

# Mauchline Parish Church Winter

Linked with Sorn Parish Church



Mauchlineparish.org.uk

Scottish Charity SC007714

## 2021

### From the Manse

When you read this article the season of Advent will have begun.

This special time of year, as we approach Christmas, allows us to prepare our hearts and minds for God's special gift of Love – Jesus.

This baby born so long ago was the fulfilment of a divine promise - a promise which would bring us **HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE.**

Each Sunday as we move closer to Christmas Day itself we will be thinking together about these promises and what they mean for each of us.

I'm not giving anything away when I say that the main effect is to move from **DARKNESS** into **LIGHT.**

It is fair to say that these months for us all have often felt dark and gloomy as we have all had to deal with the fears and restrictions brought about by the COVID virus.

Thankfully, with vaccinations and booster jags we are carefully moving beyond the darkness of these days towards something brighter and better.

Of course, this is a movement we all long to see because the light is much better than the dark in this circumstance.

The Bible reminds us that Jesus is the '**Light of the World**'.

It makes great sense then to move in his direction so that we can discover the new energy, the new grace and the new life that he alone can bring us.

Can I therefore encourage you over this Christmas period to firstly, embrace the light yourself and then secondly, to actively share the light with others.

In particular, please share the information about the 2021 local Christmas Services, available at Mauchline and Sorn Church

(also online via Facebook

[www.facebook.com/Mauchline.Sorn](https://www.facebook.com/Mauchline.Sorn) or

### Youtube

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCPiMQjgez9yO0-LISUIultQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPiMQjgez9yO0-LISUIultQ)

I wish you all a Christmas full of God's great gifts.  
Allan

My sincere thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help with the livestreaming services and for the church

musicians who have, over these last weeks, led us so wonderfully in our worship.

View Mauchline Services Online  
www.facebook.com/Mauchline.Sorn

## SHARE THE LIGHT

... A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU, A MESSIAH. LUKE 2:11

### Mauchline & Sorn Christmas Church Services

- Sunday 19th Dec  
10am Sorn & 11:15 Mauchline (Nativity Service)
- 24th Dec 6:30pm Mauchline (Family Christmas Carol Service)
- 24th Dec 11:30pm Sorn (Watchnight Service)
- 26th Dec 11am Sorn (Joint service with Mauchline)
- 2nd Jan 11am Mauchline (Joint service with Sorn)
- 9th January  
10am Sorn & 11:15 Mauchline

Allan

### Student Placement - David Donaldson



#### David, can you tell us a little about your background?

I am from Cumnock originally - I left when I was seventeen for university studies in Aberdeen.

I studied English and German and then trained as a secondary teacher.

I taught in secondary schools in Dundee, Sanquhar and Kilmarnock.

I decided to specialise in Additional Support Needs and I have been a teacher at Park School in Kilmarnock for the last four years.

I currently live in Kilmarnock with my cat Mattie.

I am a keen swimmer and love to travel (when COVID allows!).

I especially enjoy visiting Australia where my sister and her family live.

I am a member of St Marnock's Parish Church.



## ***You are training for the Church of Scotland ministry, what brought you to that decision?***

I felt God calling me back to church in my mid-thirties. I started attending my local Church of Scotland and I felt at home there straightaway. Jim, the minister, encouraged me to join the worship team and I started reading Scripture and leading prayers on Sundays. When I stood up to do my first sermon, I got the strong sense that I was exactly where God wanted me to be. After much praying, I decided to take the next step and apply for the ministry.

## ***What kind of study are you doing to become a Church of Scotland minister?***

I have academic studies as well as my "on the job training" here in Mauchline and Sorn under Allan's supervision. In June this year, I completed my Bachelor of Theology degree with the University of Aberdeen, which I did online and part-time. Now I am studying for a Bachelor of Divinity at the University of Glasgow which will take two years. I go up to Glasgow twice a week where I attend seminars and take part in Trinity College worship (Trinity is responsible for ministry candidates at the University of Glasgow). My classes are on a range of subjects such as preaching, Bible studies, Existentialism and church history. Thanks to funding from the Presbytery, I am also taking a course in School Chaplaincy at the Scottish Baptist College.

## ***You have been given a placement in Mauchline and Sorn. What are you enjoying about being here?***

I have had such a warm welcome here from everybody. Allan is a fantastic mentor and he is encouraging me to get involved in all the different aspects of church life. It is a real privilege to be able to journey together in faith with the congregations of Mauchline and Sorn for the next wee while.

## ***Finally, is there anything we could do to help you?***

I would love to see children coming to church and I am helping to set up a Sunday school at Mauchline. It would be great to have some more helpers and for all the grans and grandpas to encourage their grandkids to come along. Our nativity is fast approaching and if you can help in any way or know of any children that would be interested in taking part please get in touch. Also, it is great to hear your feedback. If I do something you don't like, let me know how I can change things to make them better!

## **Session Matters**

## **Communion Service**

Since the start of the pandemic and the introduction of restrictions it has not been possible for us to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as we used to. However, although restrictions remain in place we are planning to hold a Communion Service on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. We are still not permitted to pass a plate of bread or the small cups of Communion wine around the congregation, but individually packaged elements will be available for all who are able to attend.

## **Jim Munro**

We were all saddened to learn of the death of Jim Munro. Jim was ordained as an Elder here in Mauchline on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, 1981, and received a Long Service Award in December, 2011, in recognition of over thirty years of dedicated service to the Church. Jim had a wonderful knack of offering both practical support and wise advice in such a way as to leave you believing that, by allowing him to help, you were the one doing him a Favour. It was only some days later that you realised how far he had gone to lighten your load. He was always approachable, always reliable and always had a wry smile, finding something positive in every situation. While unwell for some time, he retained a positive attitude and I know that many were surprised when they realised just how ill he was. We all miss his presence on a Sunday morning, and I know that Anne and all the family remain in our prayers.

## **Presbytery News**

We are delighted that Russell Wyllie has agreed to take on the role of Presbytery Elder for Mauchline. He is already being kept very busy, due to the upcoming changes in the way that Presbytery, and the churches within it, are to operate.

You will already be aware that the Church of Scotland is moving to a structure where there will be fewer but much larger Presbyteries.

Unfortunately, due to a projected fall in the number of Ministers, we are also moving to a structure where those Ministers who we do have will be responsible for looking after rather larger areas.

In our own part of the country, the East part of Ayrshire, the long term plan is for Mauchline, Sorn, Tarbolton and Annbank to join together, while Stair, Coylton, Ochiltree and Drongan would also be combined.

This would create, in effect, two large parishes, with one minister for each and perhaps a little extra help.

This does not mean that church buildings will be closing.

In rural areas, such as ours, it is hoped that the Church will remain open for worship and at the heart of community life. It may mean, however, that the minister is not there in person every Sunday morning.

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For us here in Mauchline it may be some considerable time before we notice much practical change.

Both our Minister and the Minister at Tarbolton/ Annbank have only recently been called to their charges, and it is not anticipated that we will see much change until there is a vacancy.

However, change IS coming, so watch this space.....

## Presbytery Report

This being my first report as Presbytery Elder, I find it quite daunting to try to give this report after the fine reports and hard work put in by Mr Ian Watt over many years, and thank him for all his service as Presbytery Elder.

As the meetings to date are by Zoom and only last about an hour, it has been not too difficult to get into the ways and procedures of Presbytery with Ian's help.

It is proposed that Presbytery of Ayr will join with the Presbytery of Kilmarnock and Irvine, Ardrossan, Annandale and Eskdale, Dumfries and Kirkcudbright, and Wigtown and Stranraer to united into the Presbytery of the South west of Scotland in September 2022.

A great deal of focus is on the Presbytery Planning, and in particular, the Mission Plan Working Draft, which Kirk Sessions have had to discuss, and speak to Churches in their grouping so that the proposals from the groups can go back to Presbytery for approval at the December meeting..

It has been proposed by the Churches involved that, Mauchline linked with Sorn will be linked with Tarbolton which is linked with Annbank possibly by 2025.

Russell A Wyllie  
Presbytery Elder

## Live Streaming

I'm sure you are aware that we are now able to watch the Sunday service live, or at a time that suits, via Facebook or YouTube.

Thanks to everyone who has helped make this happen, either by contributing financially or by volunteering to work the computer and camera.

## COVID Update

At time of writing there are no further changes to report. We will continue to keep some seating available for those who wish to observe social distancing, and our system of hand sanitising and registering for Track and Trace remains in place.

Please remember that, unless you are medically exempt, a mask MUST be worn within the Church.

We do have spare masks available, but please try to remember to bring your own.

While not individually expensive we are getting through an ever increasing number of boxes, which is not good for our finances.

It is also not good for the planet.

Please bring your own washable, reusable face covering if you can.

Thank you

## Introduction to Food Hygiene

As we continue to reopen and (hopefully) get back to normal the Church of Scotland is funding places on an Introduction to Food Hygiene course, which is done online. If you have any involvement in the preparing or serving of food for the church or on Church premises then please speak to me and I will send you the Registration details. The course can be done at a pace which suits you, there is no external test to sit this and it can even be done as a useful refresher course if it's been a while since you took your REHIS certificate.

## Midweek Bible Study

Due to a combination of illness and holidays this group has not yet restarted.

We are contemplating moving to a Thursday afternoon, as that may suit more people than our previous Tuesday or Wednesday evening.

Will keep you posted!

## Prayer Breakfast

We will once again be holding a Prayer Breakfast at 9am on Saturday, 4th December: the day before we celebrate Communion.

Unfortunately, this is still via Zoom, so please contact Allan or me if you would like the Link forwarded.

It is anticipated that this Prayer meeting will last approximately forty minutes, so plenty of time to drink a cup of coffee in the digital company of friends before we pray together for our Church, our community and the wider world.

Thank You

Kirsty Murray

## Guild

The Guild Opening, the start of a new session and our first afternoon meeting was held on Monday 11.10.21.

It was great to welcome everyone and meet up again after lockdown and all the trials and tribulations that involved. Although some restrictions have been lifted there are still some rules and regulations to follow and the Guild members are diligently doing what is asked.

We have four new members joining us this session.

Our theme this year is 'Lights and Bushels', the first strand of the new three year strategy 'LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH'. Our minister Rev. Allan Vint spoke on the theme at our opening meeting also sharing with us much of his own story leading into ministry.



An encouraging, challenging talk, preparing us for the new session and reminding us to let our light shine and use our God given talents.

At our next meeting, Jan Walker, one of our members, shared with us her Christian journey from Sunday School, Bible Class, Youth Fellowship through to becoming a Guild Member.

Body and Mind need to be fit for the Guild, so Jan then gave us a selection of keep-fit exercises. Much enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately our first speaker in November from the Leprosy Mission had to call off because of sickness. However, the Guild ladies are never stuck.

We spoke in depth about the six new Guild Projects and gave much thought to which one we would support first. Later in the month, another of our own members, Anne Baines, spoke to us about her life as an army wife.

We went to Singapore, New Zealand, Gibraltar, Ireland and many other places, enjoying very much the stories Anne had to tell.

Next month we will enjoy our Christmas Party with festive afternoon tea.

Very different from previous years but I'm sure it will be just as enjoyable.

May I wish everyone Peace and Joy at Christmas and all Good Wishes for the New Year.

Isabel Smith, Convenor

## Mauchline Church Men's Club

Our men's club have met twice in November, the first for more than a year and a half.

Because of covid the programme this year has to be more flexible to comply with restrictions, when we plan to alternate our two monthly meetings with carpet bowls and a speaker, both along with a chat and "serious" discussions. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2nd December to arrange our Xmas lunch on the 8th.!

A warm invitation is extended to any men to join us in the Church hall on the second and fourth

Wednesdays of the month for not too serious bowling, some friendly banter and on occasion we learn something new from our varied speakers.

For more information contact myself vice president or Willie Jardine president, or any member as we are all committee members.!

Ian Watt

## Reunion - Jan Walker

In the late 80,s Dr Morris decided to try to attract more young folks into the church by means of a Young Womans group, assisted by Sandra Barclay.

The plan was very successful and attracted around 20 girls to the Dunlop Hall on a Tuesday morning from 10 till 12 ( weans on tow ) with the AUNTIES entertaining the wee ones in the big hall.

Christine Beck played the keyboard and accompanied us in singing praise songs like Shine Jesus Shine which was a new one and we loved it.

We had interesting speakers and demonstrations and soon our numbers multiplied and we were a very happy bunch.

We then formed an entertainment group and called ourselves The Cross Section Drama Group performing in many variety concerts and placing smiles on faces at our Christmas Pantomimes. ( Oh yes we did ).

Right, let's remember the past with a smile and move on to pastures green and a new plan of action for the future. Morag Adams and I were chatting a few weeks ago and decided a way forward would be a reunion of the Young Womans Group which might just get some more bums back in seats, accompanied by grandchildren, ( He's behind you ).

We plan a get together very soon and your assistance would be much appreciated, so if you recognize any of the faces in the picture please get in touch with me on 01290550432.

I reckon the reunion will be a very happy event, and who knows the event might just help Allan and David in the rekindling of the Sunday school.

So light up the fire , let the flames burn, open the door let Jesus return.

Watch this space.

CURTAIN



## MAMA BABA GROUP

We are hoping to resume meetings in February, Covid restrictions allowing.

Looking forward to seeing new Mums and babies

## Calling all surfers

### Web Statistics

The Google Analytics details for the web page show countries and numbers of visitors in the last three months

1 Jun - 31 Aug as shown below:

Country (No. Of Users)

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United Kingdom(534), China(21),United States(15),  
France(5), Canada(3), Germany(3), Netherlands(2),  
Australia(1),Sweden(1) .

## Youtube

Views of Allan's Sunday services over the same  
period of time are:

June 6(73), 13(73), 20(104), 27(52)

July 4(holiday), 11(133), 18(80), 25(96)

August 1(71), 8(holiday), 15(97), 22(84), 29(95)

If you have any friends or relatives who use the World Wide  
Web, be sure to let them know about  
www.mauchlineparish.org.uk and increase our audience.

Perhaps they might even wish to become virtual members  
(and it doesn't cost anything to join)

Organisations

Please ensure that you check your web page for any  
inaccuracies or old information.

If you find anything needs to be changed, then please let me  
know, so that I can ensure that our website remains fresh and  
up-to-date.

*Jim Beck*

## From your treasurer

Firstly may I thank everyone for their generous donations to  
National Giving Day.

The total raised was £2735.00. An excellent total.

The donations given will not be counted towards our  
allocation for Mission & Ministries.

If anyone still has a "Giving Day" envelope then it's not too  
late to donate.

Either put it in the plate on a Sunday or send it to me, at 17A  
Station Road Mauchline.

Our updated Receipts & Payments are:

Receipts total £71,140.00

Payments total £72,270.00

deficit **-£1,130.00**

I do have to caution, that the deficit is worse than it looks as  
we have drawn down £7,000 from our investments held in  
Edinburgh to meet our costs and requirements. It also  
includes £2,725 of Live Streaming donations.

It looks like we are no longer eligible for a discount on our  
Mission & Ministries therefore our costs have jumped  
considerably to £48,386 an increase of 17.4% for the year.  
That is a big increase and one which we have to pay.

I am well aware that we all have increased energy costs and  
also increase in living costs and I, as treasurer am grateful for  
every contribution that you, as members make however large  
or small.

However, there are two things which I might ask you to think  
about.

Firstly I would ask for you to consider whether it is possible  
to think about an increase in your regular giving or as a one  
off payment.

Secondly I would like to invite any of you who are unable to  
attend church but are following us online or Facebook to  
perhaps consider the online payment service or contact me  
about how you might make a financial contribution.

Once again thank you for your continued support for the  
ongoing work of our church.

Elizabeth Morris,  
Treasurer

## Food Bank

Thank You

A big thank you goes to all who donated to the harvest appeal  
in aid of the local food bank at Cumnock. The volunteers  
there are very grateful for our continued and generous support  
and report that we, in Mauchline Parish Church are most  
consistent in our giving . Times are extremely difficult for  
everyone, but if you can spare some items of tinned/dried  
food or toiletries, they would be gratefully received. There is a  
box in the Clarke Memorial Vestibule where items can be left.  
You may also drop them at 17A Station Road, OR I will  
happily collect them from you. Just get in touch.

Thanks again,  
Sheena Davidson

## WINTER RECIPE:

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

## Deviled Pork Chops

3 Pork Chops

1 oz - 25g Margarine

2 Small Onions

1 Tablespoon Flour

2 Teaspoons Dry Mustard

1 Stock Cube

2 Teaspoons Worcestershire Sauce

1 Tablespoon Tomato Ketchup

Fry Chops In The Margarine And Flour For About 5 Minutes  
Each Side.

Chop Onions And Fry Until Brown.

Place Cooked Chops In A Casserole And Cover With Onions,  
Mustard And Tomato Ketchup And Worcester Sauce.

Make Up Stock Cube And Pour Into Casserole And Put On  
Lid.

Cook For 1 Hour In Oven 190 C / Gas Mark 5

## Congregational Register

**New Members by Profession of Faith  
Certificate of Transfer issued to**

# Mauchline Parish Church

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Admitted by Certificate  
Weddings

## Mauchline Funerals

Jim Munro, 5 Westside Gardens

William Walker, 19 Burns Homes

John Morton, 86 Jean Armour Drive

John Donnelly, 16 Donaldson Crescent

Robert Reardon, 20 Connel Crescent

## Dates For the diary

## Worship Dates and Events

### October

### November

### December

4<sup>th</sup> December 9:00am via Zoom Prayer Breakfast

Contact Alan or Kirsty for login details

5<sup>th</sup> December 11:15am Communion Service

## Who's Who & Where

### Minister

Rev Allan Vint, Mail: [avint@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:avint@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### Session Clerk:

Mrs Kirsty Murray

### Treasurer:

Elizabeth Morris

### Deputy Treasurer:

Vacancy

### Clerk to the Board:

Vacancy

### Prayer Co-ordinator:

Mrs Sue Crawshaw

### Roll Keeper:

Mrs Isabel Smith

### Acting Organist:

Skye Schendel

### Church Officer:

Alexis Lowe

### Newsletter Editor:

Mr Jim Beck, Mail: [mauchlineparish@yahoo.com](mailto:mauchlineparish@yahoo.com)

# Winter



heritage  
lottery fund

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