



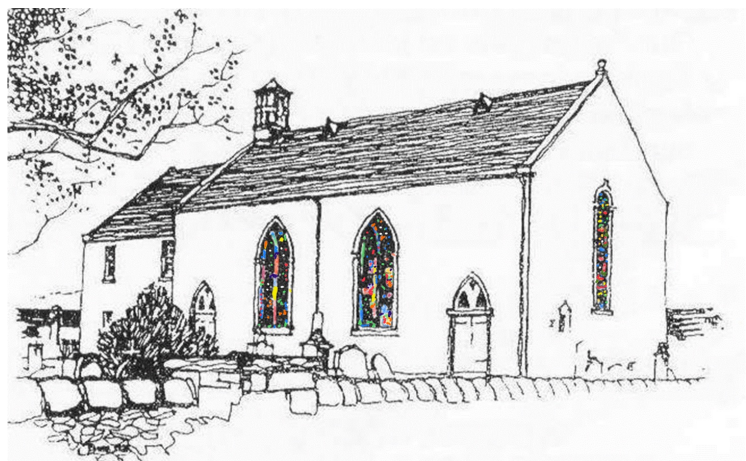
FOSSOWAY CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Table Of Contents

A Word From The Minister	2
Notes From The Kirk Session	4
Money News	5
News from Fossoway Primary	6
Funerals & Deaths	7
Weddings	7
Refresh	7
Christmas Tree & Lights	7
Christmas Colouring	8
Contact Information	10
Newsletter Deadlines 2022	10
Dates For The Diary	11

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JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU





A Word From The Minister

Nov 17th 2021

Dear church Members and Friends

As I write this letter to you I am actually off work due to a recent fall. I would like to thank all of you for all the kind emails, cards, flowers, and meals that I have received, and thank you as well, for your good wishes, prayers and help. It is all gratefully appreciated.

Christmas seems to be just around the corner with the first Sunday of Advent on November 28th. There are so many expectations around as we approach our Christmas celebrations. The last couple of years have brought experiences that have been very different to all expectations and in amongst the joy and peace of Christmas there has been great sadness and much anxiety due to the Covid-19 virus. Our hearts go out to all those who have lost loved ones during these past 2 years, and whose family celebrations will be very different this year because of their loss.

Hopefully, this year, we will all be able to celebrate Christmas in a way that is closer to our usual traditions and we will be able to meet with family and friends and celebrate in a more comfortable manner than last year.

We are trying to keep things as closely as we can to our usual pattern of services and celebrations in the church this year but unfortunately, we can't do everything that we usually do, but we're doing our best. You will find the Christmas dates later in this newsletter.

It has been another eventful year and a very busy one for your Kirk Session as we have had to plan carefully before we have re-opened our church and re-started services and events. My thanks go to all of your elders for working so hard to keep us going. My special thanks go to David Chisholm our Property Convenor who spent long hours working on seating plans and risk assessments and property issues to help us open once again. He has been a great source of strength and guidance to your Kirk Session and has been very dedicated in his work for our church. We were all sad when he decided to resign from his post as Property Convenor and elder but we welcome Willie Black as our new Property Convenor and wish him all the best as he takes up the post.

The Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20 is what all our celebrations are about.

It was a simple scene that first Christmas – a rough room, a young couple and nothing but a feeding trough to put the child in. It was probably quite cold and with their family being far away there was little help. Not exactly the nostalgic moment we like to show in our Christmas Nativity plays, yet this rustic scene marked the greatest event in the history of humankind.

God's Son became human and came to earth to save us. God had promised to send a Messiah, one who would save His people. He could have easily burst on the scene as a full-grown man, a six-foot warrior with fiery eyes and arms of steel. This was, after all, what many people were looking for and expecting, but that wasn't how God chose to do it. Instead, against all expectations, our Messiah was born in a stable as a tiny, vulnerable baby and cradled in the arms of his very young and courageous mother, Mary. He was, a very small package, wrapped in rags, given from the heart of God - the perfect gift.

God gave His only Son to us, to live and die in our place so that we, in all our brokenness, could know forgiveness. He came so that we could know what love feels like, real love – love that never leaves, love that never disappoints, love that is never betrayed. He sent His Son into our world to bring us hope and love and peace and joy.

I pray for Hope, Love, Peace and Joy be yours this Christmastime

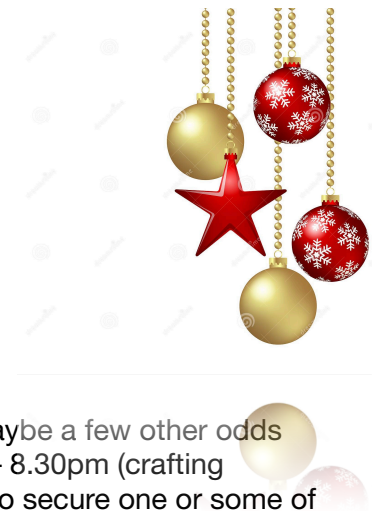
with Christmas blessings
from Rev Lis

Notes From The Kirk Session

November 2021

Bazaar and Community Carols

It is with disappointment and regret that the Kirk Session has decided not to have a Bazaar and Community Carols again this year. As we come into winter, the covid numbers prediction is very concerning and we need to minimise the risk of spreading the virus, not just to the folk who would support us but also for our many willing volunteers. However, covid situation permitting, it is planned to have coffee and tea after the service each Sunday in December. This is a much more controllable situation and will give opportunity to show off our hamper, our cloutie, the Christmas cake and Santa game which are already organised fundraisers, as well as a couple of sales tables with home made jam, pre-wrapped home baking, recycled gifts and maybe a few other odds and ends. Please pop in any Sunday morning, Monday evening 6.30 – 8.30pm (crafting session) or Fridays, 9.30 – 11.30am, (Toddler time) to get your chance to secure one or some of these delicious delights.



Hall Wall Pictures

After some lovely picture displays over the years, the walls in the Elizabeth Wilkie Hall have been bare for almost a couple of years.

Our thanks to the P5/6/7 pupils from the Fossoway Primary School who are going to create some Christmas pictures to display in our hall. These will be on display from the beginning of December to the end of January.

If you, or you know of anyone who may want to use our hall/wall space to display art work from February to April, please contact me on 840225

A generous surprise

The Rumbling Bridge Community Hydro Society has generously awarded a grant of £5,000 to Fossoway Church Hall from its profits from 2020/21. This is to support the provision of non-religious meetings/events held in the church acknowledging the difficulties caused by the pandemic restrictions and resultant reduction in income due to the cancellation of many bookings.

Members of the Kirk Session are exploring a selection of ideas, which will upgrade and enhance our facilities, to encourage the return of the groups that used to use our facilities and encourage others to do so. Please contact me if you have an idea that you think we could consider.

Watch this space!

Film Night

At our next Film Night, Friday December 10th at 7.30pm, we will be showing “Christmas at Downton Abbey”.

During the interval festive refreshments will be served.

Do join us if you can, for what promises to be a fun, festive evening, maybe your first of the season!!

Janet

Money News

The accounts for the period up to 30 September have already been passed to the Kirk Session.

Our Total Offerings are now similar to last year at £24,665 compared to £24,596. This was helped by the increase in our Open Plate where we were able to put the proceeds of a funeral, approximately £300. Our Other Ordinary General Income came in at £789, mainly due to the Fossoway Gathering and from October we have re-started Refresh and the Film Nights so this should increase closer to the figure of £1,099 last year, which covered the period from January up to mid-March.

Overall our income is down to £34,088 compared to the £35,018 of last year.

Under Expenditure the first section is National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work coming in at £20,661 as against £24,509 last year.

The second section is Local Staffing Costs totalling £3,341 as against £3,586 of last year. The major difference here is that we are only paying for our church officer. The Other Salaries figure is down to £2,574 as against £2,959 the previous year when we had organists up to mid-March.

The third section is Building Costs at £6,133 as against £6,473 with nothing of note happening this quarter.

The fourth section is Other Local Costs at £1,568 as against £1,583 last year. Our Telephone, Posts etc increased due to Zoom costs and the Web Support with the Other expenses being minimal as against the norm.

Our Total expenses are down to £31,703 from last year's £36,151.

For the Fabric Fund there has been nothing this quarter but from October we have had to spend money on new lighting and some further smaller items.

In our General account with church head office we had to withdraw a further £3,000 leaving us with only £4,800 in our cash reserves. During October I have had to withdraw a further £3,000 and with our having to pay out a sum of £2,435 to Kythe (this is the amount as deducted from our Ministries & Mission allocation) this will leave us in a difficult financial position. We will not be able to pay the usual £5,000 to Kythe this year. However with the fact of the National Giving Campaign initiated by church head office our generous congregation have given us approximately another £1,300 which will greatly assist us.

Envelopes: Please contact me in the usual ways should you need further envelopes.

Tom Mechan

News from Fossoway Primary

By Harry Wallace, Head Boy

For Remembrance Day P7s attended a special service at the Fossoway War Memorial.

We found it truly moving and were shocked by the amount of people who had died from the local area in World War One. There was a two-minute silence. We also laid poppies down at the memorial and a few people read out the poem In Flanders Fields by John Macrae. A special thanks to Janet Harper who ran the service and the piper who played for us.



**ONE
KIND
WORD**

During the week of 15th-19th November, the whole school recognised anti-bullying week. The theme for it was 'One Kind Word'. Everyone in the school has been doing activities such as making a pledge card that they can write their own promise on that has to involve being kind to someone. We have also been making a piece of bunting with a picture of someone being kind or a kind message, that we will string together. It will be a bunting of kindness to remind us of the importance of being kind!

We should all remember that 'One Kind Word' can really make a big difference to someone's day!



Funerals & Deaths

Ian Broomfield, 22nd October 2021

Margaret Arbuckle, 7th November 2021



Weddings

Jamie and Emma Smith, 8th October 2021

Refresh

take a break



TEA & CAKE

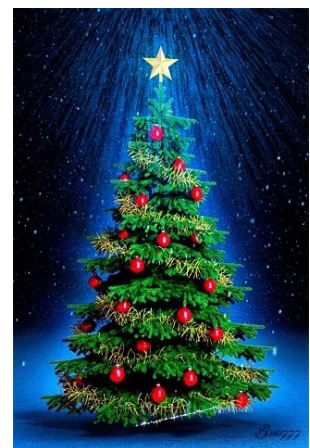
Refresh is open for refreshments on Thursday afternoons
2pm - 4pm in the Church Hall.
All welcome!

Christmas Tree & Lights

Our grateful thanks go to GLENDEVON ENERGY who are the generous sponsors of this year's Fossway Church Christmas tree and lights. Your kind support is very much appreciated by our Church and our local community.



Tel: [01577 840579](tel:01577840579) www.glendevonenergy.co.uk



Christmas Colouring



A Christmas Poem

They Light Up My Tree, and the Rest of the Room,
As He Lights Up My Heart, and the Rest of My Home

I Pause to Think, Just Before I Plug Them In,
They Remove the Darkness, as He Removed My Sin

This Past Year Has Been a Challenge, Nightmares Have Come True,
How Do Others Make It, Without Jesus to Hold On To

I'm Praising You Jesus, for the Strength You've Given Me,
Let Your Light Shine Through Me, So that Others May See

With Such Great Memories, the Smiles, and the Happy Tears
I Look Forward, to Putting Up, the Tree This Year

Each One is Unique, and Decorated Differently
But Your Cross, in Each One, is What I Will See

From Now On, When I Look, At Each Christmas Tree
I Will Remember, You AROSE LORD, After Dying For Me.

Contact Information

Contact	Email or Web Address	Telephone Number
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Hall Bookings Eileen Black		01259 742046
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Website	cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk	

Newsletter Deadlines 2022

Easter	1st April 2022
Summer	5th August 2022
Advent	11th November 2022

The newsletter is available on line at cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk and by email. If you no longer wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter please let us know by emailing fossowaynewslettereditor@cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk

Dates For The Diary

Fossoway St Serf's and Devonside services and events for December 2021

- Nov 28th **The First Sunday in Advent**
 9.45am Celebration of Holy Communion
 12.30pm Celebration of Holy Communion by Zoom
- Dec 2nd 2 - 4pm **Refresh**
- Dec 5th **The Second Sunday in Advent**
 9.45am morning worship
 Tea/coffee after the service and Traidcraft Stall will be present
 12.30pm Zoom worship service
- Dec 9th 2 - 4pm **Refresh**
- Dec 10th 7.30pm **Film Night**
 "Downton Abbey" with Festive Refreshments
- Dec 12th **The Third Sunday in Advent**
 9.45am morning worship
 Tea and coffee after the service
- Dec 16th **A Christmas Refresh**, 2pm – 4pm. Join us for a time of Fun and Refreshment with Isabel and her Dream Team.
- Dec 19th **The Fourth Sunday in Advent**
 9.45am morning worship
 Tea and coffee after the service
- Dec 24th **5pm Family Service.** Children, bring your parents, aunties, uncles, grandparents and any one else you would like to bring to this fun service of celebration.
Christmas Eve service 11.15pm
- Dec 26th 9.45am morning worship

Toddlers and Carers Group are meeting every Friday morning at 9.30am

Please note that covid controls are in place at all services and events



*Merry
Christmas*

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR