

Ardersier with Petty Parish Newsletter

Ardersier

Morning Service 10.15am

Sunday School 10.15am

Petty

12noon

12noon

Christmas 2015



Registered Charity no. Ardersier; Sco 15446 Petty; Sco 004952

Christmas is all about receiving

Gospel of John, Chpt1

V9: The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. V10: He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him.

V11: He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

V12: Yet to **all who received him**, to those who believed in his name, he gave **the right to become** children of God. V13: Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. V14: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the – Father, full of grace and truth.

Do you feel at all stressed by the coming of Christmas? Perhaps this past year has been laced with worry, great sorrow and loss. Perhaps sickness has littered your year with its debilitating presence. Maybe your life has changed forever with the loss of a loved one. Maybe on the other hand something new, good and exciting has happened. Are you troubled about all the money you still have to spend on presents and food, decorations and travel? If we let it, the financial constraints at Christmas can just add to this anxiety, making us more worried about all the money we are spending.

Perhaps, in the light of the events of your year, the recent events in France and the troubles of our world Christmas can seem a little pointless, even meaningless. How about, we hold to **hope** for change? How about, we reclaim the **true spirit** of Advent! “Advent” traditionally was a month of preparation before Christmas, a time of fasting and prayer. It was also a time of eager expectation. In Jesus's day the people were expecting the birth of the Saviour King. They were living expectantly, waiting and watching. This is reflected in Advent. The month of Advent therefore gives **us** time to reflect and

consider God's promises in His word, the Bible, as it speaks of Jesus. So Advent is an opportunity for us to personally prepare the way for Jesus in our lives.

The common perception is that Christmas is about giving, not receiving, and to a large extent this is true. The idea of giving gifts is based on the truth of God's gift to us; His gift of Christ Jesus our Saviour and Lord. Yet this theme of giving must be placed alongside the equally important theme of receiving.

Scotland and its people are world famous for their hospitality, something we are rightly proud of. As a nation, Scots are a warm hearted people who are able to welcome visitors with an open and genuine acceptance.

The people of Ardersier and Petty can also be proud of the reputation they have gained regarding the welcome extended toward visitors. Indeed, that very welcome was the major reason I decided in 1976 to make my home here with you all. The people of this area have been shaped and honed by a history that was often turbulent as well as by their connection to the land and industries such as farming, fishing and in recent years, oilrig fabrication among many other works of life. Above you can read the beginning of the Gospel of John. The story of the birth of Jesus found there reveals a mixed reception toward the child. On the one hand the words speak of a welcome that is less than warm, indeed openly hostile, whilst on the other hand there were those who responded positively. Herod, who was king at the time attempted to kill baby Jesus, (total rejection). The leaders, who advised the wise men where the baby king would be found, remained in their homes (indifference). The wise men sought the saviour of the world and the shepherds left their sheep and went to worship Him, (this was their welcome). John tells us that Jesus came to His own (that is you and me as well as the Jewish people) but in verse 11, we are told His own did not deceive Him. God tells us in this same story,

in chapter 3v 19, that the reason he was not received was because he desired to change lives, giving men the light of God. Sadly human beings did not want to welcome the life of Jesus within them, a life to transform them and their world; they liked it just as it was.

Welcoming Jesus is the most essential thing a human being can ever do. The reception we give to Jesus, the saviour of the world, has a huge impact on our lives and our world, both now and for all eternity. Your warm welcome of strangers is world renowned and rightly so, but this Advent, will the Saviour find a welcome in our hearts?

Herod was hostile, the religious indifferent, the wise men and shepherds gladly welcomed Him. Jesus knows our every sorrow and our every joy He is called in the Bible the man of sorrows, He sits in Heaven with wounds on His head, hands, side and feet. Yes, whatever you might think of Jesus He knows you and is ready to welcome, receive, embrace, comfort and encourage you.

Dear Friends, I hope you might find it in your heart to welcome Him into your home, your life, this Christmas. He is a friend indeed. God loves us and has shown how much by giving the gift of Jesus His only Son.

John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

Your Friend, Robert Cleland.

Winning Words

Say to someone something kind, speak praise sincerely meant,
Express appreciation and give encouragement.

For we inspire and influence, just through the words we say,
Within us lies the power to bless and change somebody's day.

Kathleen Gillum

Galatians 6:2

“Bear ye one another’s burdens”,
Thus the Bible so commends,
Bidding us to help our neighbours,
Care for strangers as our friends.
For we all are brothers, sisters,
Children of our love above.
Let us learn by His example:
Fill the world with gifts of love.

M.J. Brison.

Petty Kirk Session

Since the beginning of the year there have been several changes at Petty Church. Following many years of faithful and dutiful service Miss Jessie Dallas retired from the post of Session Clerk. She will be sorely missed as she was always able to keep everything running smoothly, and everyone up to date with what was happening in the Parish.

After much deliberation and guidance, I have now accepted the post of Session Clerk and with everyone’s help which will be gratefully accepted, I will give it my best shot.

It was unfortunate that our Minister, Mr Cleland was taken ill this summer but we were ably guided to move forward under the guidance of Rev. Bart Buell and Rev. Fraser Turner. We now thank God for Mr Cleland’s return to the pulpit and we pray for his continued recovery to good health in the weeks and months to come.

Due to pressure of work Michael Edwards had to give up as Property Convener and we thank him for all his work. The duties of Property Convener have been taken on by Tom Simpson, ably assisted by Robert Cameron and Ian MacLennan.

We now look forward to a period of stability and I wish God's blessings to all this forthcoming Christmas time and the year ahead.

Jean Simpson, Session Clerk Petty.

Ardersier Kirk Session

Hi Friends, It has been a while since we put out a newsletter, so it is good to be back with all of you.

Since the last newsletter we have been installing a new sound system in the church and hope to have a screen and projector installed soon. It is also intended to have a new recorder that will enable the Sunday Services to be taped for the housebound.

The Harvest Supper on the 30th October was arranged by the Joint Social Group, with an excellent supper and entertainment. The musical entertainment was supplied by Irene and John Ross, A Harvest Poem from Patti Allen, stories from David Scott and Pat Campbell. David also played the guitar and led the singing of our favourite hymns at the end of what was a most enjoyable evening. We would like to thank all those who contributed in any way to the success of the evening.

We welcomed Robert's return on Remembrance Sunday 8th November following his recent illness. It is good to have you back with us Robert. Whilst we were well looked after with excellent pulpit supply, it is just not the same as having our own Minister keeping us in order on Sunday mornings.

Thank you to all who filled shoe boxes and gave donations to the Blythswood Care Appeal. They will go a long way to enhance Christmas for people who are less fortunate than we are. Many may

not realise how many countries receive boxes, they are distributed to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine and Pakistan.

I would like to say “Thank You”, to you all for the support you gave to the church and all our visiting ministers over the last few months. I take this opportunity on behalf of the congregation in wishing Robert and Jennifer a Happy Christmas and Good Health in 2016. A Merry Christmas to you all and a happy, healthy 2016.

Sheila Hardie, Session Clerk.

Petty Guild

The new session began in September with a visit from Jillian Walker, Fundraiser for the Archie Foundation. She gave us a very interesting insight into the work of the foundation, including the soon to be opened children’s ward at Raigmore Hospital.

For the October meeting we had Mrs Carol Rattenbury, Lay Reader, who spoke to us on the Guild Theme for this year “Go in Peace.” Carol had kindly stood in for her husband, the scheduled speaker, Rev. M. Rattenbury, who is Chaplain to the Highland Hospice.

In November we had a very interesting and informative talk from Fiona McLeod, Senior Archivist at Highland Archives.

Tuesday 10th we were invited to join with the Croy Guild to hear Moira a retired missionary who worked in Chad for 27 years. She gave a very moving and humbling talk on how difficult life was, and is, for the people of that country and other surrounding areas. We thank the Croy Branch for the invitation to be with them to learn of Moira’s experiences. All of the above sessions ended by enjoying the usual tea/coffee and home baking.

The Group are meeting in December to enjoy the annual Christmas Lunch. The next meeting will be in February and the guest speaker will be Alan Michael. The Daviot Branch will be guests.

As ever we struggle on with the loyal members who work so hard. However we would like others to join us, maybe some who read this might like to join us, or even tell us what can be done to make the experience more interesting. As the ongoing years are catching up with the current members it does become more difficult when attempting to hold some of the usual events associated with the Guild, eg fundraising for the various charities.

Should you feel that you would like to come along, please be assured of a warm welcome- gentlemen are also welcome. The meetings are held in Petty Church Hall on the second Monday of the month at 2pm. On behalf of us all, I wish you, A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Della Gillespie, Chair, Petty.

Junior Ardersier and Petty Environmental Society

And

Senior Ardersier and Petty Environmental Society

The two groups have had a very busy year in 2015. The group has worked very hard on the Pocket Garden, building two new raised beds with the help of Uwe Brandstatter (the parent of two of the Senior members), as well as relocating items from our plot (biodiversity garden) at MacLeod's Organics. As part of the relocation we replanted the berry bushes – gooseberries, raspberries and blackcurrant – and the apple tree in the Pocket Garden. We do hope that the replanted bushes and trees will flourish in the new location. In the raised beds we have planted a variety of vegetables, including peas, leeks, beetroot, radish and onions; the onions in particular liked the new location and we harvested some super-sized produce!

In October we took delivery of some beautiful benches, and they are situated in between the raised beds and on the decking. The benches really help to further the beauty of the Garden and will provide a pleasant sitting area; we held a fun food-fires-and-facts event for both

groups, in the Pocket Garden, with the theme, bats and spiders. All of the members enjoyed the evening which also provided hot dogs, hot chocolate and marshmallows around the fire-pit.

Again this year we will be welcoming new P1 pupils to join J.A.P.E.S. from November. Volunteer parent helpers are valued and with the annual changes, new recruits are always required. Should you have a few hours to spare do come along and enjoy a great time with the children. Do contact: Dawn MacKenzie Tel: 461176, for more details.

We look forward to continuing to maintain and improve the Pocket Garden, 'Andy's Pride' (the boat) and Dolphin Beds, over the coming year.

The Highlands Supports Refugees

And

Highland Third Sector Interface

Urgent help is needed for Syrian Refugees arriving in the Highland Area after Christmas.

Syrian refugees are arriving from camps in Lebanon and Jordan after Christmas, - approximately 100 people, comprising around 25 families.

Accommodation is urgently required. Possible premises could include, second homes; empty granny flats, holiday homes. The refugees will be entitled to housing benefit and will therefore be able to pay rent.

Greeter Service: volunteers are required who would provide a 'greeter service.' You would help new arrivals access public transport, language help, where to buy food, get a job, and get children to school; also best playparks, which pub to avoid, introducing them to the police, imparting local knowledge and helping them to feel at home. Volunteer's expenses would be paid.

Offers of accommodation are urgently required and those willing to volunteer – contact: Highland Third Sector Interface: Tel 01349 864289.

Have you any free time? The Highlands Supports Refugees Group urgently need volunteers with a van, lorry or large car to transport donations for the refugees, when they arrive from a location near Inverness to a new centre in Dingwall.

Fundraisers are also required.

Contact Vivian Roden, [Tel:07887 704 915](tel:07887704915) if you can help or see the Facebook Page.

Ardersier, Petty, Croy and Culloden Moor Community Transport

It is regrettable that the minibus is still not used by more of the affiliated members of the Group. To be so fortunate to have the ‘bus available, for the community and not use it is rather unfortunate, considering the current discussion about the lack of a commercial bus service for the Ardersier area.

It would be tragic to lose this great asset for the community due to lack of interest by the community who won the grant in competition with many other areas in Scotland.

The Senior citizen’s and church groups appear to be the main users of the ‘bus.

Would YOU be a future volunteer driver of the minibus? New recruits to undertake the Midas training course are being recruited, the contact for more information: Nicola, Nairn Community Centre.

[Tel:01667 459 337](tel:01667459337).

More Holy Wit

Andy Stewart, the Scottish entertainer, tells of an embarrassing experience. He had been invited to open a church Sale of Work. What he didn’t know, was that in the congregation there was a strong temperance association. Having done various impersonations of

famous people, he was just about to open the sale when a lady at the back of the hall shouted out, ' Give us a song, Andy. He obliged, but unfortunately the one he chose on the spur of the moment was Campbeltown Loch (I wish you were whisky, for I would drink you dry). The faces of some of the ladies got longer and longer, but having started he had to finish. By Rev. James A. Simpson

Food For Families Project 2015-16

This project provides meals for families in need over the festive period. Last year 3,376 meals were prepared and delivered with mince provided by David Sutherland, and sponsored by The Kitchen and The Mustard Seed restaurants. Thanks to all in Ardersier Church who have helped with preparation and cooking in previous years

Thanks in advance to those who are involved this year. Anyone wishing to get involved please contact;

Alex Gilchrist Tel. 01463 718693

Direct Access Accomodation .

This project provides accommodation and a hot meal for people in crisis. If you would like to help, contact Ian Todd, Chairman of Inverness Churches Group, Tel.01463 791161.

News of the Family

“Suffer the little children to come unto me”

Baptism.

Claire Kathleen Madge- Miall 11th Oct 2015

Jessica Karen Madge-Miall 25th Oct 2015

Admittance by Profession of Faith

Claire Kathleen Madge-Miall 11th Oct 2015

Daniel Frederick Madge-Miall 11th Oct 2015

“I am the resurrection and the Life”

Funerals

16.12.14. Eileen Morrison, Kentra, Easterton.

25.12.14. Christine Paddock, Kent

23.02.15. Molly Cuthbertson, 3 Wester Connage,

23.02.15. Isobel Cresswell, 6 Campbelltown.

09.03.15. Helen Mackenzie, Late of Fulmar Crescent.

15.04.15. Tom Main, Fulmar Crescent.

23.04.15. Alistair Gunn, 14 Ardersier Mains.

09.05.15. David Duncanson, 8 Campbelltown.

02.06.15. John Duncanson, Inverness.

29.07.15. Nora Milne, Reaybank Road.

27.09.15. Frank McDiarmid, 3 Stuart Place.

13.11.15. Margaret Grant, Late of Campbelltown

19.11.15. Sadie Ross, Late of High Street, Ardersier.

20.11.15. Harold Roach, Tornagrain.

News from Joel Githinji, United Mission to Nepal.

On Saturday April 25, a massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. It was the worst quake to strike the region in more than 80 years. The area was hit again just 17 days later, on May 12, causing further damage and suffering for those who had survived the initial disaster. Today Nepal remains in crisis, and despite recent political changes, recovery work and providing aid for victims has been made more difficult by shortages in the supply of goods from India.

Christian organisations are now providing Disaster Response Training which is being rolled out in rural communities. Work continues on health and HIV to try to improve the lives of “the poorest of the poor” in this region.

Ardersier Sunday School Report

Hello Everyone! Ardersier Sunday School is enjoying fun and games whilst learning stories from the Bible. As the Group grows in numbers we have introduced senior and junior work groups. This is popular with the children. Both Groups have the same Bible lessons but at an age appropriate level. We then all come together for games and retelling of the stories – often using roll play to act out the stories, bringing great laughter and enjoyment to all.

The Sunday School meets at 10.15am in the Church Hall – all children are welcomed.

The Sunday School children and helpers are delighted to see Rev. Robert Cleland back with us. His witty interactive talks with the children during his Sunday Service are always a delight to witness and hear. Welcome back, we have missed you!

Summer Trip – The summer trip was a joint affair with the congregation to Lossiemouth Beach. It was good to see the

children and adults come together to enjoy team games, including tug of war (the adults more competitive than the kids!). Sand castles were built, all very creative but, like the man who built his house on sand the tide claimed them and the effort although lost the creation was very much enjoyed. We did manage our ice creams just before the rain when a mad dash to the bus rounded off a successful fun day out.

Harvest Thanksgiving – The Sunday School children led this year’s Harvest Thanksgiving Service. The theme was GM Foods –God Made – encouraging the adults to join in. The service was filled with readings and prayers by the children and harvest hymns for all to sing. Gifts of food were brought to the table to give thanks to God for our Harvest. The food was donated to Blythswood Care.

Christmas Celebrations – Excitement is building up as the children look forward to Christmas. The next two weeks will be busy ones as the children prepare to perform the Church Nativity Play. The children will rejoice and share the story of the birth of Jesus through music and props. – a twist to the traditional Nativity Play! Come and support them at the Christmas Service on 20th December at 11am. On Saturday 19th December 12noon – 2pm the children will enjoy their Christmas Party with fun, food, games and surprises.

Christmas Carol Singing - Come and join us on Christmas Eve at 6pm around the village Christmas Tree (opposite the church) singing and /or listening to Christmas Carols and songs. Donations will be collected to support a charity chosen by the children – any charity suggestions welcome. Should bad weather prevail, the Carol Singing will take place in the church, so please do come to sing and celebrate together, you are all welcome.

Thank You, to all the children, teachers and helpers who throughout the year make it all possible. Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy Good New Year. Dawn and Susan

Tapes For the Blind

For those who are blind, Della Gillespie very kindly tapes the newsletter and would like to offer the tapes to anyone who would like to hear about news and activities in their community. We all extend our thanks to Della who can be contacted on , [Tel:01463 793474](tel:01463793474)

Dates for Your Diary

December 2015:

- Wednesday 9th 2-5pm Senior Citizen's Christmas Party in the
in the Memorial Hall. All Senior Citizen's
welcome.
- Tuesday 15th 12.30 for 1pm Petty Guild Christmas Lunch
Keppoch Inn, Culloden.
- Saturday 19th 12 noon – 2 pm Sunday School Children's Party
in Memorial Hall
- Sunday 20th 11am United Christmas Service with Sunday
School Nativity Play – Ardersier Church.
- Thursday 24th 6pm Christmas Eve Carol Singing in Ardersier
Collection for Children's chosen charity.
10.30pm Tea/ coffee/ mince pies/Fellowship
11.30 Watch night Service, Ardersier Church.

January 2016

- Sunday 3rd 11am United New Year Service – Petty Church

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Ardersier Church Flower List Ardersier Church Flower List

2016

January

- Sunday 3rd Mrs Callum
Sunday 10th Mrs Fraser

Sunday 17th Mrs MacKenzie
Sunday 24th Mrs Clark
Sunday 31st Mrs Grant

February

Sunday 7th Mrs Strachan
Sunday 14th Mrs Daschofsky
Sunday 21st Mrs Robertson
Sunday 28th Mrs Douglas

March

Sunday 6th Mrs Gow
Sunday 13th Dr Ball
Sunday 20th Mrs Beattie
Sunday 27th Mrs Grant

April

Sunday 3rd Mrs Fraser
Sunday 10th Mrs Gow
Sunday 17th Mrs MacNeill
Sunday 24th Mrs MacKenzie

The church would not look so beautiful on a Sunday were it not for the generosity of each and every one of you who regularly contribute such lovely flowers.

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

Thank You

Having given up doing the newsletter last Christmas, many of you were asking when there would be another, so I thought that a Christmas one would be appropriate. During a discussion both Jenny and Jonathan Ball offered their help. So thanks to both of them, this is a combined effort and who knows, what that may mean for the future of the newsletter. I would just like to say that it is making everything that much easier all round. Once again, a big 'Thank You,' to all those individuals in both churches who work so hard to ensure that the gardens are kept so lovely for all to enjoy. The individual donors of the flowers that decorate the churches each week, your efforts are much appreciated. Not forgetting all who work in the background keeping the church clean, making items for sale, tea makers as well as the countless tasks required for the smooth running of the churches. "Few things are impossible to diligence and skill."

May you all have a lovely Christmas and Good Health for 2016. We pray that all children have a Happy Christmas and a visit from Santa Claus.

Joint Editors – Jenny Ball and Martina Gow.

Censorship. In 1920 the film censorship board of Ohio tried to ban Treasure Island altogether in case it encouraged children to piracy

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A Shooting Star

Last night I saw a shooting star
Its green tail through the sky;
I stood and watched until it passed
Grew pale, began to die.

I thought of all the things I wished
For me and me alone;
What I could do with my great wealth
Far off and far from home.

Then I felt ashamed and thought
Of those who had no wealth,
Who suffered poverty and shame and need
Who never had good health.

I looked again and wished instead
That I might share what God
In all His goodness blessed me with

And spread his love abroad.
By Kenneth Steven.

Christmas Quiz:

- 1.What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
- 2.How many doors of an advent calendar do you open before Christmas day arrives?
- 3.How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
- 4.What was the name of John the Baptist's Mother?
- 5.Who brings presents to children in Holland on the 5th/6th December?
- 6.How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
- 7.In what town was Jesus born?
- 8.How many presents were given in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?
- 9.In what decade was the first Christmas Card sent in the UK?
- 10.What country did the family escape to?
- 11.How many of Rudolph's eight companions names start with 'D'?
- 12.What country did Christmas Trees originate from

Word Search – the 12 Apostles:

Simon - Peter, Andrew, James, John, Matthew, Thomas, Judas, Philip, Bartholemew, James, Simon and Thaddaeus.

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A	D	T	H	O	M	A	S	M	C	E	W
L	S	E	M	A	J	R	P	A	Y	G	E
S	I	M	O	N	O	P	E	T	E	R	M
T	A	P	N	D	E	N	Y	T	G	S	E
W	H	I	B	R	X	O	F	H	B	A	L
S	K	A	L	E	O	M	A	E	H	D	O
P	V	J	D	W	J	I	Z	W	V	U	H
H	M	I	U	D	N	S	E	M	A	J	T
I	R	T	S	H	A	L	S	N	K	T	R
L	U	N	O	H	R	E	C	F	M	O	A
I	H	J	O	Q	F	B	U	G	P	Q	B
P	W	J	G	M	D	A	R	S	E	L	P

Answers to quiz. 1. Advent 2.24 3.Deep pan, crisp and even 4. Elizabeth. 5. St Nicholas 6. 25, no el! 7.Bethlehem. 8. 364. 9. 1840's 10. Egypt 11.Three, Dasher, Dancer and Donner.12 German.