



Winter

2020

Hello Everyone,
This Winter Edition of the Parish Post will follow the same layout as the Autumn edition.

As well as any updates from the organisations, we will be featuring a selection of Christmas Carols or songs, which we hope you will enjoy at this special time of the year. I would again mention that all the tunes selected will be played on Youtube.

You should be aware that Youtube will nearly always try to play adverts before your choice (annoying habit!).

As you watch the first advert, you will see "Skip Ads" appear. Click on that box.

Session Matters

Since the last newsletter was issued, two exciting events have taken place.

Firstly, as I'm sure you know by now, there was an overwhelming vote in favour of the Rev. Dr. Allen Vint becoming our new minister, and we look forward to welcoming him in the New Year.

The next formal part of the process is for members of the Congregation and friends of the Church to sign the "Official" "Call" to Ministry here in Mauchline linked with Sorn.

In normal times, this would be done at the end of the service on a Sunday morning, but these are not normal times. We fully understand that many people may not feel comfortable coming to the Church to sign.

If you wish, you may authorise me to sign on your behalf, by completing a Proxy Form and returning it to me at 9 Cumnock Road, Mauchline.

You may not be able to do this, and Allen is well aware that there may not be a large number of signatories, and fully understands that this is not any indication of a lack of support for his move to Ayrshire.

Of course, if you do wish to sign in person then arrangements will be in place for this to be done safely on the dates specified in the formal Edict, which is enclosed. Please be prepared to queue outside, make sure that you wear a mask and bring your own pen.

Yes, I really DO mean Bring Your Own Pen.

The second exciting event is that our Church building has now reopened for Sunday morning worship at 11.15am. This does NOT mean that you can just turn up on a Sunday morning, as we all used to.

Due to the safety restrictions which are in place because of COVID 19, numbers are strictly limited, and places MUST be booked in advance.

If you wish to attend on a Sunday, please contact me in

advance on 01290 552465.

I will confirm whether a seat is available, and take your contact details for Trace and Protect purposes.

These details will be held for four weeks, and then Destroyed.

You MUST wear a mask when attending Church, maintain social distancing and, of course, if you develop any symptoms of Covid then you should not attend.

When you do join us, you will find that there is no hymn singing, and all pew Bibles have been removed, so if you wish to follow the Scripture reading please bring your own.

You will be seated by household at a distance of at least two metres from anyone else.

I confess that it does feel a little odd, but it also feels good to be able to come together, even socially distanced, to worship the Lord.

Please do phone me for further information about our Sunday service or to reserve a place.

Finally, a huge Thank You to all Elders and Pastoral Visitors (and, in some cases, their families) for working so hard to get the voting papers for our new minister out and returned on time.

And a huge Thank You to everyone of the two hundred and fifty one of you who returned a positive vote.

It sends a very clear message to Allan that we are looking forward to his ministry, and that we are eager to be involved in the life of our church as we move forward to a new and exciting chapter in the history of the Church here in Mauchline.

Kirsty Murray
Session Clerk

Child in a manger - Kirsty Murray

I confess that I struggled to think of a favourite Christmas hymn.

Not because I dislike them, but because so many are so moving in very different ways.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing and Oh Come, All Ye Faithful are uplifting and inspiring sung at top volume on a Christmas morning, while Silent Night and Oh Little Town of Bethlehem remind us of the true meaning of Christmas, and remind me of many contemplative Christmas Eve services when I was a teenager.

If pushed, then I think that the hymn I keep returning to is Child in a Manger.

It describes the wonderful truth of this tiny, vulnerable baby, much loved yet born to die for our many sins, and destined to triumph over death itself.

For me, it sums up the essence of our Christian faith, and the final verse, while quieter and more reflective in style, is just as joyous as its louder counterparts.

"Prophets foretold Him, Infant of wonder,



Winter

Angels behold Him on His throne,
Worthy Our Saviour of all their praises,
Happy forever are His own."

Left click on the red writing to listen to the tune.

Child in a Manger

Guild

Dear Guild friends,
Usually when I write this article for the Winter Parish Post,
we have almost completed the first half of our Guild session.
Sadly not this year.

Things are so different and strange as we know.
'THE EXTRA MILE' would have been our theme this year.
The Extra Mile speaks clearly to the Guild as a movement
based on service.

It leads us to think about how we can build on what we have
achieved over the years and how we might go further when
things become more normal again and we can resume our
meetings.

Meantime, I do hope you are all well and coping with the
many challenges and challenges we face.

May I wish everyone peace and joy for Christmas and a safe
and happy New Year.

Blessings.

Isabel Smith, Convenor

O Little Town of Bethlehem - Isabel Smith

'O Little Town of Bethlehem' is just one of my favourite
Christmas Carols.

I love the music and I always feel such peace and quiet when
singing the very meaningful words..

Left click on the red writing to listen to the tune.

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Christmas Tree - Ian Watt

Many years ago we were fortunate to have a small plantation
of conifers nearby, which at certain seasons became a source
for a Xmas tree.

One year I was dispatched to get the tree and having the
theory that nature is never perfect or symmetrical, I chose my
tree.

On presenting my tree there was a short silence then mildly
put there was criticism of my tree.

Fortunately, as I had other duties to attend to, a friend had

come to visit and volunteered to get another tree.

When my duties were completed and I saw the tree, now
almost decorated, I had to admit that the new tree, not perfect
but was a big improvement on "my tree."

Maybe a wee moral here, like the trees, none of us are
perfect but unlike the trees we have the ability to improve
and I could certainly have improved my selection.

Mary's Boy Child - Ian Watt & Jan Walker

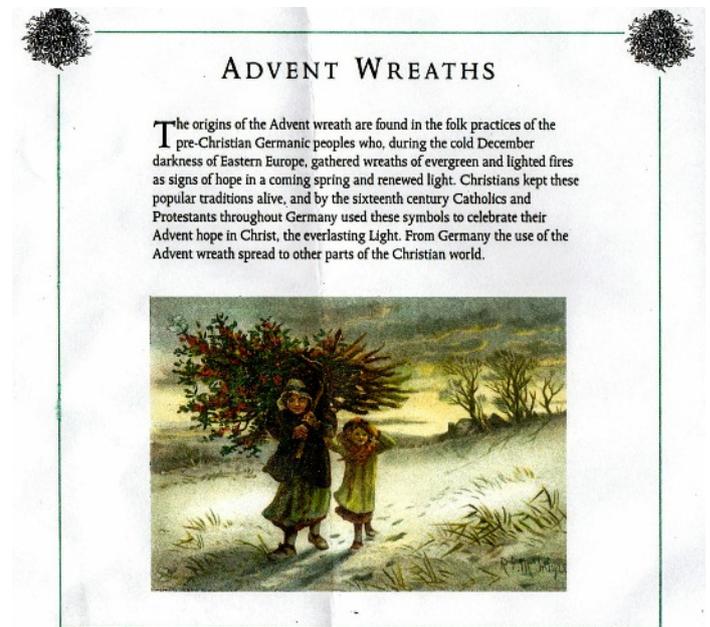
This is one of my all time favourite Christmas carols.

Left click on the red writing to listen to the tune.

Mary's Boy Child

A Christmas Treasury - Mary J Wyllie

The picture shown below is one I enjoy and comes from
"A Christmas Treasury".



Sharing Christmas Blessings

It can sometimes be difficult to think what message to write
in a Christmas card. Here are a few ideas :-

- We pray your Christmas season is filled with His gifts.
- Wishing you a wonderful Christmas filled with His light and joy.
- His many blessings to you and your family, at Christmas and all year-round.
- Wishing you many blessings and joy this Christmas.



Winter

May God's many blessings be with you this Christmas and always.

- May the miracle of His birth inspire you to live joyfully this Christmas.
- May you keep the true spirit of the season in your heart and mind this Christmas.
- May His everlasting light guide you through the New Year.
- May your Christmas be filled with heaven's many blessings. (*Psalms 128:5 TLB*)
- Wishing you God's rich blessings this Christmas and throughout the new year.

Revelations of nativity plays - Jennifer Beck

Reflecting on experiences from childhood shows how these can be educational and formative in adult life.

Never more so than the traditional Sunday school nativity play....

The old adage of never working with animals (including those full of stuffing) rings true- who would have thought a shepherd could be upstaged by Shaun the sheep!

Taking care not to accept gifts from strangers was also confirmed.

Were you aware how much Frankincense stinks?

Natural selection was an important lesson learned.

The popular pretty girls usually achieved the role of Mary.

This was character building and fostered resilience.

Personally the costume was the only attraction, being my favoured shade of blue.

I had no desire to be dragged up the aisle by an over exuberant boy wearing a dressing gown and tea-towel, encumbered by an overstuffed pillow.

The 'act' of gazing adoringly with maternal pride into a manger with a doll was incomprehensible to me.

Give me the role of the angel any day- in fact I was fortunate to realise this ambition twice.

This experience gave me my 'wings' without the need for Red Bull.

The view from the pulpit is extremely far ranging (beware of those nodding off during lengthy sermons!).

A head for heights was useful standing on tiptoes teetering over the lectern and adorned in tinsel.

Memorising passages from the Bible is MUCH easier in your youth.

I can still quote verbatim Luke 2 10-12 even though it was over 30 years ago.

The most important lesson learned however was that all of us are called to bring 'good tidings of great joy', particularly at Christmas time.

Although being a Christian should be for life...not just for Christmas ...

Joy to the World - Elizabeth Morris

You asked me for a favourite Christmas carol.

There are so many lovely carols to choose from.

For this newsletter I will choose "Joy to the World".

This was written by the prolific hymn writer Isaac Watts.

Left click on the red writing to listen to the tune.

Joy To The World

The Stained Glass Window - Jan Walker

In September when covid restrictions were lifted I met up with a couple of old school friends for a coffee.

We chatted about life in general and reminisced about our childhood in Tarbolton.

We recollected Mr Fairlie the church organist who encouraged us to get involved in our very first Nativity Play. It was called The Stained Glass Window and was set in a Cathedral in Victorian times.

I was cast as the little girl who sold matches on the Cathedral steps, accompanied by a little dog called Sandy.

We were all very enthusiastic and spent weeks learning lines and practising songs.

At the dress rehearsal, Mr Fairlie told us how pleased he was with our enthusiastic effort, but reminded us to stay in character and not to giggle.

On the night of the performance, we sang well and had no prompts and stayed in character until the last scene, where the little girl was sitting on the Cathedral steps crying because she was an orphan and had no friends to spend Christmas day with.

At that point Sandy the dog started to bark uncontrollably and what happened next was even more unexpected.

He lifted his leg against her leg and relieved himself, filling her shoe with, you know what.

All the cast were on the Chancel and were witness to the unrehearsed performance of Sandy who was completely oblivious to the fact that he had changed the end of the play. Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men and Mr Fairlie were in hysterics.

We got a standing ovation but I am still of the opinion that the congregation were on their feet to get a better view of what had caused the hilarity.

On that sunny afternoon in September 2020, my friends and I forgot about covid and enjoyed reflecting on our first Nativity play.

Mauchline Parish Church

Linked with Sorn Parish Church



Mauchlineparish.org.uk

Scottish Charity SC007714

Winter

Not my favourite Christmas Carol - Christine Beck
I don't really have a favourite Christmas carol, but I do remember my least favourite.

Every year the P1 class had to perform a Nativity play. But with 36 of us the headmaster decided, to use up the remainder we should act out carols.

(We needed 9 main characters and even with 3 camels, a donkey and a couple of cows, we could still have had a whole flock of sheep!)

I was given the part of the page in "Good King Wenceslas".

Have you ever actually read the the whole song?.

Now remember I am 5 years old and you weren't given the meaning of things.

You just had to learn them!

Charles Watson, the tallest boy in the class was my Master, his first lines were:

"HITHER PAGE AND STAND BY ME
IF THOU KNOWS'T IT TELLING
YONDER PEASANT WHO IS HE
WHERE AND WHAT HIS DWELLING?"

Then me:

"SIRE, HE LIVES A GOOD LEAGUE HENCE
UNDERNEATH THE MOUNTAIN
RIGHT AGAINST THE FOREST FENCE
BY ST AGNES FOUNTAIN"

Now, it gets worse further on!.

I'm 5 and to add to the confusion I had an Aunt Agnes!.

What had she to do with this?.

Thankfully the carol seems to have gone out of fashion, but I can still recite some of it, and well remember trudging behind Charles, holding up the hem of his cloak and pretending to wade through deep snow in his footsteps!.

If I had to choose my favourite carol, of all the ones I know it would be "Oh Holy Night"

Left click on the red writing to listen to the tune.

Oh Holy Night

From your treasurer

I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout this pandemic.

Our direct giving has decreased but that is partly due to our church being closed since March.

We have been unable to fundraise this year and this has impacted significantly on our finances.

I know many people are facing uncertainty about their future due to the economic problems the whole country is facing, but if you are able please consider

arranging a standing order, or sending a cheque to my Home, this would be greatly appreciated.

As you can see from the Receipts & Payments account up to 31/10/2020 our deficit stands at £2038. This is a better outcome than I had anticipated and it's all thanks to you.

Please continue to support the work of our church both locally and nationally.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my Church family a happy and safe Christmas.

Receipts and Payments Account

Mauchline Parish Church

For the 10 months ended 31 October 2020

JAN-OCT 2020

Receipts

Bank and deposit interest 78.07
Donations and collections Fabric fund -Analysis of Donations 469.50
Gift Aid Donations - Received DD 100.00
Gift Aid donations -Analysis of Donations 17,407.40
Ordinary offering (open plate) -Analysis of Donations 1,625.30
Other offerings, donation, etc -Analysis of Donations 12,353.27
Outreach fund- shoppers lunch 118.40
Rental of premises (weddings, funerals etc) 1,470.00
Restoration fund donations/fundraising -Analysis of Donations 50.97
Sorn parish linkage - contribution to costs Analysis of Donations 639.42
WFO Scheme (Non- Covenanted) -Analysis of Donations 10,441.06
Grant Income - HMRC 11,882.79
Gift day 240.00

Total Receipts 56,876.18

Payments

Building costs -Heating and lighting 4,842.55
Building costs -Insurance 3,397.14
Collections for third parties-Presbytery of Ayr (Malawi appeal) 110.00
Local staffing costs -Cleaners wages (Church & Church Hall) 3,250.20
Local staffing costs- Pulpit supply 712.00
Local staffing costs- Supply Organist 510.00
Local staffing costs -Treasurers honorarium 500.00
National ministry and mission and wider work 33,718.50
Other local costs -Cleaning materials and laundry 435.39
Other local costs- Miscellaneous expenses 664.57
Other local costs- Postage, printing, stationery and copying 1,090.77
Other local costs -Subscriptions and licence renewal 799.79
Other local costs-Accountancy fees 1,200.00
Repairs and maintenance - unrestricted funds 2,693.17
Local staffing costs- Locum travelling costs 4,990.90

Total Payments 58,914.98

Surplus/(Deficit) (2,038.80)

Foodbank

This has been a challenging time for everyone at the moment as Covid 19 hits hard. Foodbanks are community organisations aimed at supporting people who cannot afford the basic essentials in life. Our local foodbank is responding to significant need for both food and non food items within the local community.

New research shows that foodbanks are forecast to give out **6 emergency food parcels every minute** this winter. This is an increase of 61% on last year.

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Winter

If you are able to donate to the local foodbank, then please leave your donations on our front door step at 17A Station Road.

Our aim is to make Friday 18th

December our last drop off before Christmas.

Whoever oppresses the poor show contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God. Proverbs 14:31.

Elizabeth Morris

WINTER RECIPE:

This recipe provides pleasure to the eyes, taste buds and stomach on a cold winter's day.

Quick Goopy Chocolate Puddings

Serves	Preparation Time	Cooking Time	Nutritional Information (Per Serving)
4	15 minutes	12-15 minutes	468 calories 31g fat (of which 19g saturates) 46g carbohydrate 0.6g salt V

100g (3½oz) butter, plus extra to grease

100g (3½oz) golden caster sugar, plus extra to dust

100g (3½oz) plain chocolate (at least 70% cocoa solids), broken into pieces

2 large eggs

20g (¾oz) plain flour

icing sugar to dust

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C (180°C fan oven) mark 6. Butter four 200ml (7fl oz) ramekins and dust with sugar. Melt the chocolate and butter in a heatproof bowl over a pan of gently simmering water. Take the bowl off the pan and leave to cool for 5 minutes.

2. Whisk the eggs, caster sugar and flour together in a bowl until smooth. Fold in the chocolate mixture and pour into the ramekins.

3. Stand the dishes on a baking tray and bake for 12-15 minutes until the puddings are puffed and set on the outside, but still runny inside. Turn out, dust with icing sugar and serve immediately.

Congregational Register
New Members by Profession of Faith
Certificate of Transfer issued to
Admitted by Certificate
Weddings

Mauchline Funerals

Ethel Nairn, Clarinda Crescent, Mauchline
 Raymond Miller, Curlingstone Place, Mauchline
 Andrew Drew Holland, Mauchline

Dates For the diary

Worship Dates and Events

September

October

November

Who's Who & Where

Locum:

Rev George Fiddes Tel 01563 850486

Session Clerk:

Mrs Kirsty Murray, 9 Cumnock Road Tel 552465

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Morris Tel 559364

Deputy Treasurer:

Vacancy

Clerk to the Board:

Vacancy

Prayer Co-ordinator:

Mrs Sue Crawshaw, Dykemuir Tel 550407

Roll Keeper:

Mrs Isabel Smith, 39 Connel Crescent Tel 550876

Acting Organist: Skye Schendel

Church Officer:

Alexis Lowe, 5 Castle Street Tel 07852 353552

Newsletter Editor:

Mr Jim Beck, 65 Connel Crescent Tel 552140

Webmaster:

Mr Jim Beck, 65 Connel Crescent Tel 552140

email: mauchlineparish@yahoo.com