

The Beacon



St John's & Dairsie United Parish Church
United in Faith : United in Love

WINTER
EDITION
2025

★
JOY
PEACE
LOVE
HOPE & FAITH
WARM LIGHT
KINDNESS GROWS
COMFORT & CHEER
MERRY BRIGHT HEARTS
BELIEVE IN THE MAGIC
STAND TALL
KEEP FAITH
SHINE LIGHT

**This is how God showed his love among us:
He sent his one and only Son into the world
that we might live through him.**

1 John 4:9

What's On at St John's & Dairsie

Sundays:	10.30 am	Worship at Cupar St John's <i>Tea/Coffee/Fellowship after the service</i>
Mondays:		Dairsie Friendship Circle: War Memorial Hall (2nd Monday of each month)
Wednesdays:	9.30-10.30 am	Midweek Worship
	10.30-1.30 pm	Warm Welcome Wednesdays
	2.00-4.00 pm	Afternoon Tea Dance (Oct - May)
	7.30 pm	Monthly Reflective Worship (first Wed of month)
Thursdays:	9.30-11.30 am	Toddlers at St John's (term time)
	2.00-4.00 pm	Busy Hands
Fridays:	11.45 am-1 pm	Drop-in at St John's (last Friday of month)

Warm Space



We have been joined at Warm Space by some new volunteers; a huge thank you to all who give their time on Wednesdays to support these worthwhile mornings. I know those we serve are very grateful for the warm welcome they receive and the food we have on offer as well as a listening ear on occasions. We may be the only people they speak to that day.

Val McKay

Tea Dances

Tea Dances continue with small numbers but those who attend have lovely afternoons with dancing, tea and home baking as well as lots of chatting. Tea dances are for everyone who wants to come along and join us.

Val McKay

Advent and Christmas Worship

Wednesday 3rd December at 7.30 pm

Remembering Reflective Service in St John's

Saturday 20th December

Walk to the Manger, begins at St James' the Great at 11 am

Sunday 21st December at 10.30 am

Christmas Family Service in St John's

Sunday 21st December at 7.00 pm

Carol Service in Dairsie Memorial Hall

Christmas Eve at 6.30 pm

Christingle Service in St John's

Christmas Eve at 11.30 pm

Watchnight Service - joint service in St John's

Christmas Day at 11 am

Joint service at Cupar Old

Sunday 28th December at 10.30 am

Joint service in St John's



Minister's Message

The rush has begun; it seems that no matter which way you turn there are messages to buy, buy, buy!

Advert after advert tries to convince us what the “*special person*” in our life really needs, and it seems what they need is everything from the latest computer game to the best of perfumes, or perhaps even a nice diamond to make them sparkle.



In the church it is easy for us to get upset at how commercial Christmas has become. One person said to me recently that it is as if Christ has been pushed out of Christmas. In some ways that statement is correct, for example often cards will say “*Season’s Greetings*” or “*Happy Holidays*” to avoid making a religious statement.

But however the world views Christmas—merely as a holiday, or just for children, or even as an outdated religious festival, we can be sure of one thing: that while the world spends, spends and spends some more on that perfect gift, **God continues to do what God has always done.**

Give, give and give some more.

As we celebrate Christmas, we remember the way that God loves us, from heaven to earth as a baby, and this baby Jesus grew to become a man who walked with the lonely, loved the unlovable, accepted the marginalized, offered life in all its fullness, both in this world and the next ...and, of course, ultimately he died and rose again for us so that we will find love, peace and forgiveness.

So let us proclaim to the world that Christmas **is about giving!**

God giving love to us!

In the words of a favourite hymn:

*Love came down at Christmas
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angles gave the sign.*

I wish you and yours every blessing and the peace of Christ this Christmas.

**Your minister and friend
Gavin W Black**

FIFE



PRESBYTERY

Presbytery Mission Plan Update

Once again we are writing to update you regarding the Presbytery Mission Plan for our area.

The current Mission Plan for the Cupar area will be a union between St John's and Dairsie, Cupar Old and Monimail, with an allocation of one Minister of Word and Sacrament and one Ordained Local Minister.

With regard to the buildings, Cupar Old, Dairsie, Monimail and St John's are all categorised as 'B', in other words they all have to be sold, let or otherwise disposed of by December 2027. The Old Parish Centre is categorised as 'A', meaning it will be retained for the foreseeable future.

On Thursday 16th October members of the Kirk Sessions of the three congregations met along with representatives of Presbytery to discuss the practicalities of the Mission Plan for this area. This was a good meeting where questions were asked and answered and opinions shared. Following that meeting, on the morning of 9th November, a social gathering was held of the elders from all the congregations. Again, this was this a successful event. We now have future dates in the diary for meetings of the steering group made up of elders from each of the congregations. Catherine Wilson, a very experienced Presbytery elder, is the facilitator at these meetings.

I would ask you to keep all the office bearers and elders of the congregations, and the Presbytery representatives, in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to work towards implementing the Presbytery Mission Plan. And we shall, of course, inform you of any updates.

God bless.

Gavin and Rhona

Fellowship and Outreach

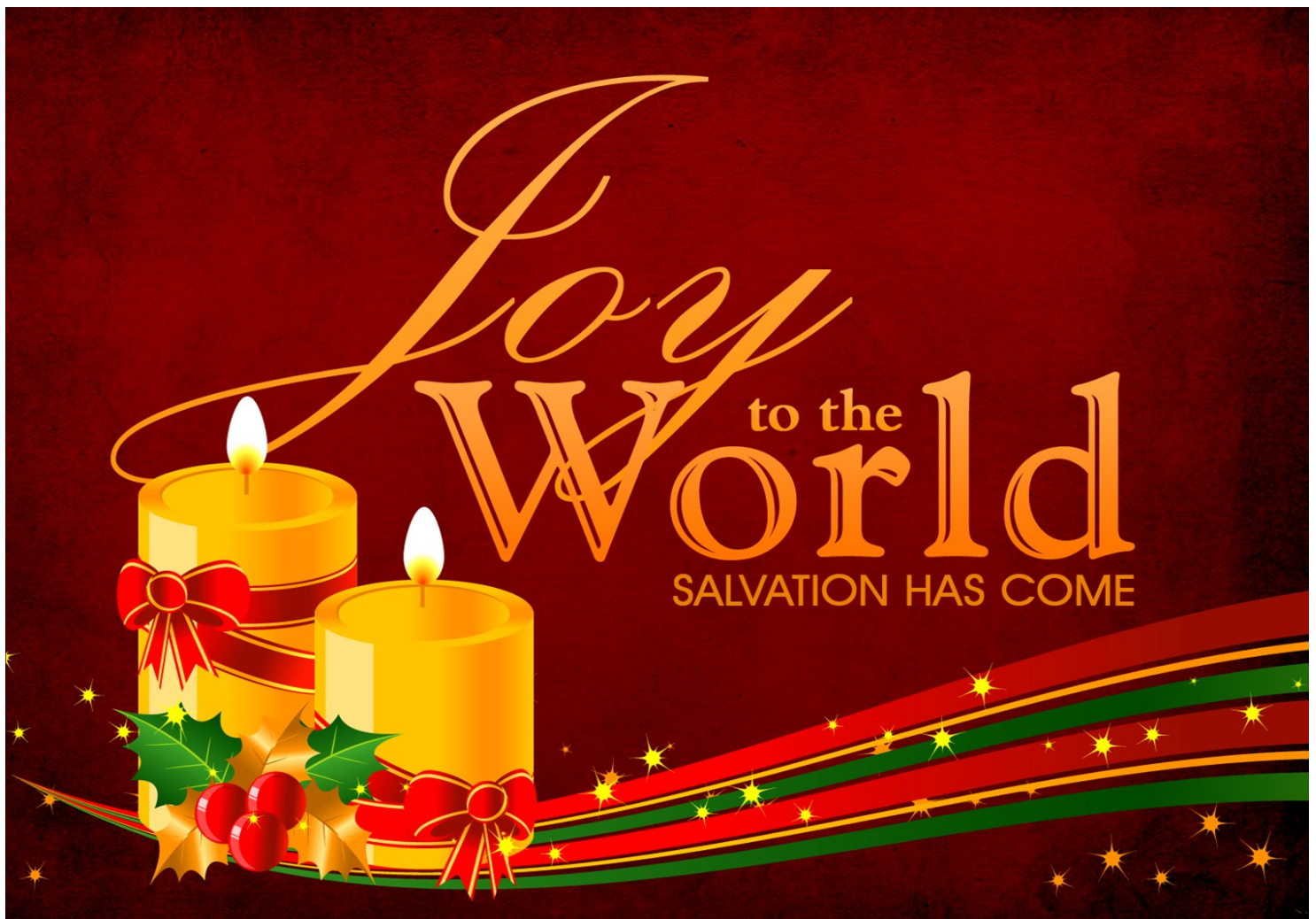
We recently delivered over 70 shoeboxes to the Fluthers car park and handed them to Blythswood charity to be transported to Eastern Europe in time to be distributed for Christmas. The generosity of the congregation enabled Pauline Craig, Isabel Morrison, Aileen Kennedy and Margaret Strachan to cover and fill the boxes for men, women, boys and girls. Busy Hands had worked hard and knitted hats, scarves and mittens which were part of the essential list. We were also able to give a substantial donation towards the transportation which costs around £7,000. Interestingly, a photograph of the shoebox collection on the church Facebook page was viewed over 1,000 times with 32% of the views from non-followers of our page.

On 30th November there will be a Fairtrade stall in the hall after morning worship. Please support it if you can as we are now recognised as a Fairtrade church.

The Advent Ring and the Christmas trees will take pride of place in the vestibule, Sanctuary and the hall. Our outdoor tree which long ago was planted by the Sunday School will also shine bright this Advent Season.

Aileen and Isabel





Drop-in at St John's

The group continues to be well attended at our monthly meetings.

We are delighted that the group will celebrate its 30th Christmas Party on 12th December. A few of our members have been part of the group since its start-up and we continue to support the carers whose time of respite is enjoyed so much.

If you are caring for someone with Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia, we would be very happy if you would like to join us. A light lunch of homemade soup, a bacon or filled roll with coffee and tea is served as well as this being a time to chat with fellow carers. The group is open to all residents of North-East Fife and you would be assured of a very warm welcome. We meet on the last Friday of the month in the church hall of St John's in Cupar from 11.30 am. until 1 pm.

For further details you can contact Anna or Bob on 01334 650326.

Carolyn Moorefield, Secretary

Useful Contacts

Minister:	Rev Gavin W Black 01334 209010 07870 486030 gblack@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk:	Rhona Ferguson
Presbytery Elder:	Val McKay
Organist:	
Finance Convenor:	Craig Stockton
Property Convenor:	David Sinclair
Safeguarding Coordinator:	Andrew Kennedy
Hall Letting Convenors:	
Health & Safety:	Margaret Kennedy
Roll Keeper:	Craig Stockton
Fellowship & Outreach:	Aileen Kennedy & Isabel Morrison
Refreshment Team:	Mari Black
Busy Hands:	Joyce Macrae
Flowers:	Olivia Fraser
Tea Dances:	Val McKay
Drop In at St John's:	Anna & Bob Farmer
Contact email:	StJohnsandDairsie@outlook.com

Worship Times

Sunday Worship
St John's
10.30am

*Tea/Coffee in hall
after each service*

Midweek Worship

St John's
Church Hall - 9.30am

*Faith &
Fellowship*

Reflective Service

Monthly 7.30pm
*Thoughtful, Prayerful
Reflections*



**www.cuparstjohns
anddairsie.org**



**St Johns and
Dairsie United
Parish Church**



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Dairsie**