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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 4
December 2022/
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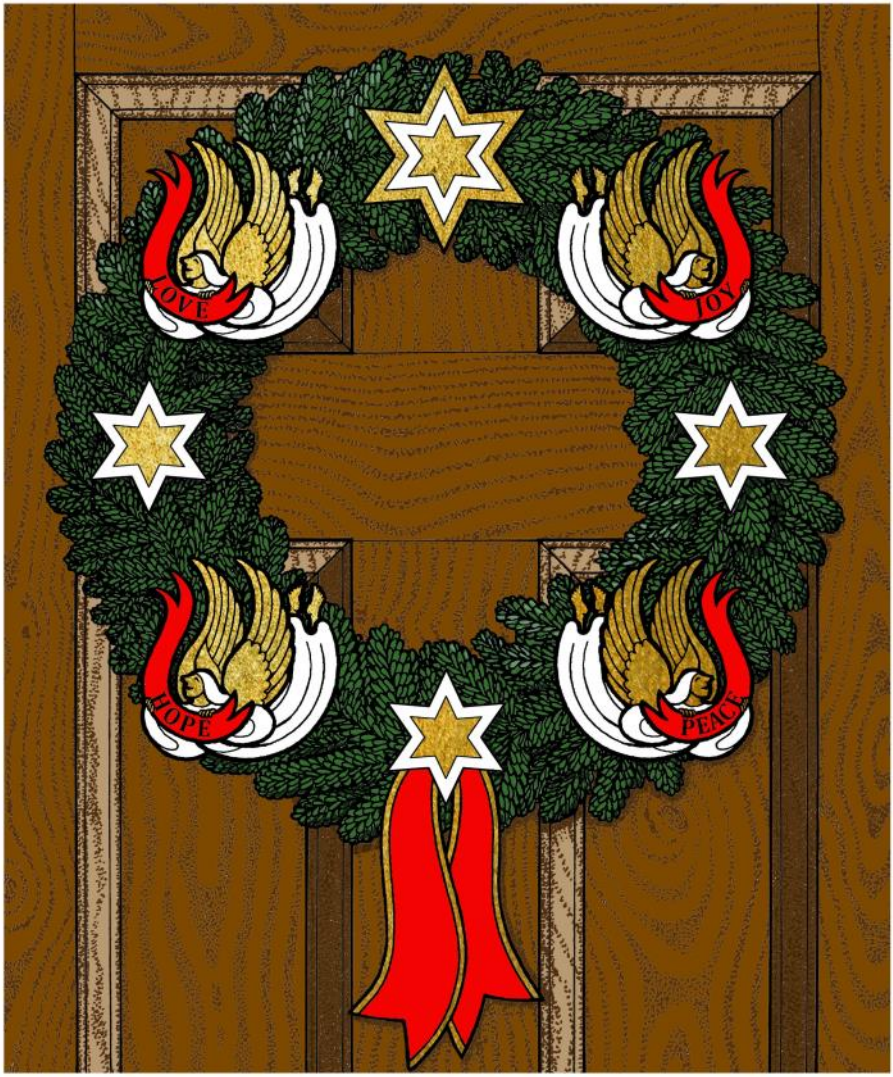

The Rector's Letter

Dear all,

The poet Elizabeth Jennings (1926-2001) wrote these lines as part of an Advent poem in her *Christmas Sequence*:

O let us, even in our fear, join hands

As we think of a story that is old

Yet new each year. It is a mystery

How God took time and entered history.

As we enter into a new Church Year with the beginning of Advent, into a new Calendar Year in January and into the annual celebration of Christmas, cycles, time and new beginnings may be on our mind. Every year brings change as we re-live our annual cycles and patterns.

In the light of this, it is powerful to think of Christmas in the way Elizabeth Jennings invites us to do: how a happening once some 2000 years ago not only changed the world then, but also how it still changes us year after year. There is always change, for that is part of the fabric of life. But there is also transformation: when we actively seek to be changed into God's image and plan for us and then allow God's mystery to transform us.

God, indeed, still takes time and enters history, as Christ is born in our hearts this year and always – and works in unexpected ways in our own history.

In this sense, I wish you a deep and purposeful Advent, a light-filled and mysterious Christmas, and a happy New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Christoph

Mary & the Magnificat

This year, we'll be focussing on Mary (and see what the Bible tells us about her) and studying Mary's Song found in Luke's Gospel, which has been very influential on Christian theology, art and music.

Two groups will run for 3 weeks in December: Wednesday mornings at 10.30 a.m. (**7th, 14th & 21st December**) and Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. (**8th, 15th &22nd December**). Both groups will be held in the choir vestry.

Sign-up sheets are at the back of the church.

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This lovely Christmas Celebration is back after two years!
Do please come and join us.

Holy Trinity Church Stirling

Sunday 4th December 2022, at 6.30pm

A 'CHRISTMAS CRACKER' FOR SSAFA

(Soldiers, Sailors Airmen and Families Association - The Armed Forces Charity)

Featuring

The West of Scotland Military Wives Choir

And

The RHET - Factor Choir (Royal Highland Education Trust)

Refreshments provided

Tickets £5 (Children under 10 free)

Tickets at the door, or to reserve, please call:
Tel: 01786 870360

Favourite Poetry

In last month's edition we published a poem/poet/verse that meant a lot to an individual. Here are two more responses .

Rosas Mitchell- **I go among trees** by Wendell Berry.
Reason. Nature as our teacher!

Tony Mitchell- **Crossing the bar** by Alfred Lord Tennyson
Reason. I love the sea so nautical metaphors are always meaningful.

As well as wishing you a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year, this edition provides an opportunity to thank all our readers and contributors for their support.

This is your magazine and we welcome and need your contributions. Please let us know if you have any ideas for features. Feedback is welcome.

Articles written by you are of primary importance. In addition, we subscribe to an online resource for those compiling church magazines www.parishpump.org

Libby Coats

Start up Stirling - all donations gratefully received (except pasta)!

Holy Trinity is a founding supporter of *Start up Stirling*, the local charity that operates two foodbanks in Stirling and also delivers to outlying areas. Since June this year I have been volunteering at the foodbank at St Ninians church hall (the other is in the Raploch), so I have been seeing at first hand how the food donations collected by Holy Trinity are used.

All our clients are referred from social services, GP practices and so on. No -one just turns up. And in the first instance they receive help for three weeks, though this can be extended. We see old and young, families and single people. We have refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan. Of course, for many people, coming here is a source of shame, of having failed. But the stories they tell us show great fortitude in the face of sometimes terrible hardship and are truly humbling. As volunteers, we realise that this can happen to anyone.

What is donated is made up into individual crates at the warehouse. This is mainly the non-perishable food donations we receive from the public. But we also provide fresh fruit and veg, eggs, and frozen food. Most weeks we have bread. All this is bought using cash donations or is given by local supermarkets and other suppliers. We also offer toiletries and cleaning products. In the summer holidays we give out tickets for children's activities and we often provide school packs and other necessaries for children returning to school.

Clearly, in a practical sense, we offer crucial support for hard pressed people. But it is important to know that we don't just hand out food. The training we are given focuses on listening to people. So, all our clients are met at the door and then shown to one of the tables set out café style. We offer them a tea or coffee and biscuits and while they pack their bags we provide a listening ear. We particularly look out for signs of mental distress. There is also someone from the Citizens Advice Bureau on hand to help with particular problems.

What to give

Working at the foodbank has given me some insights into what is particularly welcomed by *Start up Stirling*. First, and perhaps surprisingly, they don't want pasta. Not that pasta isn't a good staple, it is, but they have mountains of it! Second, they particularly want things like cereal bars and meals that just require boiling water. This is because some clients have no cooking facilities. So, cuppa soup, porridge, pot noodles and the like are all useful. Tinned goods, of course, are always welcome. As our donations may sit in the church porch for a week or so before being taken to the warehouse, it is important that everything donated is robust enough to cope with that. Also, be aware of best before and use by dates, as it may be a few weeks before the food donated is actually distributed.

Christmas appeal

In the run up to Christmas I think we are all particularly aware of the need to provide for those less fortunate. *Start up Stirling* suggests we take part in a 'reverse advent calendar', donating something each day. The more we can collect the more people we can help. Leave your donations in the church and I will take them up to the warehouse. You can find out more by visiting the Start up Stirling website: *https://startupstirling.org.uk*

Thank you for your continued support! Your donations provide a lifeline for many in need across the city and beyond. *Cate Watson*

The Memorial Chapel – December 1922

Sir George Younger, who had already subscribed to our War Memorial, recently offered to provide the screen which we always hoped to have, but were obliged to forego for lack of funds. It is to be an iron screen and will be designed by Sir Robert Lorimer. This very welcome offer, together with a sketch of the proposed screen, was laid before the Vestry at their last meeting and unanimously the Vestry accepted, the Rector being asked to convey to Sir George their appreciation of his great generosity. We are sure this announcement will afford much satisfaction to the whole congregation. It will give to the Chapel a certain seclusion without cutting it off or obscuring the Altar or Window. We are indebted to another member of the congregation for defraying the cost of two very nice kneelers for the use of communicants when there is a Celebration. These were used for the first time at the special service on November 12. The Rector has also been promised the cost of two flower vases to go with the Cross and Candlesticks, or, in the event of any other person wishing to give these, the same friend will provide two Prayer Desks for devotional use. The provision of two chairs (or more) has also been promised. It has been clearly laid down from the beginning that the Chapel is a Common Memorial to all our Fallen, and does not admit of memorials to individuals. Those who in any way provide for the completion or enrichment of the Chapel are giving an additional subscription to the War Memorial.

The Memorial Chapel – January 1923

Two beautiful Altar Vases of the same material as the Altar Cross, and designed and made by the same Guild of Artificers in London, have just been added to the Chapel. We owe these to the generosity of Mr. John Gill, who very kindly offered the Rector to provide either Vases or a Prie Dieu. Another gift is that of a new chair to take the place of the old chair which has hitherto been in use. This has been given by the same kind friend who provided the kneelers for the Communion rails.

Thanks to *Sheila Brown* for transcribing and sending in this article.

Christchurch Cathedral, New Zealand

What do you do if your iconic 19th century cathedral is so badly damaged in an earthquake it becomes unusable? In the case of ChristChurch Cathedral, New Zealand, you spend quite a long time debating whether or not to replace it entirely (as many of the buildings that once surrounded it in Cathedral Square Christchurch have been replaced). But once the decision has been taken to restore and renovate, you still need somewhere to worship and carry on the everyday life of the church.

And so, more than ten years after the earthquakes that devastated Christchurch in February 2011, but with another 5-6 years before the restored cathedral can be used again, ChristChurch Cathedral lives on in its Transitional Cathedral – otherwise known as the Cardboard Cathedral (https://www.cardboardcathedral.org.nz/)!

The name comes from the use of 86 tubes of cardboard, each weighing 500 kilograms in the construction. These can be seen on the interior of the 'broad tent with an open door', as the Dean describes it. The pro-cathedral is full of light and height, with little installations commemorating aspects of the damaged building. The external view shows a huge triangle made of (oversize) images taken from the lost stained glass. *Ann Lees*

Readings December 2022

Thursday 1st	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 4th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
ADVENT 2	**Readings**	Isaiah 11.1-10; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12
Thursday 8th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
ADVENT 3	**Readings**	Isaiah 35.1-10; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11
Thursday 15th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
ADVENT 4	**Readings**	Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25
Thursday 22nd	**11am**	Holy Communion
Saturday 24th	**11.00 pm**	Midnight Mass
CHRISTMAS EVE	**Readings**	Isaiah 52.7-10; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14

Readings December 2022

Sunday 25th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
CHRISTMAS DAY	**Readings**	Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-20
Thursday 29th	**11am**	Holy Communion

Readings January 2023

Sunday 1st	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
CHRISTMAS 1	**Readings**	Isaiah 63.7-9; Hebrews 2.10-18; Matthew 2.13-23
Thursday 5th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY	**Readings**	Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12
EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE	**6.30pm**	tbc
Thursday 12th	**11am**	Holy Communion

Readings January 2023

Sunday 15th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
BAPTISM OF CHRIST	**Readings**	Isaiah 42.1-9; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-end
Thursday 19th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY 2	**Readings**	Isaiah 49.1-7; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42
Thursday 26th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY 3	**Readings**	Isaiah 9.1-4; 1 Corinthians 1.10-18; Matthew 4.12-23

Rotas December 2022

	Readings	Intercessions
Dec 4	T Mitchell	H Piper
Dec 11	A Pont	C Johnston
Dec 18	C Johnston	A Shaw
Dec 24		
Dec 25	A Tyler	M Kenyon

Sidesduty

Dec 4 R & V Nellist

Dec 11 B & C Watson

Dec 18 H Kemp & F Macleod

Dec 24 Volunteers

Dec 25 C Kendall & J Foster

Rotas January 2023

Readings	Interecessions
Jan 1st D Brown	R Nellist
Jan 8th M Kenyon	A Pont
Jan 15 C Watson	I Boa
Jan 22 L Green	N Morris
Jan 29 R Campbell	V Nellist

Sidesduty

Jan 1st J & N Morris

Jan 8th 10.30 L Coats & F MacLeod

Jan 8th 6.30 H Kemp & C Kendall

Jan 15 R & V Nellist

Jan 22 B & C Watson

Jan 29 H Kemp & A Lees

Articles for the **February** edition are requested on or before

January 15th

The magazine will be available on

January 29th

Santa

I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.

Lord's Prayer, updated

I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer. Then she implored: "and lead us not into temptation but deliver us some e-mail."

Seasonal smiles

- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta

- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

What do you call Santa's helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.

New Year's Eve is coming soon…

The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise. - *E K Kruger*

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Contacts

RECTOR: **Rev Canon Christoph Wutscher,** 4 Bracken Lane, Stirling FK9 5AB Tel: 01786 359821
Email: rector@holytrinitystirling.org

HON ASSISTANTS:
Rt Rev John Crook, 163 Lothian Crescent, Stirling FK9 5SG
Tel: 01786 359881 *Email: johnmcrook99@gmail.com*
Rev Val Nellist, 28 Glamis Gardens, Dalgety Bay, Fife KY11 9TD
Dr Rebekah Sims, Deacon *Email: rebekak.e.sims@gmail.com*

HON SECRETARY AND ALTERNATIVE LAY REP: **Rachel Campbell,** 12 Northend, Cambusbarron FK7 9LJ
Tel: 01786 451103 *Email: secretary@holytrinitystirling.org*

TREASURER: **Robert Nellist,** 28 Glamis Gardens, Dalgety Bay, Fife KY119TD
Tel: 01383 824066 *Email: treasurer@holytrinitystirling.org*

LAY REPRESENTATIVE: **Cathy Johnston,** 5 Snowdon Place, Stirling FK8 2NH
Tel. 01786 471406 Mob. 0771 892 1181 *Email: cathymjohnston@gmail.com*

ROTA SUPERVISOR: **Ann Lees** (see Magazine Production)

CONVENOR OF FABRIC & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE: Ian Boa 12 Millar Place Stirling FK8 1XD
Mob:0786 085 1935 *Email:ianboa@me.com*

VESTRY MEMBERS: **Rector, Rebekah Sims, Rachel Campbell, Cathy Johnston, Robert Nellist, Ian Boa, Hannah Gray, Carol Kendall, Carolyn Lawson, Nick Morris, Anne Pittock, Brian Shanks, Andrew Tyler**

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: **Alistair Warwick,** Ardarroch, Glen Road, Dunblane FK15 0GY
Tel: 01786 823000 Mob: 0779 256 6349 *Email: hts@alistairwarwick.com*

VERGER: **Brian Shanks:,** 15 Richard Quinn Street, Cowie, FK7 7DU Tel: 01786 817191 Mob: 07870444861

FLOWER CONVENOR: **Mary Kenyon,** Easter Culmore, Kippen FK8 2JQ Tel: 01786 870360
Email: maryelizkenyon@gmail.com

HALL CONVENOR: **Sarah Shaw** *Email: shaws1@talktalk.net* Mob:0797 046 6551

SAFEGUARDING PVG CO-ORDINATOR: **Helen Kemp,** 1 Grendon Court, Stirling FK8 2JX
Tel: 01786 479400 *Email: heleninstirling@talktalk.net*

MOTHERS UNION: **Helen Kemp, Mary Kenyon,** *see Safeguarding PVG Co-ordinator & Flower Convenor*

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION: **Libby Coats,** 28 Snowdon Place, Stirling FK8 2JN: Tel: 01786 479785
Email: lib.coats@gmail.com **Liza Green** Tel: 01786 200180 *Email: liza_swan_green@yahoo.co.uk*
Ann Lees Tel 01786 472355 *Email:ann.lees@btinternet.com*

Our Services

Sundays
10.30am Sung Eucharist

Thursdays
11.00am Holy Communion

At present Sunday school (HTKidZ) for primary age children is not meeting regularly but if you would like information on planned activities please contact Sarah or Alistair Shaw at shaws1@talktalk.net

Organisations Meeting in the Church Hall

Mondays
10-12noon HT Tots Gen Pont gandapont@yahoo.co.uk
4.00-5.30pm Destination Judo: info@destinationjudo.com
6.15-7.45pm Mindbodysoul Yoga: grant@mindbodysoulyoga.co.uk

Tuesdays
10-12noon Pilates: judithgraham090@gmail.com
6.30pm Lishi Self Defence: damien@lishi.org

Wednesdays
7pm SABOS: sabosmusicaltheatre@gmail.com

Thursdays
11am Stirling Community Lunch: stirling4community@gmail.com
4-7pm Dance: kimmybruce@hotmail.com
7pm Stirling4 Community Choir

Saturdays
9-10am Babyballet: lpattison@hotmail.co.uk

The church hall is available for further lettings. If you would like to rent the hall please contact Sarah Shaw on 07970466551 or shaws1@talktalk.net