

**Ardersier with Petty Church  
PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**ADERSIER**

Morning Service 10.15am  
Sunday School 10.15am

**PETTY**

12 Noon

**CHRISTMAS 2014**



**BLESSINGS OF CHRIST**

**MAY THE PEACE OF GOD BE WITH YOU**



Registered Charity No. Ardersier:SCO15446.Petty: SCO 004952

Manse ,  
Ardersier.  
December 2014

Dear Friends,

### **God's Gift Isaiah 9 v 1-7**

Isaiah 9-6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

In the Christmas story as we have it in the Bible there is the theme of the giving of gifts. I suspect most of you have heard the old saying He/She thinks they are God's gift. Personally I am not happy with the statement and we all know what it means. Yet there is one to whom this term must be applied and I am perfectly happy to use it of Him because Jesus Christ was and is indeed God's gift to us. This giving of gifts is part and parcel of Gods revelation regarding the incarnation. In Scotland when a baby is born it is normally the case that gifts are given. Perhaps baby clothes or a pram or maybe nappies, towels, toiletries. Recently we have heard of the fish and chip babies, babies in Africa whose families are so poor that the children come home wrapped in newspaper, hence the name fish and chip babies. In the incarnation story we are told of gifts given to Jesus a long time ago, some very wise men decided to bring gifts to a baby. They had studied the stars and somehow God had shown them that a baby had been born who would be a great king. They knew that if they followed the new star that had just appeared in the sky, they would find Him. Never before or after has God caused a star to appear to announce the birth of a baby. Nothing was more important to these men than seeing the baby whom the star announced. The wise men knew that something different was happening, something that would change the world. They left their warm beds and with their families began travelling west, bringing gifts for the baby king. One gift was frankincense, which is made from hardened tree sap. Frankincense was mixed with spices and burned to make the room smell good, like an air freshener. They also brought myrrh, another kind of hardened tree sap. Myrrh was used to make a smelly kind of medicine that people believed was

good to cure many sicknesses. The last gift was gold, which people used for money in that time. All these gifts were presents fit for a king, the very best gifts the wise men could offer. After a long journey, the star led the wise men to Bethlehem, where they found the baby king living in a house with His parents. They worshipped Him and gave their gifts to his parents.

This special baby was Jesus, God's only son. Jesus's Mom, Mary, and her husband, Joseph, welcomed the wise men and remembered all that they said about the way God showed them how to find Jesus.

Did you know the Bible says we should search for Jesus with our whole heart. That means that knowing Jesus should be the very most important thing to us, even more important than our families and our homes. Of course, Jesus isn't a baby any longer, and he doesn't live in a house we can go and visit, but we can learn about Him in the Bible. We can pray to Him and know that He hears us. We can trust Him to take away our sin, and just like the wise men, we can give Him gifts that please Him, like our obedience and worship.

Jesus then is God's gift to us all. Yet wonder of wonders the Christian is indeed God's gift, they are God's gift to God. If you open your Bible and slowly turn the words of **John 10 v 27-30** over in your mind you will fall upon this wonderful declaration by Jesus **v 29** **My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.** Here we notice that the Christian has been given to Jesus by God, they are a gift on High. Again we look at 1 Peter 3 v 18 we find these words, **For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.** Jesus not only redeems us from sin( after all He is called the redeemer) He also brings us to God. If we again look at **John 6 v 37-44** we find this theme of bringing and the giving of Christians to God. So to some extent the Christian is God's gift. Such knowledge while filling them with joy it also fills them with humble gratitude not arrogance.

Each child that has ever been born into this world is a gift from God, no child can be born to us unless there is the action of the Creator of God. Why not read Psalm 139 and see if this is not so. Every

child, every human being, made by God, everyone of us, no matter who we are, are especially made by the Lord God. That surely should lead us to treat all human beings with the utmost respect, grace, kindness and love. So at the level of creationism, all people are God's gift to all other humans. However at another level there are those who have come to Jesus in faith accepting they needed a Saviour. To them God has given the gift of eternal life. They have been gifted and equipped for life in His new Kingdom, in a sense they are God's gift to Himself in their **NEW**-creationism in the newness of His life within them. I know it is perhaps hard for some to think of themselves as a gift to anyone let alone God, but each day remember you are fearfully and wonderfully made whoever you are. Today if you have taken Jesus to be your saviour then that is exactly what you are, a gift. This idea of being a gift, for the Christian, goes beyond human relationships to a heavenly and eternal relationship with God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. God has gifted you to himself. A bit awesome I know, and maybe a bit too amazing to take in, in a moment, but that is what you are, a Christian. Maybe you are not sure what a Christian is, or you are wondering where or how you fit into Gods plan, if so why not call the Minister and speak with him.

**May I encourage you to come along to our weekly services to hear more. We also hope to begin an investigating Christianity Group and a Freedom in Christ study soon. We hope to be able to record Services on CD in the near future(watch this space)**

**May Jenny and I send our warmest wishes and blessings for the Season and for the coming year, to you all.**

**May Christ Jesus our Lord richly Bless you and yours today and in the coming days, months and years.**

**Robert and Jenny Cleland.**

Bibles that are falling apart are often read by people who aren't.

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**Welcome Reverend Robert and Mrs Jennifer Cleland**

As the lay editor of the Ardersier and Petty Church newsletter for a number of years, I would like to say a word on behalf of both congregations.

The Lord blesses us all in many ways, but for our two parishes we have been thrice blessed.

First, the Lord in His wisdom has guided Robert to be the Leader and Shepherd to take us forward on a new journey in Faith, Worship and Outreach.

Secondly, on this new journey, there will be many changes and challenges before us. I believe, that as congregations, the Lord is guiding us towards a greater acceptance of His will and that will enable us to move forward as a church and as individuals on the Christian pathway. Let us open up our hearts and minds.

Thirdly, we are so Blessed, our vacancy was only thirteen and a half months . Many churches have been without a leader for years.

Many a, ‘thank you,’ cannot begin to express the gratitude felt by members of both Sessions, to the congregations and communities for the generous response to the appeal for donations to meet the cost of refurbishing the Manse. The result of your generosity is a very comfortable Manse and home for many years to come.

To many within the local community Robert and Jennifer have the love of relatives and friends. I pray, that as the years go by many more will be able to say, not only are we friends of Robert and Jennifer, but that Jesus has also become our friend.

We wish Robert and Jennifer many happy years working with us in Ardersier and Petty.



**Petty Kirk Session**

The Induction of Rev. Robert Cleland took place in Ardersier Church on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014. There was a large attendance and all enjoyed a most uplifting Service and afterwards a lovely tea prepared by both congregations. Rev. Robert and Mrs Jennifer Cleland received a very sincere welcome from the Interim Moderator, Rev. Bart Buell and members of both congregations.



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We as a congregation warmly welcome both Robert and Jennifer. We look forward to working alongside Robert on our Christian Journey together. We are enjoying his 'message' to us and also his playing on the Saxophone.

The Harvest Supper held in Petty Church Hall on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October and was prepared by the Joint Social Group was greatly enjoyed by all present as was the Entertainment, provided by talented local artistes.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October was most enjoyable. The church was suitably decorated with the Harvest Sheaf and Autumn tinted flowers along with gifts of fruit, vegetables and eggs etc., which were all given to Cameron House and the flowers to the elderly and housebound within the Parish.

November was Shoebox time again. We are most grateful to those who fill Shoe Boxes and donate money towards the Blythswood Appeal. The boxes will certainly help to cheer up the less fortunate in other lands.

The Blythswood food box for the homeless in Inverness continues to benefit from the donations of members of our congregation.

The Remembrance Day Service was well attended and enjoyed by all. Afterwards the laying of Wreaths, 2 minutes silence and the Last Post played on the Saxophone.

It was lovely to receive a letter from Laura Scally, sending to all her Best Wishes and she hopes to see us before the end of the year.

The congregation of Petty Church would like to wish Harold Roach a very Happy 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

With best wishes to you all for a Healthy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year. Jessie Dallas, Session Clerk.  
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### **Miss Jessie Dallas**

Jessie has announced her retiral as Petty Session Clerk. Many who volunteer, for a month or a few months find it becomes years, likewise for Jessie. For 17 years Jessie has been a very able, and committed Session Clerk, and with her wry and sometimes wicked sense of humour she has ensured that Minister and congregation were kept well informed of their duties. It is admirable that she has in

spite of advancing years and with the Grace of God has been blessed with the health and strength to carry out the above demanding role. We are happy that Jessie will continue supporting her church as an Elder as well as keeping a wary eye on us all. God Bless and Thank You Jessie, do enjoy having more time to take life a bit easier.

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### **Ardersier Kirk Session**

Well Folks, it's hard to believe that we are coming up to Christmas. Once again this year has just flown by.

The Induction Service of Rev. Robert Cleland BA took place in Ardersier Church on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014. It was a most enjoyable and uplifting service, the church was full with singing that could raise the roof.

Rev. Robert and Mrs Jennifer Cleland were welcomed by the Interim Moderator, Rev. Bart Buell.

In the Memorial Hall a lovely tea was prepared by both congregations.

Robert was presented with a New International Thomson Chain Reference Bible from the congregations.

Robert was 'Preached in,' by the Rev. Jim Robertson.

The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Supper held at Petty Church on 24<sup>th</sup> October, was well attended, both congregations enjoying an evening of Fellowship, good food supplied by the Joint Social Group and excellent entertainment provided by the two Andy's and Tom Simpson. Robert received his Bible from Mrs Flora Taylor, the Bible having been fully and appropriately inscribed by Mrs Fiona Boyd, following the initial presentation at the induction supper.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October was a family service. While the little ones played, Rev. Robert, with the participation of young and not so young, told of the process through each stage of growth, from ploughing, sowing of the seed, to the harvest.

With the departure of Laura to Orkney we welcomed David Wright and Joy Cameron to play the organ when they were available.

We are now blessed with Mrs Joyce Stevenson from Auldearn as our organist, who at the same time has been catching up with old friends in Ardersier.

A lovely letter was received from Laura Scally who has settled down in Orkney with Jamie. She sends her best wishes to everyone and hopes to see us before the end of the year.

The Remembrance Service held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November was very moving and poignant as Robert played The Last Post on the Saxophone prior to the 2 minutes silence.

Peem Stevenson, (Joyce was unavailable) played the accordion accompanied by Robert, providing a very memorable service for all.

We were all sad to hear that David Wright's wife Margaret was taken ill and had a heart bypass operation in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. It is with the Blessing of the Lord that Margaret is now at home, and although tired is recovering well. We send Margaret and David our very best wishes that they will enjoy the support of family and friends.

The annual Ardersier Christmas Fayre held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November raised £1089.32. Thank you to all who contributed either by donations, buying or helped with the stalls and teas, to a successful day.

The Senior Citizen's Christmas Party will be held in the Old School Hall on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2pm-5pm. This party is for all senior citizens and you are welcome to come along for an afternoon of food, fun and a visit from Santa Claus. Do you know anyone who would enjoy an afternoon out? Do invite them to come along. Should transport be required by anyone, please contact Sheila Hardie TEL: 01667 462715, who will arrange transport for you.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December will be the united Christmas Service in Ardersier Church at 11am when the Sunday School children perform the Nativity Play.

The Watch Night Service will be held in Petty Church beginning at 10.30pm for mince pies, tea and coffee, before the church service at 11.30pm.

The united New Year Service will be held in Petty Church on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 11am.

All are enjoying Robert's 'message' on a Sunday and his Soprano Saxophone accompaniment when singing the hymns.

May our Christian journey with Robert be joyful and fruitful.

On behalf of the congregation I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Robert and Jennifer for their support, and trust they have a Happy Christmas, and many more in their new home in the Manse.

May God be with you all this Christmas and Good Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year. God Bless. Sheila Hardie, Session Clerk.

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### **The Flower of Friendship**

The seed may be sown without even knowing,  
But slowly, silently, it will start growing.  
As the flower unfolds, tend it with care,  
Nurture it, care for it, always be there.  
Treat it as tender, guard it like treasure  
Don't try to force it, Let it grow at its leisure.  
Protected from predators, grown healthy and strong,  
The sweet flower of friendship will bloom all lifelong.

Edna Braithwaite

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### **Ardersier Sunday School**

There is a busy time ahead for all the children in the Sunday school preparing to perform the Nativity Play on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at the Joint Service with Petty congregation at 11am in Ardersier Church.

The Nativity Play this year is 'The Little Star.' The children and Leaders are looking forward to performing for you, the congregation, bringing joy, whilst not forgetting the importance of the Christmas Story at this special time in the Christian Calendar. We will not only perform the Nativity Play, but also will be leading the Church Service. We hope you will come along and join us on the 21<sup>st</sup> December.

The children and some leaders of Ardersier Sunday School were asked in Nov, "Why and what do you enjoy when you come to SundaySchool."

Here are some of the replies in November that we would like to share with you:

“I enjoy coming because there are lots of arks and there are lots of friends.”

“I like it when you give us games the best.”

“You learn about God, fun, games and the chocolate biscuits.”

“We learn stories from the Bible and it brings back great memories when I was young attending Sunday School.”

“There are fun trips and you learn more about God.”

“I enjoy crafty activities and colouring in.”

“I learn lessons about life and how to lead a good life.”

“I enjoy performing to the congregation our Nativity Play at Christmas.”

“I enjoy when the children are hungry to learn from the Bible and trying to provide creative/fun activities related to our story.”

I hope that some of these honest comments might encourage you to come along and join us.

Sunday School will close for the Christmas holidays after the Nativity Play on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2014 and return on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

God Bless the Ardiersier Sunday School children and Leaders.

Dawn Mackenzie.

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### **The Guild**

The Guild Session began in September with a visit and talk from the Minister Rev. Robert Cleland.

He spoke on the Guild Theme for this year, “A World to Serve” which was both inspiring and uplifting, not to mention educational.

Later that month we took our annual boat trip down the Caledonian Canal, courtesy of the Seagull Trust. As always it was a wonderful trip and we plan to go next year in May, to see the bluebells when they are in bloom.

1<sup>st</sup> November we held the Afternoon Tea with Cake and Candy stall. A huge Thank You, to all who gave us their support and helped raise £500.

On 13<sup>th</sup> November the speaker was Mrs Elsie Normington author of the book, ‘The Silent Doorbell.’ Our members and the guests from Croy Guild were alternatively moved, amazed and amused listening

to Elsie's life story to date. Elsie, has a son with Special Needs, and it was the story of her struggle to find the support, resources and facilities required to give her son and others, the opportunities then unavailable to them.

She is a fantastic lady who has done so much to help others. We were all full of admiration and wish her well in her struggle to raise funds to build a centre in Inverness, 'The Haven' for those with special needs and their families.

We are all looking forward to the Christmas Lunch in December. On behalf of us all, May I wish you a very Happy Christmas and God's Blessings in the year 2015. Della Gillespie.

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### **\*Petty Church Flowers**

As flower convener at Petty Church, I wish to thank the Church ladies who donate and arrange the flowers every Sunday. After our service we give the flowers to the unwell and housebound of our area.

At Harvest Thanksgiving this year, we arranged twenty baskets of flowers which were distributed to the older members of the congregation and members of the community unable to get to church. I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a New Year of Good Health and prosperity. May God Bless you all.

Valerie Urquhart.

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### **\*Christmas Eve Carol Singing in Ardersier**

Come along and meet us outside the Ardersier Parish Church at 6pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December ( Christmas Eve), when we plan to go round the village, singing carols and stopping at various places when others can have an opportunity to join in. Please don't hesitate to come from your homes and join in the singing, as the more the merrier. Do listen out for the singing!!

When we finish the tour of the village, we would like to invite you to join us at the church for some readings with mince pies, tea and coffee. We do hope that you can come along.

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A great pastime of the Rev James Currie a well know Minister in Glasgow, was taking people on tours of the Holy Land. On one occasion on the return journey, one of the ladies on the tour suffered a

heart pains. Landing in Glasgow, he went with her in the ambulance to the hospital. There he overheard the doctor ask, 'Is Mr Currie your minister?' To his embarrassment the woman replied, 'No, he's just the man I've been on holiday with.'

Rev. James A. Simpson

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### **News of the Family**

"I am the Resurrection and The Life."

#### **Deaths**

- 25.8.2014 George Junor,  
Shore Care Home, Cromarty  
Formerly, Nairn Road, Ardersier.
- 27.8.2014 Miss Jessie MacLennan,  
2 Clachan Road, Ardersier.
- 5.10.2014 Margaret Anne Findlayson,  
Inverness.
- 19.9.2014 Stephen MacRae,  
Clachan Road, Ardersier.
- 17.10.2014 Robert Finlay Fraser,  
Stuart Street, Ardersier.
- 20.10.2014 Colin MacKenzie,  
15 Kenneth Place, Smithton.
- 6.11.2014 John Robertson,  
2 Fulmer Crescent, Ardersier.

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### **Beyond Coincidence**

#### **Hidden in the Bible, a Message**

Some of the strangest coincidences of all are to be found as patterns of numbers in the Bible.

Psalm 118 is the Bible's middle chapter. Just before it, Psalm 117 is the Bible's shortest chapter. Just after it, Psalm 119 is the longest. The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118. If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get 1188 chapters. If you take the number 1188 and interpret it as chapter 118 of Psalms, verse 8, you will find the middle verse of the entire Bible –

'It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.'

Some would say that this is the central message of the Bible – and not just numerically.

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### **No Other Love**

No love could be so wonderful  
As the love of God for you;  
No other love could ever be  
So faithful and so true.  
No other love beneath the sun  
Could set your spirits free  
To walk the way of light and love  
For all eternity.  
No other hands stretched out to you  
Could offer so much Grace  
Or love shine forth so tenderly  
As from the Saviour's face.

Ursula M. Prout

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### **Dates for Your Diary**

#### **December 2014**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 2-5pm Senior Citizen's Christmas Party  
In the Old School Hall  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 7pm Session & Board Meeting, in  
Ardersier Church Hall.  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 11am United Christmas Service with Sunday  
School Nativity Play – Ardersier Church  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm Christmas Eve Carol Singing in Ardersier  
Meet outside Ardersier Parish Church.  
10.30pm Tea/coffee/mince pies/ Fellowship  
11.30 Watch Night Service –Petty Church

#### **January 2015**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 11am United New Year Service –Petty Church

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### **A Mother's Love**

A mother's love is something that no one can explain,  
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,  
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may

For nothing can destroy it or take that love away...  
 It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,  
 And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking...  
 It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,  
 And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems...  
 It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,  
 And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation...  
 A many splendoured miracle man cannot understand  
 And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.

by Helen Steiner Rice.

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### Ardersier Church Flower List 2015

#### January

|                  |               |                          |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Mrs Callum    | Station House, Ardersier |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Fraser    | Ballenreich, Ardersier   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs MacKenzie | High Street, Ardersier   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Clark     | Ardgarraidh, Ardersier   |

#### February

|                  |                |                              |
|------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Mrs Grant      | 2 Seaforth Avenue, Ardersier |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Mrs Strachan   | Rowangare, Ardersier         |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Daschofsky | 28 High Steet, Ardersier     |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Mrs Robertson  | 5 Fettes Road, Ardersier     |

#### March

|                  |             |                             |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Mrs Douglas | Baddock Villa, Ardersier    |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Dr J. Ball  | Curlew Cottage, Ardersier   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Beattie | Viewhill, Ardersier         |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Mrs Grant   | The Baddock, Ardersier      |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Fraser  | 18 Reaybank Road, Ardersier |

#### April

|                  |               |                             |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Mrs Gow       | 11 Heathfield, Croy         |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs MacNeill  | 50 Station Road, Ardersier  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs MacKenzie | 27 Stuart Street, Ardersier |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Hardie    | 39 Campbelltown, Ardersier  |

Once again we thank all who contribute the lovely flowers that decorate the church on Sundays.

Would those individuals who like to have their flowers arranged for them, please contact Mrs Sheila Hardie on the Friday. [Tel:462715](tel:462715).

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### **Tapes for the Blind**

For those who are blind, Della Gillespie tapes the newsletter and would like to offer the tapes to anyone who would like to hear about what is going on in their community. We all extend our thanks to Della who can be contacted on, Tel: 01463 793474

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### **The Story of the Christmas Tree**

We are told, that it was the inspiration of Martin Luther who translated the Bible into German. Riding home late one night in the 1530's, he was so touched by the beauty of the starlight shining through the forest branches that he decided to take a small tree home with him and decorate it with candles for his children to enjoy. Within a few years, trees all over Germany were being decorated with crystallised fruits, apples, ginger and cinnamon, rolled wafers and sweets.

Later this idea was popularised in Great Britain by the royal family.

What pleasure Christmas Trees have brought to many for nearly 500 years.

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### **Ardersier War Memorial Hall**

The prospect of going onto phase 2 of the renovation has had a major setback from Big Lottery. Although the application is still live, the major issues concerning them are the Old School Hall and the future sustainability of the Memorial Hall.

Basically, on a good week the hall gets 7 hours of usage. Groups and clubs have dissolved or moved to other locations following the hall closure in 2009.

The Committee received £5,000 from Ward Funds to do up the kitchen and stretch this to make the old block at the back a bit more hospitable. By doing so, we hope to attract users of the Old School Hall to come to the WMH.

An application for £10,000 has been submitted to Awards for All Scotland, for a badminton court, new chairs, sports equipment and a mobile stage.

It is imperative to keep the hall busy and we are already making plans for fundraising events in the coming months, e.g ceilidhs, quiz nights,

coffee mornings, table sales and movie nights to name a few. We welcome start up or return clubs and groups. In the interim, there is a need for local people who have some time and are handy at woodwork, with a paintbrush or drill to help renovate the old block and exterior of the main hall. Should you be retired, or have some free time do contact Eleanor or Grant on 01463 794576 who will be pleased to have you as part of the team. This will demonstrate to the Big Lottery and other fundraising organisations that we can come and work together as a community to support and take pride in our local amenities. The Old School Hall would have the Library as the anchor tenant to pay the bills, it is costing a fortune to heat and as many know is still not the warmest even on full blast!

Thank You, Eleanor Ross.

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### **Thank You**

“The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary.”

The Congregations of both churches have had an exceptionally busy year, and can look back with some satisfaction on the results of their hard work. As always, there are those working away quietly in the background without any fuss.

This year, both gardens have been lovely, the result of a lot of effort by the ‘gardeners.’ The additional fundraising was only possible by the hard work and generosity of the bakers, stall holders, contributors, who in many different ways enabled both churches to raise the funds to refurbish the Manse, who provide the church flowers each week, kept the churches clean, washed dishes and many other tasks, all carried out with such energy and goodwill.

To everyone, for whatever contribution you have made, your efforts are appreciated.

May you all enjoy a Peaceful and Happy Christmas and Good Health in 2015.

Joint Editors – Rev Robert Cleland and Mrs Martina Gow.

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