



# Soundings

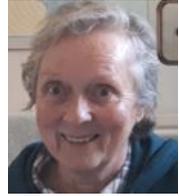
Portobello & Joppa Parish  
Church Magazine

December 2021  
& January 2022

# *Portobello and Joppa Parish Church*



## ***From the editor***



On my desk I have three little ... people. Or, at least, two of them are people. The one on the left is, I think, a Yeti, found recently in a box of toys. I like his cheery smile. The middle one is a model of a Lewis chessman. He looks

irresolute, a bit suspicious and, despite his sword, not very fierce – though somewhat grumpy. The right-hand chap is actually a memory stick for a computer (once you take his head off). Our son got this as a freebie when he graduated from medical school and I liked it so much that he gave it to me. It doesn't resemble our son at all but seems to have the same jolly personality, and it makes me think of him when, for example, I'm sitting at the computer trying to think of what to write. As now.

Perhaps our congregation isn't *quite* as diverse as these three (which one represents you??) but we all have different needs and wants from our church services – and then there's Covid – and our ministers and Worship Group have been experimenting with ideas for safe worship that might suit different people – as you'll read in Stewart's letter and article.

Also in the magazine – and relevant to the above worship experiments – you'll find several volunteering opportunities. There's also news of Sunday Stars nativity activities. There are the accounts, highlights from the climate change pilgrimage (well done to our young folk), news from Junior Drama and some reflections from Sandy – as well as offerings from our usual contributors. To all who faithfully send in articles, many thanks – and Happy Christmas to everyone.

**Pam**



## ***From the minister***

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Quotes are often a short and pithy way to share an idea or insight. Someone with a particular skill in crafting words or concepts has managed to consolidate in a few words or a phrase a moment of clarity or perhaps even grace. Here are a few that have caught my attention recently:

‘To play it safe is not to play.’ (Robert Altman)

‘The difficult thing isn’t living with people, it’s understanding them.’ (Jose Saramago)

‘The triumph of despotism is to force the slaves to declare themselves free.’ (Isaiah Berlin)

If you were to encapsulate or summarise Advent or Christmas in a verse or two, what would you choose? And, why?

Would it be those famous words from John? ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God?’

Or, from Luke? ‘And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.’?

Or, from Matthew? ‘When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy’?

Or, from Isaiah? ‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light’?

So many from which to choose... And each one carries with it connotations and memories that take us back to worship services full of light and song and hope. How important these are in the dark days of winter.

But such memories and quotes are not meant only for memories or perhaps nostalgia. Such quotes, ideas, images, memories and experiences are merely the groundwork and the basis by which we are called to move forward. We visit the stable and the manger precisely so that we can hear anew the message of the angels and be messengers of peace to a weary, groaning world.

Where, I wonder, do we go now?

We have been experimenting with worship. While there have been challenges, difficulties and some in-depth conversations, the commitment, energy and exuberance has been palpable.

Something has been set in motion from which we can learn so much. Why have people responded well to this and not that? What speaks to a variety of people from a variety of backgrounds from a variety of ages? What is God calling us to do?

The angels sang forth when Jesus was born. The trumpets, the choirs, the light, the awe. Yet the real event took place in a stable, in the musky, dark quiet marked by the weariness of travellers.

In the quiet we hear God's voice.

In the silence, Christ's call is clearer.

In the stillness, the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit can more readily be felt.

This Advent and Christmas, take a moment in the rich silence.

What is God calling us to do? What is God calling you to do?

And prepare your soul for the birth of a new creation. Within you, around you, above you.

**Stewart**



## **December Worship**

<b>Sunday 5 Dec.</b> (2nd Advent)	9.30am 11am	<b>Informal and Interactive Service</b> <b>Traditional service + Zoom</b>
<b>Sunday 12 Dec.</b> (3rd Advent)	9.30am 11am	<b>Informal and Interactive Service with Carols</b> <b>Traditional Service with Carols + Zoom</b>
<b>Sunday 19 Dec.</b> (4th Advent)	9.30am 11am	<b>Informal and Interactive Service with Sunday Stars Nativity Film</b> <b>Traditional Service with Nativity Film + Zoom</b>
<b>Wed. 22 Dec.</b>	7pm-8pm	<i>Quiet Space in the Sanctuary</i>
<b>Thurs. 23 Dec.</b>	11am 7pm-8pm	<b>Christmas Carol Pilgrimage with local churches (starting at St. John's)</b> <i>Quiet Space in the Sanctuary</i>
<b>Friday 24 Dec.</b> (Christmas Eve)	4pm-5pm 6pm 8pm	<i>Quiet Space in the Sanctuary</i> <b>Family Christmas Eve Service (Booking Essential)</b> <b>Christmas Eve Service (Booking Essential)</b>
<b>Saturday 25 Dec</b>	10.30am	<b>Christmas Day Service (Booking) + Zoom</b>
<b>Sunday 26 Dec.</b>	10.30am	<b>Boxing Day Service (Booking) + Zoom</b>

## ***New Worship Schedule: A Rolling Sunday***

*The past 18 months have encouraged us to adapt to a changed and changing world. We have offered a host of worship opportunities and adjustments:*

- *quiet space in the sanctuary*
- *Zoom worship;*
- *10.00am worship with limited numbers;*
- *a different way to do communion;*
- *a reflective service at 9.30am without communion;*
- *an interactive, informal and intergenerational 9.45am service;*
- *an abridged traditional service at 11.00am.*

*We've had to make do with limited capacity in the sanctuary.*

*We've altered the times when our children and young people meet.*

*In essence, we've done everything we could to respond imaginatively, creatively and sensitively to change.*

*It has been said that those who consistently think about the purpose and direction of their organisation or team do better when crises arise or when a shift in direction is required. A nimble mindset can respond better.*

*Thankfully, we at PJPC had been participating in the Growing Young initiative, which has been providing insights and tools to look deeply into our common life. What is the centre of our faith community? What are the principles? How can we all pull in the same direction?*

*As we've come out of lockdown, we've experimented with worship. We've consulted those who have attended consistently and regularly, and with those who have been a bit less engaged.*

*We've been fortunate too that quite a number of new faces have tested the waters and have found in us a group of people open to conversation, discussion and God's call to reach out to our community in faith.*

*The variety of ideas, thoughts, opinions, reactions and emotions was breathtaking. There is clearly an appreciation of diversity in our healthy church. Most especially, people seemed to appreciate reflective worship, traditional worship and an informal, interactive and intergenerational form of worship.*

*In light of all of this, Session have agreed trialling an experiment with worship from 9 Jan to 17 April (Easter). It's a way of continuing our recent imaginative efforts in order to continue to improve the quality and relevance of our worship.*

*In essence, we will be offering a Rolling Sunday, linked together by a common theme and lots of opportunities to catch up with one another.*

*A morning at the church that provides different kinds of worship for different approaches, opportunities for deepening our faith and, of course, plenty of opportunity for tea and coffee (seen as vitally important in our consultations!).*

*The proposed schedule is below. One caveat. It takes a village to raise a child.*

*It takes a team of committed, faithful people to create, sustain and share the energy, enthusiasm and exuberance that is a part of our Christian faith. The buzz of connecting with someone, new or old, or of feeling the fingertips of God gently touching your thoughts and prayers, rests on teamwork. We will need your help: with teas and coffees, with assisting in worship, with a bit of time to share with the younger generations.*

*We've all missed connecting with others. Now is your chance not just to connect and work with others but to facilitate it for others.*

*So, allowing a chance to breathe deeply on 2 January, we will, with God's grace, move ever and always onward!*

<b>Sunday 2 January</b>	10.30am	<i>Worship in the Sanctuary + Zoom</i>
<b>Sunday 9 January</b> <i>(Epiphany Sunday)</i>	9.30am	<b>Reflective Worship</b> <i>in the Sanctuary</i> <i>Sunday Stars activities in the Main Hall</i> <i>Creche available in the Session Room</i> <i>Teas and coffees in the Main Hall</i>
	10.00am	
	10.15am	<b>Informal and Intergenerational Worship</b> <i>in the Sanctuary</i>
	11.00am	<b>Traditional Worship</b> <i>in the Sanctuary + Zoom</i>
	11.30am 11.45am	<i>Breakfast Club in the Session Room</i> <i>Teas and coffees in the Main Hall</i>
<b>Sunday 16 January</b>	9.30am	<b>Reflective Worship</b> <i>in the Sanctuary</i> <i>Sunday Stars activities in the Main Hall</i> <i>Creche available in the Session Room</i> <i>Teas and coffees in the Main Hall</i>
	10.00am	
	10.15am	<b>Informal and Intergenerational Worship</b> <i>in the Sanctuary</i>
	11.00am	<b>Traditional Worship</b> <i>in the Sanctuary + Zoom</i>
	11.30am 11.45am	<i>Breakfast Club in the Session Room</i> <i>Teas and coffees in the Main Hall</i>

<b>Sunday 23 January</b>	9.30am	<b>Reflective Worship</b> in the Sanctuary Sunday Stars activities in the Main Hall Creche available in the Session Room
	10.00am	Teas and coffees in the Main Hall
	10.15am	<b>Informal and Intergenerational Worship</b> in the Sanctuary
	11.00am	<b>Traditional Worship</b> in the Sanctuary + Zoom
	11.30am	Breakfast Club in the Session Room
	11.45am	Teas and coffees in the Main Hall
<b>Sunday 30 January</b>	9.30am	<b>Reflective Worship</b> in the Sanctuary Sunday Stars activities in the Main Hall Creche available in the Session Room
	10.00am	Teas and coffees in the Main Hall
	10.15am	<b>Informal and Intergenerational Worship</b> in the Sanctuary
	11.00am	<b>Traditional Worship</b> in the Sanctuary + Zoom
	11.30am	Breakfast Club in the Session Room
	11.45am	Teas and coffees in the Main Hall
<b>Sunday 6 February</b>	9.30am	<b>Reflective Worship</b> in the Sanctuary Sunday Stars activities in the Main Hall Creche available in the Session Room
	10.00am	Teas and coffees in the Main Hall
	10.15am	<b>Informal and Intergenerational Worship</b> in the Sanctuary
	11.00am	<b>Traditional Worship</b> in the Sanctuary + Zoom
	11.30am	Breakfast Club in the Session Room
	11.45am	Teas and coffees in the Main Hall

<b>Sunday 13 February</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Reflective Worship</b> in the Sanctuary <i>Sunday Stars activities in the Main Hall Creche available in the Session Room</i>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<i>Teas and coffees in the Main Hall</i>
	<b>10.15am</b>	<b>Informal and Intergenerational Worship</b> <i>in the Sanctuary</i>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Traditional Worship</b> in the Sanctuary + <i>Zoom</i>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<i>Breakfast Club in the Session Room</i>
	<b>11.45am</b>	<i>Teas and coffees in the Main Hall</i>

## **Nativity 2021**

Sunday Stars have been busy each Sunday in November with creating a nativity film using Lego stop-motion animation, art projects, Play Mobil, the knitivity and many costumes to act out the Bible passages. The children have also been encouraged to continue with their creative storytelling at home and send in their photos and videos to be included in the final edit. Once again, Coll is lending his video editing skills to bring it all together into a final nativity film we can share as part of worship.



This year's nativity from Sunday Stars will be shared on 19 December at all the church services, including our Zoom worship which is shared on our church YouTube channel. You will also be able to view it on our church Facebook page after that Sunday.

Thanks to all the children who have taken part, the parents sending in the videos and photos, our editor Coll and our wonderful Sunday Stars volunteers for all your hard work!

**Michelle**

## ***National Giving Day***



Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the National Giving Day campaign which ran throughout October. A total sum of **£3,953.11** was raised through your generosity – almost double our target amount! Half of the monies raised have now been donated to the local charity **Tap into IT** (SC047766). An email has been received from Mike (Managing Director) to thank the congregation for their generosity. Mike has been invited to our worship services on 5 December 2021 to give more information on the work of the charity.

The remaining half of the monies raised will go towards the cost of installation of wi-fi and livestream connectivity within the PJPC Sanctuary which we aim to install during Q1 2022.

**Michael**

## ***Volunteers Required – Your Church Needs You!***

Further to Stewart’s earlier article in this edition of Soundings, in order to support our “rolling Sunday” trial over the first four months of 2022, we need lots of volunteers to help the ministry team. This doesn’t have to be a long-term commitment but we’d love to hear from you if you think you could help out in any way. For example, this could be with the serving of teas and coffees; acting as a steward; looking after our youngest members in Creche, Sunday Stars or Breakfast Club; or perhaps even leading some aspects of our worship – for example by reading from the Bible or leading the congregation in prayer. There’s lots of little “jobs” to be done and the more hands we have available the more we can deliver the worship experience that you want. Please do get in touch with Stewart, Michelle or Michael if you’d like to contribute to our exciting new worship plans.

**Michael**

**Portobello and Joppa Parish Church**  
**For the Period To 31 October 2021**

	<u>2021(£)</u>	<u>2020(£)</u>
<b>Congregational Fund</b>		
Income	145,986	157,576
Expenditure	<u>(173,004)</u>	<u>(194,094)</u>
Net Expenditure	(27,018)	(36,518)
Drawdown From General Trustees	13,181	16,433
Fundraising in support of Growing Young	<u>13,823</u>	<u>250</u>
Income/(Expenditure)	<u>(14)</u>	<u>(19,835)</u>
Legacies Received	<u>6,332</u>	<u>0</u>

All Legacies are invested with the Church of Scotland Investors Trust.

**Fabric Fund**

Income	23,031	23,997
Expenditure	(8,474)	(18,482)
Net Income	14,557	5,515
Drawdown From General Trustees	0	0
National Giving Day	<u>1,098</u>	<u>0</u>
Income	<u><u>15,655</u></u>	<u><u>5,515</u></u>

**Ministry & Mission**

Ministry & Mission Allocation	128,812	146,482
Stipend Fund Allowance	<u>(14,374)</u>	<u>(27,475)</u>
<b>Net payable by Congregational Fund</b>	<u><u>114,438</u></u>	<u><u>119,007</u></u>

**David**  
**Treasurer**

If you have any questions please email David at  
[office@portyjoppachurch.org](mailto:office@portyjoppachurch.org)



**ECO CLUB's TOP 10 HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ECO PILGRIMAGE**

Inspiring leadership shown by Katie & Mairead

Involvement of Sunday Stars, Breakfast Club, Muddy Church & our worship in church

The awesome speeches by the girls

The stirring music to set us up for the pilgrimage

Friends who turned up and so many from the church family coming to support too aged 3 to 93 ?

The church looking so inviting & welcoming

The comments we heard as we walked along

The chats, laughs and reflective moments

The warm welcome from Duddingston Kirk and the presence of God





## ***Looking for a New Opportunity?***

Have you missed connecting with families at church? Have you missed seeing the children and young people through the pandemic when we have been on Zoom worship? Are you ready for an exciting opportunity? I

wonder if you would like to join our team of volunteers in family ministry. Now is an excellent time to volunteer!

As we re-start our groups in-person and worship services are offered more frequently in the building, we are now in need of re-starting the creche. I am currently looking for people to help in the creche from 9:15am -10:15am on a Sunday morning once every 6-8 weeks. You would volunteer with another person to provide care for children from birth to 3 years old. Occasionally parents/carers stay with their children in creche, and this is an excellent opportunity to chat with parents/carers and build connections across the congregation. Volunteers set up the session room for the creche care and then clean up the space afterwards. Volunteers need to complete Safeguarding PVG paperwork before going on to the rota.

Maybe you are thinking you'd prefer to volunteer with older children – well, there's space for volunteers to join our youth group team as well! This group is for secondary students, with our P7s joining us at Easter. Breakfast Club volunteers can help once a month, twice a month or every Sunday for the very keen volunteers. Breakfast Club currently meets from 11am-11:45am in the main hall. We serve breakfast rolls and have Bible study/faith discussions around the table. We occasionally have special events like movie nights, retreats or the all-night Easter Vigil. Our young people are fantastic and well worth your time as a volunteer. Breakfast Club is a bit like a family – the volunteers and young people

learn from each other as we grow in faith together. Are you ready to join the breakfast table with us?

If either of these opportunities are of interest to you or if you'd like to join our Messy Church, Muddy Church or Sunday Stars teams, then email Michelle to begin the Safeguarding paperwork and get started volunteering.

**Michelle**



## ***Junior Drama***

Junior Drama has returned once again for rehearsals. During the past year we made our movie "The 12 Angry Pigs" and we've also had a games night.

Unfortunately over the Covid period a lot of our older members have retired from Junior Drama, which has left us with a smaller group but still a fantastic group of young actors and actresses. We have been able to recruit a couple of new members but we still need some more so if you know anyone who is keen to join then please let me know.

Sadly, Sandra, who taught our children to sing, has also left Junior Drama. Sandra had been with us for many years and will be sadly missed. She had the amazing skill of turning our young people into amazing singers over the years.

Well done and a big thank you from everyone over the years at Junior Drama, Sandra.



Over the past few weeks we have been doing some acting games as well as singing and dancing. We have also had a Halloween night for the young ones, who enjoyed dressing up in their variety of costumes for the night. We have our show and by the time

you read this we will be well into rehearsing for it.

Our show this year is “Jack and the Beanstalk” and we hope to perform this at the end of January.

“What?!” I hear you say, “It’s normally at the end of May!”

Well, this year we thought we would do 2 small shows and a musical review. We thought, if things are cancelled again due to Covid, we at least might be able to get one show performed, rather than prepare a big show and it ends up being cancelled and the kids don’t get to perform anything again after their hard work rehearsing.

I hope that makes sense. Keep safe.

**Jamie**

## ***Geese and COP26***

On the last Saturday of COP26 the sun was shining brightly in an almost cloudless sky. I had to do something in Stow up the Gala Water and drove up through the magnificence of autumn. The beech trees in Torsonce Wood were a palette of colour provided by nature. My belief in God leaves a place for my belief in Mother Nature. Indeed, “How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place”. What colours! What splendour!



Business done, I parked on the Old Stage Road that runs parallel with the A7 on the west side of the valley, and took a good walk.

I could hear them before I saw them. I stayed behind the dyke and made no noise, although I doubt they would have heard me, such was the strength of their own conversation as I crested the brow of the small hill. There before me were about 150 geese, resting, feeding on the short fresh green grass, with no fear of me, nor of the sheep grazing amongst them. Wonderful – one of the best sights of autumn.

I was told by my father that the night I was born the geese were flying over our house in the village. On the hill behind our house some had come down to rest and were incessantly gagging before the daybreak when they would take flight again.

Apparently my mother had said to my father, “I wonder if that is an omen. Will this be a wild one?” I leave others to decide if her prediction was true or not.

Just as my parents could hear the geese that night, I wonder if the geese could hear the first noises I made on my arrival. A strange mixture of natural noise –

the wanderers from the far north and me, a newborn baby, setting out on my journey.

Perhaps that is the reason I love that sound. There is nothing like the haunting noise of the geese as they fly south and then north in the spring. Somehow sharing the prime position at the front of the “V”, apparently effortlessly travelling, to reach their destination together.

It says so much about what COP26 is all about. It says that we greedy humans must make room for migration and consider species’ needs and not just our own. When we see the way that the rich countries ignore the calls of the weak, I get depressed. If we treat other humans so badly, what hope have migrating geese got?

This summer I have hardly seen a swallow, martin or swift. I have not seen a snipe for years. Lapwing are rare and curlew, another bird with such a distinctive call, seem to have disappeared from the valley – to name but a few.

But I lean on two things that are on my side. I have a solid faith in the Almighty God. However, I think in this case He could do with a helping hand from science, and I have faith that science is on our side, if only politicians would listen.

On the other side of the road from the geese there were two pieces of litter. One was a discarded polystyrene drinks thing from one of our well-known fast-food drive-through companies, the other was a plastic bottle, I assume from the same meal. On the bottle it said, “Protect our Planet”.

There on a few yards of a country road was the beauty of nature and the detritus of people with no eyes to see, nor ears to hear the call from the geese, saying, “It is our world too.”

**Sandy**



***Gardening with George*** - More plant lore from George, horticulturist and star of the small screen.



The general recommendation is that tulip bulbs are best planted in November or December when soil temperatures are lower. The soil is still warm enough to stimulate the bulbs to put out their new roots and develop their flowering shoots. However, the cooler soil at this time of year also has another effect: it reduces the development of Tulip Fire, a soil-borne disease of tulips which shows itself as blotched leaves and stems and disfigured flowers



which look as though they have been scorched by a flame gun. There are still some tulip bulbs available in the garden centres as I write and if planted in pots filled with fresh peat free compost, they will bring a cheer to those cold spring days when nature is once more awakening.

By now most of our garden trees will have dropped their leaves and the whole process of natural recycling will be starting, where worms draw the leaves down into the soil, and fungi and bacteria break down the leaf structures into readily available plant nutrients. Derek, our Church Officer, collected some bags of leaves for me from the pavement outside the Church. I took them home and spread them out on the lawn and ran the lawnmower over them two or three times. The resultant chopped leaves were then bagged and set aside to rot down. I have been doing this for three years now and been delighted with the harvest of beautiful leaf mould that has been produced. Leaf mould is an excellent soil additive. It looks like peat and acts like peat; it holds moisture and nutrients which are beneficial to plants when incorporated into the soil; and if applied in a thick layer to the soil surface it acts as a warm blanket, reducing moisture loss and keeping tender plants protected from the worst of the frost. Each handful of leaf mould contains thousands of micro fungi and bacteria, all

eager to add life to the soil. The UK government has vowed to withdraw the use of peat in plant composts over the next two or three years. So sweep up your leaves, bag them and set them aside to rot down.

I grow a number of tender plants such as nemesia and salvia. If these are left outside to take their chance with the vagaries of the Scottish winter they may well be killed. Each August I take and root some cuttings of those I feel are most vulnerable in order to have fresh young plants the following spring. It is good to be prepared early and today I sowed some broad beans in the cold glasshouse. The hope is that they will germinate over winter and be ready to plant out next March once the soil at the allotment has warmed up sufficiently. It is good to hope!!

Advent and the 'Season of Poinsettias' is upon us, Poinsettias are in the shops and the first Advent panel has been hung on the wall of the Church. Poinsettias are moderately hardy house plants, originally hailing from Mexico. The red bracts which surround the insignificant and unexciting flowers have been enhanced by plant breeders and there is a wide range of colours and shades available in the shops now. Carefully watered and placed on a windowsill where they can enjoy direct or indirect sunlight they will retain their colour through until Easter.

Enjoy your garden space, whether it is a collection of pots and containers or a more conventional space, stay safe and well and have a Happy Christmas.

Happy Gardening  
**George**



## ***A call to prayer***



### ***Behold the Lamb of God (John 1,29)***

Scholars disagree as to the exact date of Jesus' birth. Nor do they know that the Church of the Nativity that's visited every day by pilgrims in Bethlehem is the exact location of his birth. Nor can any of us comprehend how Mary could conceive a child by the Holy Spirit.

But here's the good news: you don't have to know when, where or how Jesus was born; you just have to know *why*.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3, 16).

The name Jesus means "Rescuer" or "Saviour". John the Baptist called Him "the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world".

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most" (Hebrews 4, 16).

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## Brain-teaser



Not surprisingly, I've been thinking about the word "Christmas"!

Here are some clues to words that can be made out of the word CHRISTMAS, using each letter only once. Can you find the answers?

1. A thin fog 4 letters
2. A garment 5 letters
3. To punch 3 letters
4. One way to prepare potatoes 4 letters
5. A goal or target 3 letters
6. Tall poles that hold up a ship's sails 5 letters
7. A military walk 5 letters
8. A great split in the ground 5 letters
9. What a horse might pull 4 letters
10. What you need to buy Christmas presents 4 letters
11. What you do to a Christmas pudding in a bowl 4 letters
12. What you might put on top of the Christmas tree 4 letters
13. What you might use to light a candle 5 letters
14. Silver things in a Christmas pudding 6 letters
15. The opposite of "stand" – what you need to do after all the fun! 3 letters

## Alison

**Answers:** mist, shirt, hit, mash, aim, masts, march, chasm, cart, cash, stir, star, match, charms, sit



***Getting to know you*** – Ben (11) – a Sunday Star who enjoys Messy Church and Muddy Church.

**Q. What is an early church memory?**

*A. I remember going to Sunday Stars for the first time because it was really fun.*



**Q. What job might you like to do?**

*A. A marine biologist because I really like swimming and I want to swim a lot deeper when I'm older.*

**Q. What are you reading at the moment?**

*A. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.*

**Q. How did you find lockdown?**

*A. I found it quite relaxing because I didn't have anything planned and I could just stay home and relax all day.*

**Q. What are you longing to do once Covid is no longer a major problem?**

*A. Eat at a buffet.*

**Q. What is your most prized possession?**

*A. My family.*

**Q. Tell us something that not many people know about you.**

*A. I used to like grapefruit.*

**Q. What luxury would you take to a desert island?**

*A. The bare necessities – food and water.*

**Q. What do you do to relax?**

*A. Play Minecraft and look over my Dungeons and Dragons books.*

**Q. Where would you go in a time machine and why?**

*A. Any time before Covid because I want to be with my friends and actually just exist.*

**Q. What kind of music do you listen to?**

*A. I like a bit of everything.*

**Q. How would you like to be remembered?**

*A. As a good, kind person.*

**Q. What gets you up in the morning (apart from your alarm clock)?**

*A. My sister or my mum.*

**Q. What makes your heart sing?**

*A. Good news about the things I like.*



## ***Great Scottish baking***

Here, for your Christmas inspiration, are another couple of recipes from a really *quite* old (1960s?) St Philip's Guild cookbook. One contributor is the live-in beadle's wife, Nan (Anne) Ferguson, who was endlessly helpful – and who firmly kept everybody right. The second is the Session Clerk's wife. He was Stuart Macdonald but I don't remember her first name. (Someone will. I was very young at the time...) It was in the days when a) everyone was addressed as Mr/Mrs/Miss and b) married women were often known as Mrs [husband's Christian name] + [husband's surname]. Times have changed!

### **Custard Creams**

4 oz self-raising flour	4 oz margarine
2 oz custard powder	2 oz caster sugar

Cream margarine with sugar. Knead in flour and custard powder. Roll into small balls. Bake Reg 4 (180C) for about 20 minutes until pale golden brown. Allow to cool and then sandwich with butter icing – coffee, chocolate, lemon etc.

### **Mrs A R Ferguson**

### **Date and Walnut Loaf**

Take one cup of chopped and stoned dates. Sprinkle one teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda over them and add  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of boiling water. Allow to stand while mixing the following:

2 oz margarine	$\frac{1}{2}$ teacup chopped walnuts
3 oz granulated sugar	2 eggs
7 oz sieved flour	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder

When all are thoroughly mixed, add the dates and well-beaten eggs. Bake in a moderate oven for one hour.

### **Mrs S A Macdonald**

## ***Baptism***

21 Nov. 2021

Mollie, daughter of Gus and Rachel of  
Newcraighall

## ***Remembering***

2 October 2021

Hugh Maclean of Craigentiny



## **LIFE AND WORK DECEMBER 2021**



**Christmas 2021** 'A Wonderful Gift': How Church of Scotland ministers keep the eternal message of Christmas fresh again and again.

The Moderator considers the message of Christmas carols.

The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the bitter-sweetness of a changing Christmas.

Nativity in Lockdown: Young Members of Ayr: St James look back on last year's 'Bubble Nativity'.

A new carol for Christian Aid.

**Our Man on Mars** Jackie Macadam learns about a new book by an East Lothian elder, imagining the first chaplaincy to Mars.

**Honouring God's Name** In the second part of his study of the Lord's Prayer, the Rev David Searle considers the importance of 'Hallowed be thy name'.

**The Core Elements** The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers explains why kindness – and the counselling and support of CrossReach – are needed now more than ever.

**A Biblical Connection** John R Hume outlines the history of a Glasgow church overlooking the Clyde.

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## ***MAGAZINE/DIARY DEADLINES***

February 2022

March 2022

April 2022

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

Sunday 22<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022

***Scottish Charity Number : SCO11728***



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