in Livingstone at 11.30am and in Ardeer at 10am

Sunday 10th December

Annual gift service

Sunday 24th December

JAM Club Nativity

Sunday 24th December

Christmas Eve Services

Service in Livingstone at 11.30am and in Ardeer at 10am.

Family service in Ardeer at 7.30.pm.

Watch Night Service in Livingstone at 11.30pm.

Monday 25th December

Joint Service in Ardeer at 10.30 am.

Sunday 31st December

Joint Service in Livingstone at 10.30am.

N.B Commencing on Sunday 7th January, the services in Livingstone will begin at the new time of 10am and those in Ardeer at 11.30am.

My thanks to those who have contributed to this edition. Your support is much appreciated.

Articles for next magazine should be sent to me by Sunday February 4th. Best wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Joy to the World



A Christmas
word search for
the JAM Club.

ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



Help Alex find his gifts

