

# “THE LINK”

No. 131, Christmas 2018

Price 50p



The Parish Magazine of  
MOFFAT: ST ANDREW'S  
linked with  
KIRKPATRICK JUXTA AND WAMPHRAY

## **Articles and letters**

*The Link* welcomes articles and letters, which can be sent by e-mail to **tarankin13@yahoo.com** or by post. All communications should bear a name and, if possible, a telephone number. Anonymous contributions will not be accepted.

## **Copyright**

May I ask you to ensure that any article submitted is either one you have written yourself or one that you have had permission to reprint.

**Editor**

## ***Life and Work***

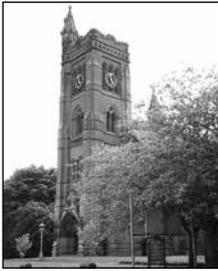
The Church of Scotland's monthly magazine, *Life and Work*, was named the Best National Religious Periodical at the Andrew Cross Awards 2005. The judges described *Life and Work* as "A classy well-conceived publication with challenging and stimulating content which should be a welcome addition to any coffee table".

Why not take the opportunity to subscribe to the Church of Scotland's magazine? The discounted cost is £2.55 per copy (normally £2.80) or £30.60pa, and is excellent value today.

The magazine contains regular items such as readers' letters, book reviews and crosswords, in addition to a number of feature articles.

Please contact me should you be interested.

**Rick Faulkner (221598)**



## ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH

(Charity registration number: SCO12236)

### OFFICE BEARERS

Session Clerk  
Treasurer

Donald Walker  
Mrs Anne Sanders

### From the session clerk

Time marches on and it is more than two months since Adam Dillon was inducted into his new charge. We should now have been under the guidance of an interim moderator, and indeed one was appointed by our presbytery and has failed to fulfil the role, despite numerous attempts to contact him. The knock-on effect of this has been very significant in that our proposed locum, the Rev Neil Campbell, could not be officially appointed without the interim moderator's presence, and the consequence is that Neil is now committed to an increased workload in the prison service in Dumfries, and is thus not available to fulfil the locum's duties.

We are fortunate that Neil is willing to continue leading Sunday worship on a "pulpit-supply" basis. I understand our presbytery is trying to provide another interim moderator, which is an extremely difficult task as there are several charges currently vacant in our presbytery and all are needing interim moderators.

There is, however, a lot of work being done behind the scenes in preparation for the search for a new minister, and the presbytery advisory committee will address the kirk sessions of our three charges on 29th November and give guidance on the way to proceed with a vacancy committee.

I am pleased to say that the role of treasurer, vacated by Allen Carruthers, has been accepted by Mrs Anne Sanders after this appointment was affirmed by the kirk session.

Two of our long-serving employees are retiring at the end of December. John Todd has looked after the grounds, provided wonderful colour in the flower beds and battled with tons of fallen leaves for many years. Simon Hyslop has produced equally colourful and varied music from our organ for the last three years. We are most grateful to them both, and wish them well for the future.

As Christ's birthday approaches, we look forward to celebrating this event, albeit in what will be a

somewhat different format this year, with more input from the congregation.

God will lead us, Christ will surely inspire us, and the Spirit guide us, as we go forward into 2019. With very best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas.

Donald Walker

### Finance committee report

#### Income for 46 weeks to 18 November 201

		2017
Offerings	£ 40,192	£40,622
Gift aid tax recovered	10,199	10,932
Other income	9,276	10,601
Investment income	6,130	4,577
Total	<u>£65,797</u>	<u>£66,732</u>

#### Expenditure for 46 weeks

to 18 November 2018      £77,165      £80,638

This year our offerings show a decrease of £470 compared to 2017 and we would expect that over the remainder of this year the decrease will rise to around £1,000.

The drop in other income is partly the result of Orlig being without a tenant for four months, however we are actively seeking a new tenant. The increase in our investment income is the result of a further £100,000 being deposited in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust, where a better return on our funds is available.

Expenditure shows a reduction of £3,500 of which £2,200 relates to lower contributions to the Mission and Ministry Fund during the vacancy. In the period without a minister, these contributions will be reduced by around £1,000 per month with a portion of the savings being utilised for additional pulpit-supply fees. The main expense this year has been the refurbishment of the church driveway at a cost of £22,714 and this was paid from funds held with the Church of Scotland Consolidated Fabric Fund in Edinburgh. Other expenditure is similar to that in 2017.

I would anticipate that the deficit this year will be around £11,000 which will result in a further reduction in our funds. The kirk session is most grateful for your support during 2018 and looks forward to your continuing support in 2019.

Adam Anderson

## The Guild

(serving Moffat and Beattock)

Once again it's time to write a report, and this time it is of the first three months of the Guild year. To start the session, we had Jeff Brown who brought along all sorts of things one would need on a journey: maps, compass, shoes, coats, hats, food and drink, etc. He told us of his walking in the hills and of his different experiences. We had a good afternoon. So thank you, Jeff, as we know how busy you were at the time.

The next one was part of the projects, **The Boys' Brigade**. The speaker knew what he was talking about having been in the BB since he was a young boy. I found it particularly interesting as I had never encountered the Boys' Brigade in any church I have been a member of, and that's quite a few.

Our next speaker was Billy Duncan, BEM, who took us on a journey through his life in the Merchant Navy and the Royal Navy from the time he was 16-year-old. He told us of some of the atrocities he had witnessed, which obviously had an effect on him. He showed us some pictures of all the ships in which he had sailed and gave us a brief history of them. His account was at times sad, emotional and funny. Thank you Billy for sharing that with us.

Don't forget 11th December, the Christmas Party. Hope to see you all then. Happy Christmas!

Thelma Boncey

## An access fit for all

I am pleased to report on the improved driveway and access to the main door of the church, which was made possible thanks to a part of the late David Campbell's generous legacy to the church.



*Before*

*After*

As long ago as the Rev David McKay's time with us, there has been a desire to see the front entrance of the church made more accessible. At that time the need to rectify the roof problem took preference and used up any possible funding. More recently, the Rev Adam Dillon was particularly keen that an entrance, fit for disabled and elderly people, should be given priority using the funding mentioned above. At the end of 2017, the property committee agreed that I should manage the work. Whoever would have thought that it would all take so long?

First, in December 2017, I sent out an enquiry to three local blacktop contractors to get prices and make sure that the undertaking was feasible. The next stage was to get agreement from the Church Architects Department (CARTA). This proved to be a fairly slow process, particularly as they did not agree with my economical proposal to bring the blacktop right up to the church door. They insisted that a paved sandstone area must be preserved to the position of the original outer step. This required a further enquiry to be sent out for paving work. A revised detail was finally approved by CARTA, who also informed me that because the church was a grade A listed building, I would have to apply to the Local Authority for Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent to make a change to the building's exterior. They mentioned in passing that one church that was in the process of creating a disabled access was now in its third year of discussions with the local planning authorities!

In my naivety, I sent off all the details under cover of a letter in late February, as I had done in the 1970s when I was applying for planning permission for a house extension. I soon had a reply stating that my applications were invalid as I had not forwarded all of their requirements which are set out on their website. Local Authorities are now much more organised and the application proved to be quite tricky to complete. The application was finally accepted in late March and approval was obtained in mid-May.

At the end of May I invited the favoured contractor to a meeting with a view to agreeing a contract.

Since the original enquiry document, there were various changes which had to be discussed. For example, finding suitable matching sandstone was initially a problem as the local Locharbriggs quarry had recently closed. In the end we were fortunate to be able to purchase some of the last sandstone to come out of the quarry. I was pleased to have Donald Walker's support throughout this task, and he had suggested two changes: the incorporation of small kerbs adjacent to the grassed areas and the incorporation of more fill to make the ground profile more uniform to the east of the main door. Whilst these changes made the work a little more expensive, they have undoubtedly improved the end result.

By early August, we were at last able to give the Local Authority the required notice that we were ready to commence work. The completion of blacktop works was delayed by a decision to retrofit the bases for the bollards, in order to prevent delays to the blacktop operation. Graham Paterson also modified and refurbished the handrail at the main entrance during this period. On 21st September, I gave notice of completion.

**Finally, there are one or two points for the information of the congregation.**

The parking notice for wheel-chair users is a requirement under a code of practice for 'Access to Buildings other than Dwellings'. (I cannot believe I originally erected the notices containing a spelling mistake – I wonder how many people noticed it, but did not like to mention it!)

The gravel surround to the blacktop is to aid drainage. Car parking is still available on the driveway, particularly for those who need to be closer to the door than the car park. However, cars should be parked with one wheel on the gravel close to the grass, to ensure that there is a central access for an emergency vehicle, should it be needed.

The bollards were Adam Dillon's suggestion. He was keen that the church grounds did not become an accepted extension to the town's car parking. In particular, people using the Black Bull Hotel were parking their cars there.

**Richard Faulkner**



## Charity and social committee's report

We had our usual Harvest and Remembrance Day collections in October and November:

Harvest	£66.85 for First Base
Remembrance	£230.20 for the British Legion Poppy Appeal

The charity and social committee are supporting two overseas charities in the coming months. They are both based in Africa. One is the Nsobe Community School in Zambia, with which Donald Walker has links. The other is the Kitega Community centre in Uganda, which Alison Kirkwood has brought to our attention. It helps to support families with disabled children, as well as the wider local community. More information on both of these charities is available on the notice board in the vestibule.

Our first fundraising event for our new charities was a coffee afternoon with mince pies and shortbread on November 25th as part of the Christmas lights switch-on. This was well attended and raised £335.66 (includes £30 donations). Thanks to everyone who donated mince pies and shortbread. A special thanks to all the helpers who worked hard setting up the hall and serving the tea and coffee.

**Anne Gibbard**

## Little Stars toddlers' group

The group continues to meet every Monday and Friday during school term time, when the children have fun playing with the toys and running about the hall, hopefully tiring themselves out. They enjoy meeting each other every week, while their parents/child minders take a cup of tea/coffee and have a good chat, sharing knowledge with each other.

We plan to do our Christingle service on Monday 17th December, and everyone, young and old are very welcome, as we remember why we are celebrating the birth of Christ. We will have singing of some favourite carols, while lighting our candle and decorating our orange.

We are also planning to decorate the archway in the vestibule of the church on Saturday 1st and 8th December for Christmas, hoping that the children will hang some decorations on it.

May you all have a very peaceful and happy

Christmas with family and friends, and we look forward to your company in 2019.

**Ann, Margo, Shona, Suzanne, Sarah and Liz**

## **My pathway to the pulpit**

(part eight)

**M**y thanks to Arthur for his kind words in the last edition of *The Link*. I had intended to write a piece but between the demands of summer working, caring for Mum, and an August Conference I missed the magazine deadline.

I am now three months into a fifteen-month period as a probationary minister at Springfield Cambridge Church in Bishopbriggs. This sees me working full time in ministry for the first time, working alongside my supervising minister in his parish, although I still have some training requirements to complete.

I am involved with every Sunday service preparing for and leading the congregation in worship and prayers, often being responsible for the children's address or sermon. (I have to preach on 26 Sundays during my probationary period.) There have been several special services – Communion; the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade Dedication Service; the Guild Dedication; the baptism of six-year-old twins and Remembrance Sunday. I have attended funeral services in the Church, in Glasgow Cathedral and in two crematoriums, participating in some. There are weekly Wednesday morning services, and vestry hour, and monthly kirk session and congregational board meetings. I've been to the Guild, (and their coffee morning), spoken to the Girls' Brigade junior section twice about the parables of Jesus and been out for lunch with the 'Widowers and Coffin Dodgers', who graciously invited me along although I don't fall into either category! (You may have read about them in *Life and Work* earlier this summer). I've joined in the Wednesday Bible Study and in meetings about the youth work.

I meet with the Rev Ian Taylor, my supervising minister, on a weekly basis, and we discuss and reflect on what I have done in the previous week, assessing what has gone well and what can be improved upon, and we plan ahead for the next two weeks. I've been hospital visiting – to the Queen Elizabeth, Glasgow Royal, Stobhill and Lightburn hospitals. I've been assigned an

elder's district for my time here, which meant a round of visiting before Communion and I have been visiting people at home, particularly those who are no longer fit to get to church. It has been a pleasure to lead services in a local supported living facility called Callieburn Court, and to participate in school assemblies at Thomas Muir Primary and Bishopbriggs Academy.

I've met with the other ministers and kirk sessions in the parish grouping, (there are three Church of Scotland churches in Bishopbriggs) and met the other clergy, including the Episcopal priest and the pastor of the independent Community Church. I've attended Bishopbriggs Churches Together. Glasgow Presbytery meetings have been interesting, and induction services more so, (including the very special one for our former minister and friend Adam, but also that of Scott McCarthy, formerly of Langholm, now in Garthamlock and Craighend East, very close to Cranhill Church, where I did my placement last year.) I also had the opportunity to go along with some members of my congregation on a visit to the Sikh Gurdwara, in Glasgow city centre.

As you can see I have not been idle since coming here, for in addition to all this, I have required reading to do and monthly meetings and regular conferences as part of my on-going training. I am enjoying the variety of work, and there is plenty to keep me busy. And I better go now, for I have a sermon to finish for Sunday!

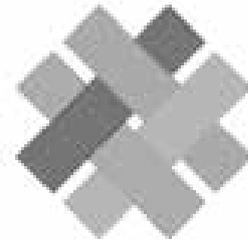
With many thanks for your on-going support. I appreciate the prayers and good wishes, and I would like to thank the many people who pop in to see Mum or take her out, while I am living in the 'big city' and she is less mobile than she used to be in Moffat.

Wishing you all God's blessing of a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2019, and a fruitful search for your new minister.

**Dr Sonia Blakesley**

## **From your presbytery deacon Moffat matinee movie project**

After lots of work in the background, the project started in earnest on Wednesday 12 September with a showing of the film *Oklahoma*. As you can see from the photos, many folks came to enjoy this old classic. There was a lovely atmosphere in the theatre, especially at the half-time break, when drinks and cakes were served.



# GO FOR IT

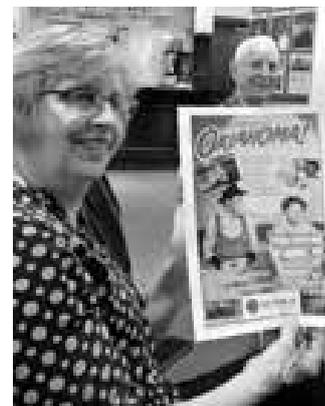
Funding Change in Church and Community

In October, we showed the Scottish Television production of *The Steamie* which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. November's film was the childhood classic, *The Railway Children*. On 12th December, we will be showing a modern feel-good classic, *Nativity*, starring Martin Freeman and local lass Ashley Jensen. It only costs £3 and tickets can be bought from the TIC or at the door.

We also have use of a minibus to bring folks up to the theatre. This service is free and is paid for as part of our Church of Scotland *Go For It* funding. If anyone would like to book a seat on the minibus, please contact Norma Fears or myself on 07543 796820.

### Moffat movie memories project

(pictures are from our volunteers' meeting before the projects began)



(June Marchbank from Alzheimer Scotland)



(Tom Marchbank from Alzheimer Scotland)

The other strand to the project is the Moffat movie memories, which is run in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland using their resources and volunteer facilitators. We have a small group of regulars who come along and enjoy the opportunity to share memories in a smaller group. There is an opportunity to look at images from films from yesteryear and then have a cuppa before they go into the theatre to watch a short film of around 15-20 minutes.

### Angela's big cut

Who would have thought people would be so reluctant for me to cut my hair. It has taken a little while to find someone willing to do the dastardly deed, but it is now happening. We have still to confirm a date, but it will be early in the new year. I am raising money to for the DRAE (DIAKONIA region Africa Europe) Assembly in Musselburgh in June and even more importantly for the Veteran's Garden project in Dumfries. So, look out for donations sheets in the coming weeks. For those who have the internet my Just Giving page is [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/angelasbigcut](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/angelasbigcut)

Angela Brydson

## Registers

An absence of information prevented me from compiling the three registers. In the spring issue of *The Link*, I shall ensure that they are up to date. In the meantime, I offer my apology.

Editor

## Poppies for remembrance

On Remembrance Sunday, 11 November, members of the congregation of St Andrew's entered the church to behold a spectacular display of poppies. They cascaded from the pulpit and across the floor of the altar; they adorned the Cross; and attired the female effigy in the vestibule.

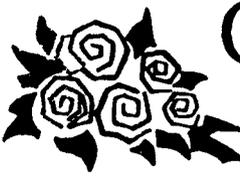


## Sunday night live 2019

Date	Speaker	Notes
Jan13	John Robertson	Lockerbie
20	Churches together	Agape supper, 6.30pm
27	Tom Jones	<i>Holy Communion</i>
Feb 3	Mary Bond	Moffat
10	John Robertson	Lockerbie
17	Jack Ritchie	Lanarkshire
24	Charis Bible College	Jacksonville Mission Team
28	Jack Ritchie	Lanark

Mar 3	Brian McKenzie	Dumfries
10	John Robertson	Lockerbie
17	Stuart Bond	Moffat
24	Fiona McLean	Moffat
31	Janis Moffat	Moffat

Fiona McLean



# Church Flowers

2019

Jan	6th	Mr B Edensor, South Nethermiln
	13th	Mrs J Ritson, Quarryknowe
	20th	Mrs H Moores-Poole, Marchbank
	27th	Mrs W Simpson, West Park Estate
Feb	3rd	Mrs M Little, The Pines
	10th	Mrs A Hinchcliffe, Alton Cottage
	17th	Mrs A Colledge, 1 North Park
	24th	Mrs M Blacklock, Craiglyne
Mar	3rd	Mrs M Richmond, Ballplay Road
	10th	Mrs S Taylor, Golfhill Drive
	17th	Mrs C Cameron, Brae View
	24th	Mrs A Walker, Frenchlands House
	31st	Mrs H Saville, Moffat Academy Flats
Apl	7th	Lady McIntosh, Birnock Lodge
	14th	Mrs J Allan, 1 Rosehill, Grange Place
	21st	<b>Easter Sunday flowers</b>

We shall decorate the church for Easter on Saturday 20 April from 9.30am. All are welcome to come along to help, and have a coffee and chat. Season's greetings to you all.

Anne Colledge

## Church cleaning

This letter is a way of saying 'thank you' to three of our faithful church members, who have helped with polishing the brasses in St Andrew's Church. Mary and Arthur Rankin went into the church and polished the umbrella hoops for a long time, and Cathie Bell has polished the door handles each month for many years. They have put away their well-worn church dusters and deserve a huge 'thank you' from all of us.

I am taking this opportunity to thank all the ladies (gentlemen are welcome any time) for your support and commitment by keeping the brasses

gleaming. Thank you to Marion, Elsie, Christine, Evelyn, Dorothy and Esma. Well done!

I welcome our new helper, Alison Kirkwood, to the team and hope she finds her task satisfying. If any member would like to give of their time for an hour each month, there are many parts of the church upstairs looking for a touch of polishing and dusting. Just get in touch with Donald or myself.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Marjorie Neill

## Congregational roll

We extend a warm welcome to:

Julie Beck-Samuels, Rogermoor;  
Pat Brown, Smith Way;  
Nicola and Steven Bogle, Smith Way;  
Katy and Luke Durston, Greenloaning, Mansfield Place; and  
Caroline Mackenzie, Warrender House

who have joined our congregation as members, and to Janice Welsh who has joined as an adherent. We also welcome June Porter who has been with us for some time but has now officially joined from Kirkpatrick Juxta.

Douglas Smith

## WANTED

### New Distributors of *The Link*

*The Link* has been distributed from St Andrew's Church by approximately 30 volunteers for many years, and inevitably people get older. I am constantly having to find new distributors because existing distributors wish to stand down and this process is always difficult. We need new volunteers, and in particular new younger volunteers would be particularly welcomed. The task requires no more than a couple of hours of your time, just three times per year. If anybody reading this article, **whether a church-goer or not**, would be prepared to volunteer to become a distributor in the future, I should be so pleased to hear from you.

Please give Rick Faulkner a ring on 221598

## Areas of responsibility and those in charge

<b>Bookstall</b>	Vacant	
<b>Church cleaning</b>	Mr Donald Walker	220707
<b>Church flowers</b>	Mrs Anne Colledge	220446
<b>Coffee mornings</b>	Mrs Dorothy Paterson	220299
<b>Discoverers</b>	Mrs Fiona Paton	220164
<b>Finance committee</b>	Mr Adam Anderson	221164
<b>Free-will offering</b>	Miss Margaret Gibson	220758
<b>Gift aid</b>	Mrs Anne Sanders	222850
<b>Guild president</b>	Mrs Thelma Boncey	300613
<b>Hall lets</b>	Mr Keith Towers	0780 883 6199
<b>Crèche and junior church rota</b>	Vacant	
<b>Keeper of the congregational roll</b>	Mr Douglas Smith	220685
<b><i>Life and Work, and "The Link"</i></b>	Mr Richard Faulkner	221598
<b>Organist</b>	Mr Simon Hyslop (retires 31-12-18)	01387 247457
<b>Musical director</b>	Ms Kate Durran	222742
<b>Pastoral care</b>	Mr Jeff Brown	220475
<b>Property committee</b>	Mr James Paterson	220299
<b>Session clerk</b>	Mr Donald Walker	220707
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs Anne Sanders	222850
<b>Toddlers' group</b>	Mrs Ann Walker	220707
<b>Editor "<i>The Link</i>"</b>	Mr Arthur Rankin ( <a href="mailto:tarankin13@yahoo.com">tarankin13@yahoo.com</a> )	220043

## Church diary

### Recurring events

Sunday	11.15am	Morning worship	
	11.15am	Junior church and crèche	
	11.15am	Coffee - after service	Every Sunday
		Bookstall and Fair Trade	1st Sunday each month
	7.00pm	Discovers' group	School term only
Monday	9.30am	Parents and toddlers	School term only
Tuesday	2.30pm	Guild	2nd /4th Tues, October to Easter
Friday	9.30am	Parents and toddlers	School term only

(Note i: informal Communion will be held after the service on the last Sunday of each month.)

### Pre-Christmas Sunday services

6.30pm	Advent service	2nd December, KJPC
6.30pm	Advent service	9th December, St Luke's
6.30pm	Advent service	16th December, St John's
6.30pm	Advent service	23rd December, MSA

**Note:** Coffee will be served after each of these evening services

### Christmas Eve, 24th December 2017

Sunday	9.45am	Morning service	KJPC
	10.00am	Morning service	WPC
	11.15am	Morning service	MSA
	7.00pm	Family carol service	KJPC
	7.30pm	Candlelight service	WPC
	11.30pm	Watchnight service	MSA

### Christmas Day, 25th December 2017

Monday	10.30am	Family service	MSA
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### Post-Christmas services Sunday services 2017 and 2018

31st December	Normal service times at each church		
27th January	11.15am	Joint communion service	MSA

### Special events 2018

1st December	Guild coffee morning	Town Hall
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# KIRKPATRICK JUXTA PARISH CHURCH

(Charity registration number: SCO05701)

## OFFICE BEARERS

Session Clerk  
Treasurer

Mrs Mary Brown  
Martin Brown

### Kirk session and office bearers

**Kirk session:** Mr David Boncey, Mr Martin Brown, Mrs Mary Brown, Mr Graham Gardiner, Mr Peter Newsome and Mr Andy Shuttleworth

**Church officer:** Mr Peter Newsome

**Fabric convener:** Mr Martin Brown

**Treasurer:** Mr Martin Brown

**Organist:** Mrs Nancy Anderson

**Life and Work Magazine:** Mrs Fay Paterson

**Christian aid:** Mrs Thelma Boncey

**World Church representative:**

**Gift aid:** Mr Peter Newsome

**Flower convener:** Mrs Mary Brown

**Social/fund-raising committee:** Mr Martin Brown and Mrs Mary Brown.

### From the session clerk

As you will know, we have a vacancy for a minister of our linked churches. We, as linked churches, will appoint a vacancy committee once the presbytery vacancy committee has met with the three kirk sessions. Since Adam and his family moved to pastures new, the word 'vacancy' has really bugged me, as I felt it was a rather negative word and I have tried to find another word to replace it. As is the modern way, I resorted to the internet and 'googled' the word 'vacancy', where I was reminded that there are two different meanings to the word. One, which gives emptiness, nothingness, void, oblivion, etc; the other gives opening, opportunity, placement, slot and niche - totally opposite meanings of one word. I realised that I had been linked into the negative meaning and I am now much happier using the word vacancy. However, taking on the positive meaning really suggested that we need to get ready to receive a new minister, and open our minds to new ways of worship, mission and service. I feel we are very fortunate

to have four readers and the Rev Neil Campbell, as pulpit supply, to guide and encourage us during this period of change. Each one of them has their own way of leading worship and we are experiencing new hymns, etc. This mix of preachers keeps our worship fresh and diverse, and I feel it can only help us prepare to be open to whoever is invited to be the next minister of our three churches.

As we experience advent and the arrival of Jesus as a baby, there is some similarity in our preparations to be open to receive Jesus and all he came to show us, how to live and what God wants of us not just at Christmas but every day of our lives. Jesus came and gave a new radical vision of God, upsetting the leaders of the Jewish faith out of their comfortable, secure way of believing. Do we need to be upset, made uncomfortable, by the person God chooses to call to our vacancy? One thing we all need to do is to talk to God, asking that His plan for us be recognised and welcomed by us. If you have any thoughts, feelings, visions you would like to share on the sort of person our Church needs to lead us forward, you can have your say. We would love to hear from you, whether you attend church regularly or not. Speak to one of our elders or email [marybrown591@gmail.com](mailto:marybrown591@gmail.com). Wishing you all a wonderful, fulfilling Christmas time and a new year full of exciting new experiences

Mary Brown

### Flower rota

#### 2018

<b>Dec</b>	2nd	Christmas decorations -	Advent 1
	9th	“	“
	16th	“	“
	23rd	“	“
	30th	“	“

#### 2019

<b>Jan</b>	6th	Mrs F Paterson
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	13th	Mrs W Murray
	20th	Miss H Minto
	27th	<b>Joint Communion at MSA</b>
<b>Feb</b>	3rd	Mr and Mrs F Lockerbie
	10th	Mrs E Reid
	17th	Mr and Mrs M Brown
	24th	Miss H Minto
<b>Mar</b>	3rd	Mrs Mary Holmes
	10th	Mrs T Boncey
	17th	Mrs Ramsay
	24th	Mrs M Brown
	31st	Elders
<b>Apr</b>	7th	Mrs P McWhan
	14th	Mrs Christine Borthwick
	21st	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
	28th	Mrs M Porteous

I should like to thank everyone who has donated flowers during the year, those named on the rota and those unnamed. There will be one or two extra blank spaces in 2019. If you feel you would like to add your name to the group, then please either speak to me or write your name on the flower list which is in the foyer of the kirk. I am also very grateful to those of you who have helped with flower arranging and church decorating at harvest thanksgiving and Easter. We will be decorating the kirk for Christmas shortly, a date has still to be arranged and will be intimated.

Mary Brown

## Dates for your diary

### 2018

<b>Dec</b>	24th	Family carol service 7.00 pm
	25th	Christmas day family service at MSA

### 2019

<b>Jan</b>	6th	Kirkpatrick Juxta morning worship will be held in the village hall 9.45 am Tea and coffee served afterwards
	27th	<b>Joint Communion at MSA 11.15am</b>
<b>Mar</b>	31st	Morning worship in Kirkpatrick Juxta church will be held at 9.45am



## Deaths

September	Josie Telfer
November	Mary Braid

For all who have been bereaved, we pray for God's comforting arms to

surround them and support them during the coming months.

## Remembrance

Our Remembrance service this year was led by Mr Jeff Brown and later, at the War Memorial, it was led by three elders. A poppy wreath was laid on behalf of Kirkpatrick Juxta Community Council by councillor, Mr G Gardiner, and the church wreath was laid by Mrs Margaret Watson. Afterwards, the congregation met back in the church for a time of fellowship and a hot drink.



## A history of the Christmas card

The Christmas card is the most widely-spread token of the festive season throughout the world due in part to a Sir Henry Cole, who was the founder of the Victoria Museum. He commissioned a card that was later produced for sale to the public some 175 years ago. Before that, it was the custom for people to write 'Christmas letters' to friends. However in 1843 (The year Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*) Sir Henry left it too late to write a Christmas letter as he had a rather large circle of friends to write to.

However, he was determined not to lose face because of his forgetfulness so sought out his

friend, a John Callcott Horsley, to fashion a Christmas message which could be printed, signed and sent.

Another friend of his owned a shop in Bond Street, London, who suggested he had a 1,000 cards printed (after being hand tinted) and they could then be sold in his shop. Of course Sir Henry agreed and in 1846 they went on sale for one shilling each, today roughly 10p.

To suit the Victorian taste, the card was designed and described as a trellis of rustic work in the Germanesque style dividing the card into three parts, a centre and two side panels. Each of the sides was decorated with representations of 'feeding the hungry' and 'giving clothes to the needy'. The centre part was very different, showing an old man and woman with a young girl, a young man several children, and they were all drinking each other's health with glasses of wine.

This idea took off with the help of Adolph, son

of Raphael Tuck, who sold the cards in London's City Road. In 1880, he organised a nationwide competition with a 500-guinea prize, the idea being to find suitable artists to produce? You have guessed it, "Christmas cards." The competition was judged by a panel of senior members of the Royal Academy. There were 5,000 entries to this competition, and there was so much publicity generated that the production literally took off at a very rapid speed.

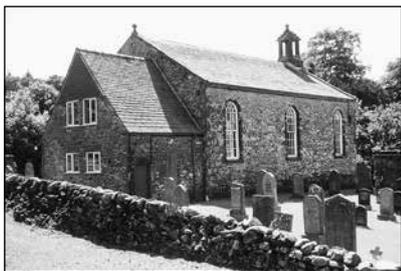
Across the water in America, Louis Prang and Company, situated in Boston, were very much embedded in the American trade in cards, selling them in the mid-1870s. Today, many shops sell all sorts of cards, and at this time of the year are full of Christmas cards of so many different designs that it's hard to choose which to buy. I personally prefer cards depicting the Christmas story in some form or another. Have a happy and blessed Christmas.

**David Boncey**



# WAMPHRAY PARISH CHURCH

(Charity registration number: SCO07536)



## OFFICE BEARERS

Session Clerk Mrs Helen Braid  
Clerk to Congregational Board Mrs Linda McMinn  
Treasurer Mrs Sheila Thomson

## Introduction

As always, it is a joy to be writing the Christmas notes. The gap between the autumn and Christmas editions is always short and we wonder whether there is enough news to fill the appropriate pages in *The Link*. Well, this year we have plenty to write about with our fundraising, farewell to Adam Dillon and family, Remembrance service, Blue service, and other bits and pieces of information.

Let's not forget at this exciting time, those people around the world who will not be enjoying the Christmas festivities as we will. We pray that a solution to all of the terrible atrocities can be found. Our thoughts are with our armed forces, in particular those who are deployed to areas of conflict. We hope and pray that they will return home safely to their families in the new year.

Closer to home, we pray for those with family members recovering from, or undergoing treatment for, illnesses at this festive season. We pray for Wullie Dalziel, who is recovering from surgery and for Diane Currie, who is undergoing chemotherapy. We also pray for Robert Braid, who is recovering from surgery to his shoulder. We hope that all of them make a full recovery and that the Christmas period with their families give them the boost they require to turn the corner.

## Fundraising

Since the last issue of *The Link* we have raised the following amounts for church funds.

Sponsored walk and cycle	-	£1,000.00
September whist drive	-	133.00
October whist drive	-	133.00
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>£1,266.00</b>

This is another fantastic total. Thank you once again to the circle of friends who attend each winter-month whist drive. The monthly totals are now well over £100, which keeps our church account in the black.

The sponsored walk and cycle is one of our best fundraising events and this year was no exception. We are grateful to all who gave so generously and, of course, to the participants who took part in the fun day. The tea, coffee and cakes were once again offered in the village hall after the event.



## Tea and coffee fund

Contributions to the after-service tea and coffee fund from July to September raised £80, which was donated to the Monday Club in the Town Hall, Moffat. Thank you so much to all who give each Sunday. The money is much appreciated by the chosen charity.

## Future fundraising events 2019

January 25th	Whist drive in village hall	7.30pm
February 22nd	“	“
March 29th	“	“
April 26th	“	“
February 2nd	Ceilidh in village hall	at 7.30pm

## Death

It is with sadness that we report the death of Mary Catherine Lambie on the 12th August 2018. A private family cremation took place at Ruchan Loch followed by a service of thanksgiving in Wamphray Parish Church on the 22nd August.

## Future services

### 2018

24th December Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7.30pm.  
All are welcome from MSA and KJPC

### 2019

28th January Joint communion at MSA at 11.15  
Elders: David Johnstone and Sheila Thomson.

## Church maintenance

As you might know, we have been unable to ring our church bell for some months now due to work which requires to be completed on the bell tower. Well we can now report that all has been fixed thanks to Robert Currie, Blacksmith, Beattock. There is still work to be done on the gable end of the church which we hope will be completed soon while the scaffolding is in place. Watch this space in the Easter edition of *The Link*.

## Remembrance service



This year, the Remembrance service was conducted by Martin Brown. The service took

place on Sunday the 11th November at 10.50am. As usual, the Act of Remembrance took place at 11 o'clock with Ellie Crossan playing the Last Post on the organ. David Johnstone delivered the Exhortation. The congregation stood in silence for two minutes then Ellie played Reveille followed by David Johnstone delivering the Kohima Epitaph. Wullie Dalziel and Linda McMinn then laid wreaths on behalf of the church and community. On completion of the Act of Remembrance, a very poignant service was conducted by Martin, which concluded with the benediction and National Anthem. As usual, Mandy Welbourne provided the poppy arrangement for the grave of the Unknown Soldier. Thank you to all the participants at our service this year.



LEST WE FORGET

## Blue service

This year the Blue service was given a new title - Service of Reflection and Remembrance. The service was conducted by the Rev Neil Campbell accompanied by Angela Brydson, our presbytery deacon, and Jeanette Peel, a candidate for the ministry with The Church of Scotland.

It was a very moving service attended by people from all three churches. Names of loved ones

remembered were read out during the service, which was concluded with communion. Those who didn't make it this year may wish to attend next year when the date is published. Thank you Neil, Angela and Jeanette.

## Farewell to Adam Dillon

Although we were aware that Adam was leaving us, we did not have time to add his final service in the autumn edition of *The Link*. We in Wamphray, were honoured that Adam, Sheila and their family came back from Kirkintilloch for one final service with us, which took place on the 26th August 2018 at 4pm. We were also able to give them a proper send-off with soup, sandwiches, tea, coffee and cakes in the village hall.



Thank you, Adam, for doing that. It was so good of you, and we appreciated it. By the time you get a copy of this issue of *The Link* and read this, I'm sure you will have settled into your new charge. Hopefully Sheila has found a post to continue her nursing career and the children are enjoying their new schools.



As I said in the last edition of the magazine, you will be a hard act to follow but we hope and pray that another young minister is waiting to come to Moffat, Beattock and Wamphray.

## Visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

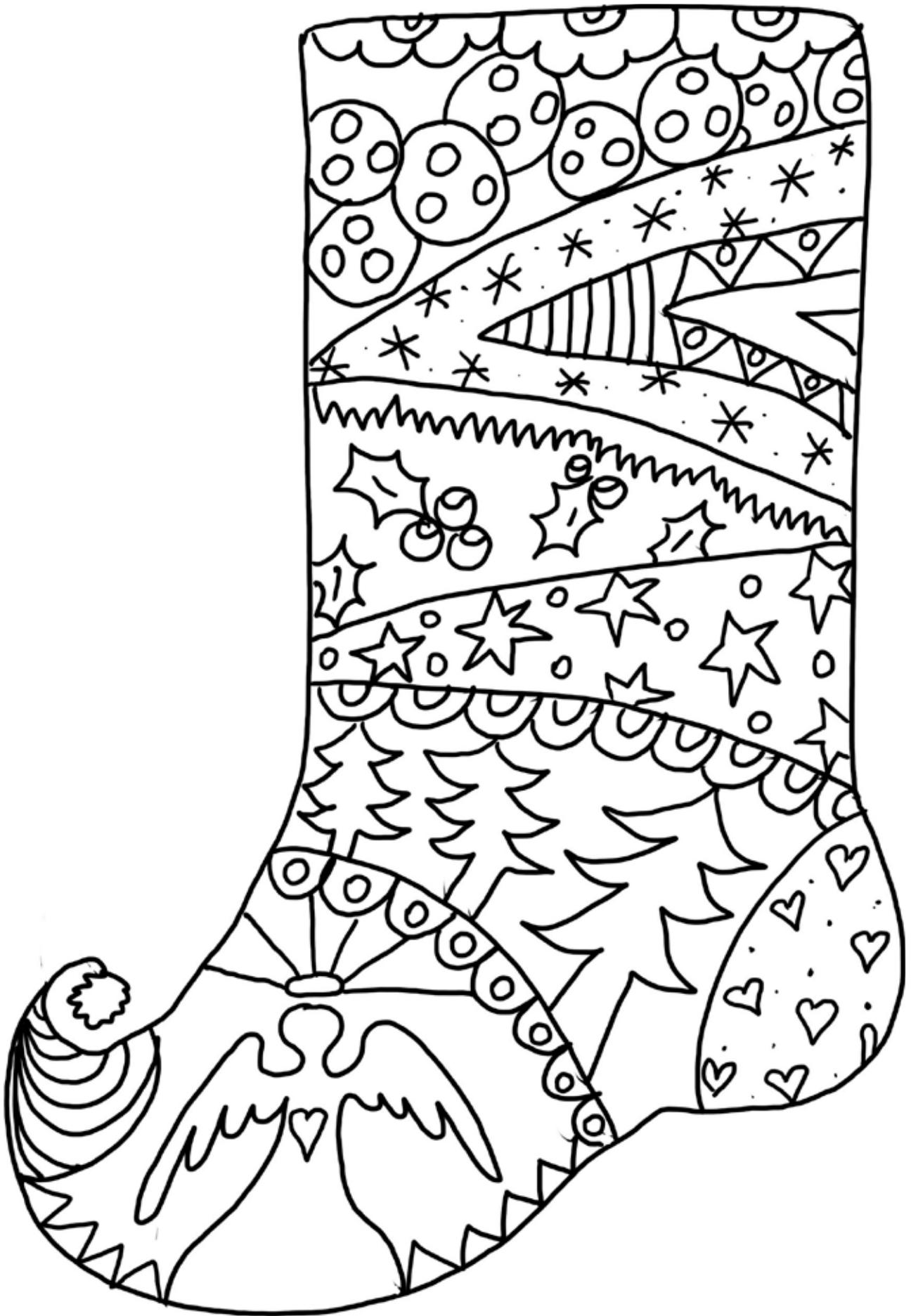
On 29th September 2018, the Rt Rev Susan Brown, Moderator of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland, as part of her visit to Annandale and Eskdale Presbytery, took part in one of the many designated walks around Moffat. She was accompanied by members of all three churches. Sheila Thomson and Linda McMinn represented Wamphray and was photographed after the walk with the Moderator.



## Flower List

Jan	6th	Helen Braid	
	13th	Lynn Thomson	
	20th	Denise Dempster	
	27th	<b>Joint Communion</b>	
Feb	3rd	Rosemary Cowan	
	10th	Nancy Anderson	
	17th	Ann Braid	
	24th	Karen Currie	
March	3rd	Margaret Dalziel	
	10th	Gayle Lamont	
	17th	Sheila Thomson	
	24th	Mandy Welbourne	
	31st	Kirsty Scott	





Picture to be coloured in

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