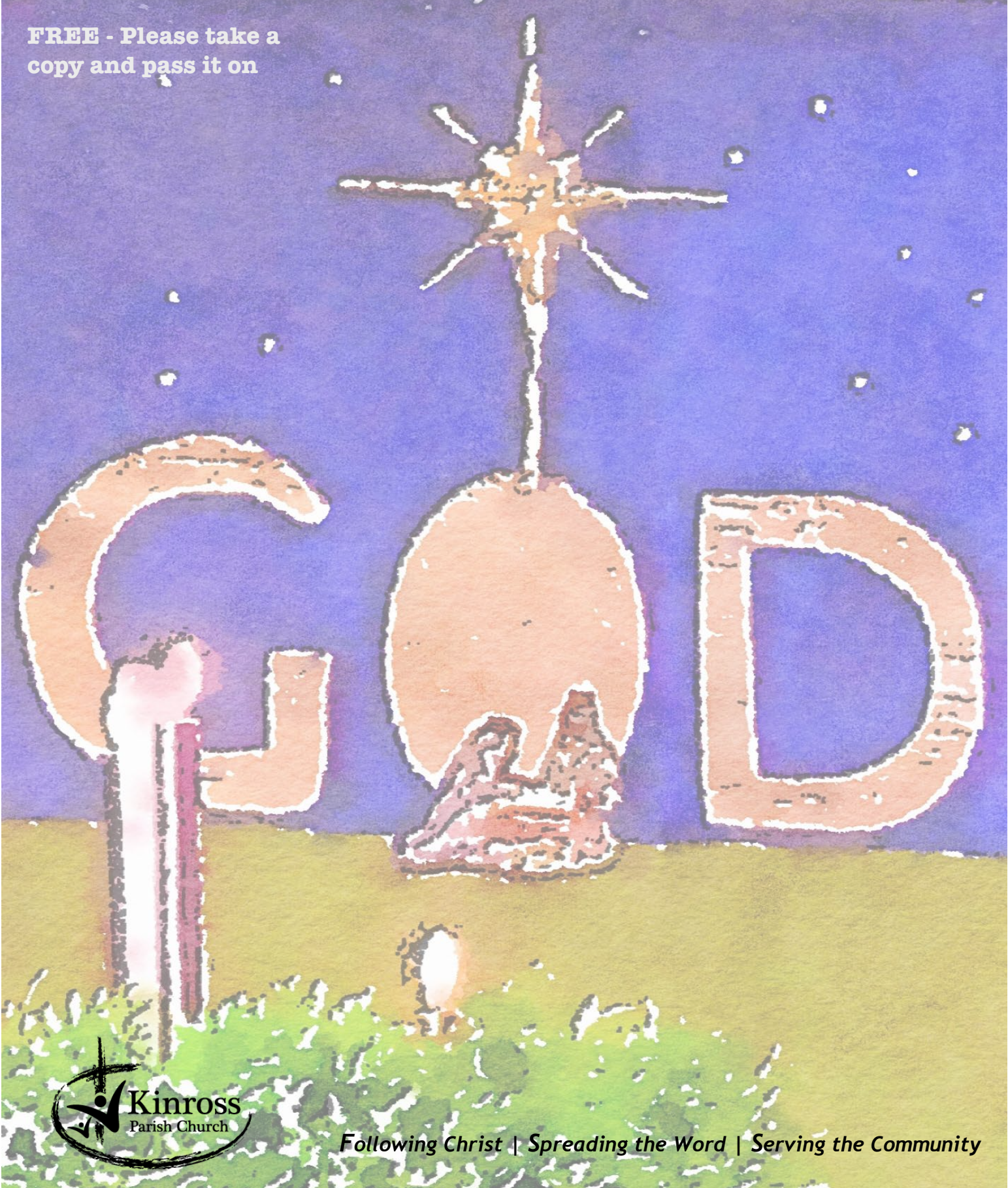


KIN-NECTIONS

KINROSS PARISH CHURCH | DECEMBER 2019 - FEBRUARY 2020

FREE - Please take a
copy and pass it on



Following Christ | Spreading the Word | Serving the Community

*Following Christ
Spreading the Word
Serving the Community*

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Find us on Facebook

Kinross Parish Church of Scotland

Next Magazine Deadline

21 January 2020

Next Kirk Session

3 February 2020



The Church of Scotland

Come to the Table

You are warmly invited to the
Celebration of Holy Communion

Kinross Parish Church

Sunday 1 December at 10.30am

Retiral collection in support of

Bethany Christian Trust

(see page 8 for further information)



Holy Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper, is a sacrament in which the Church remembers the death of Christ by eating bread and drinking wine (elements), symbolising the body and blood of Christ. We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of March, June, September, and December. A shorter communion is celebrated after the service on the first Sunday of the other months.

Keeping in Contact: Every household connected to the Church usually receives a visit before each quarterly Communion. All households have an allocated pastoral elder. If you wish to see your elder outwith the quarterly visit, but don't have their contact details, please phone the Office on 01577 862570 between 10am and 12 noon any week day.

Your Pastoral Elder is

SUNDAY SERVICES December 2019 to February 2020

**Sunday Morning at
10.30am**

During term-time there is a Crèche, Junior Church, and Jampact every Sunday. Check weekly Intimations nearer the time for changes during the holidays.

See the back cover for details of Christmas services.

1 December	Psalm 113 - The Lord Almighty is with us - The Lord's Supper
8 December	Philippians 2:5-11 - He gave up all He had
15 December	"A Sky full of Stars" - All-age Nativity Service
22 December	Service of Lessons and Carols
29 December	Matthew 1:1-17 - He became a human being
5 January	Matthew 2:1-12 - Born to be King Informal communion at the close of the morning service
12 January	Service led by Rev Margaret Michie
19 January	Week of prayer for Christian Unity
26 January	10.30am - 1 Peter 3:8-17 - Be ready to give an answer 6.30pm - Informal Evening Service - The God Question (i)
2 February	Mark 9:14-29 - Belief and Faith Informal communion at the close of the morning service
9 February	John 8:31-47 - Truth and Lies
16 February	Philippians 2:12-18 - Offer the Message of Life
23 February	10.30am - Titus 2:1-15 - Bring Credit to the Teaching 6.30pm - Informal Evening Service. The God Question (ii)

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DIARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome to the December 2019 Kin-nections



It's "that time of year" once again, and there are several aspects of Christmas activities detailed in this issue of Kin-nections. Additionally, Alan invites us to take time to be still each day during Advent. You might find the prayers and Reflections useful for this.

In addition, be sure to read about the Perth Street Pastors and the Church of Scotland's Radical Action Plan - billed as the future of our Church for years to come.

I have taken the decision to step aside from the editor role which I have held for many years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with Kin-nections and seeing it evolve to the publication that it is today. The editorial team is superb, and I am confident that they will make the transition as smooth as possible. If you would be interested in getting involved as one of the editors, please see page 13 for more information.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the congregation for their support and prayers after the sudden loss of my daughter Eilidh back in the summer. I can truly say that Stuart, Zoë, and I were lifted in prayer so many times over the past difficult months. Thank you all so much.

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas season and a happy and healthy 2020!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

New Members by Transfer

Catherine Miller, Lomond Place, Kinross

Marion Donaldson, The Sycamores, Kinross

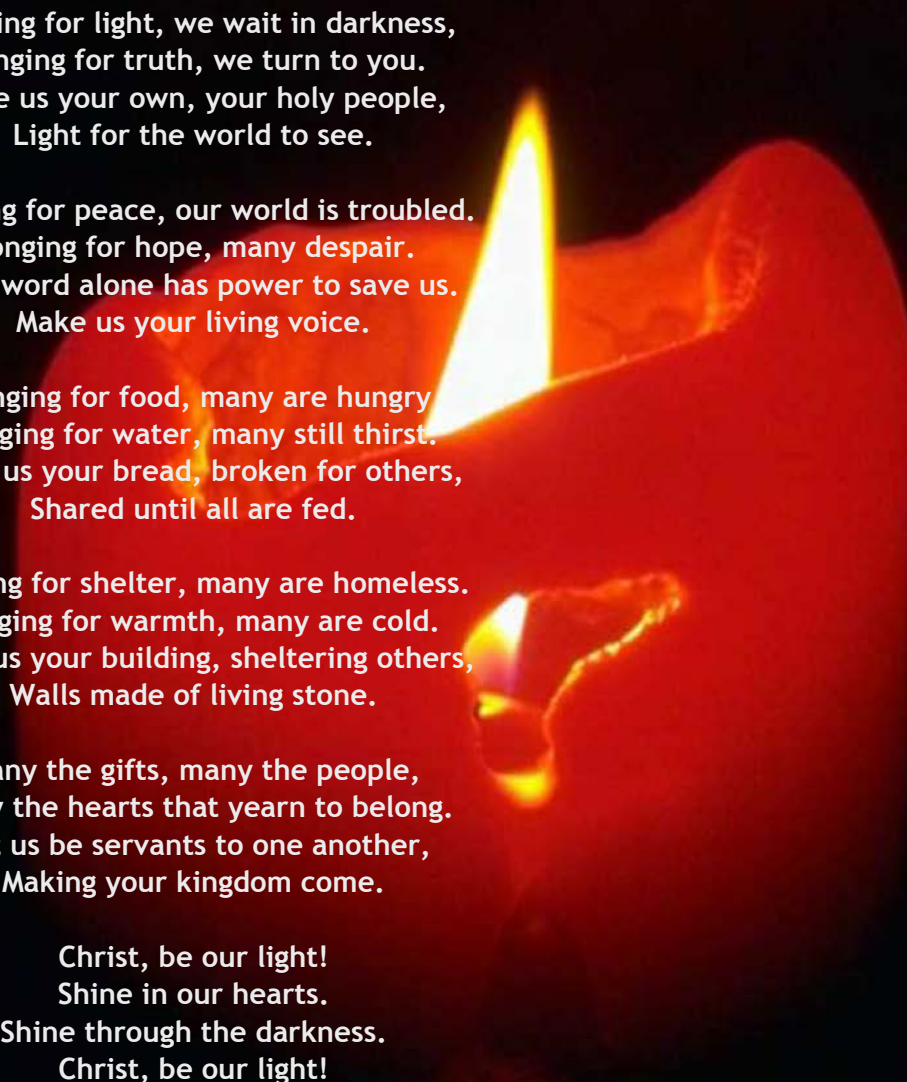
Funerals

13 August	Christian Meldrum, formerly Glenfarg
20 August	Jean Anderson, St Ronan's Drive, Kinross
30 September	Alexander (Sandy) Milne, Tummel Place, Kinross

Front cover: You may recognise the image on the front cover - it is of our Church's Christmas banner.

Credit: Brenda Frier

TALKING WITH GOD



Longing for light, we wait in darkness,
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

© 1993, Bernadette Farrell (b.1957)

REFLECTIONS



SATISFY US IN THE MORNING WITH
your unfailing love,
THAT WE MAY SING FOR JOY AND BE
glad all our days. Psalm 90:14 NV

For many of us, the days and weeks around the turn of the year are a time for reflection on the year just ending and hope for the year ahead. We recognise that, in the grand scheme of things, life is brief and we need to make the most of every minute. Psalm 90 reminds us that fulfilment in life does not depend on how much we have or on the things we achieve. **What gives life its purpose and meaning is a living relationship with God.** It is this which will empower us and enable us to recognise that the gift of each new day is a fresh opportunity to love and serve Him.

“Oh Lord, thank you for your unfailing love, new to us each morning. **Make your presence known to us in times of trial and times of happiness.** May we sing your praises with joy each day because your steadfast love and goodness are with us always - both today and in the years to come. Amen.”

FROM THE MANSE...



Dear Friends,

May I first of all take this opportunity to say how deeply touched I was by your thoughtfulness recently in recognising the 30th anniversary of my ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament,

by the attendance of so many at the special service and the gifts you gave to Christine and me. To you all, my sincere thanks. Although much has changed over the last three decades, I continue to know the prompting of God's Spirit to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ and I pray that together we may continue to work for the advancement of God's Kingdom in this place and beyond.

As we enter into the season of Advent and prepare ourselves for our annual Christmas celebrations, I would like to invite you to take a conscious journey of faith over the coming weeks. How easy it is to be swept along in the busyness of what the festival of Christmas has become in our society. Expectations are high - our own and those of other people - and many people are under such great pressure to get things 'just right' that stress builds and disappointment comes easily.

Don't let us ever lose sight of the transforming wonder of the Christmas message, that the Lord God of heaven and earth has stepped into our world and seeks to make His dwelling with us still. The work of transformation needs to continue in and through each one of us. Many, like King Herod and the religious leaders, had no time for the Child of Bethlehem; others, like the startled shepherds who were disturbed as they went about their work, and like the wise men from the East whose studies were interrupted by a strange discovery, went out of their way to seek out the Son of God. Who will we most resemble this Christmas? There was no room at the inn for Christ to be born, but let there be room in your home and in your heart for Him this Christmas and let your simple but heartfelt prayer be in the words of the carol: 'Be born in us tonight.'

Make time to be still each day during Advent - you could perhaps light a candle, sit for a few moments and pray. Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith; draw closer to Him than you have ever been before; and let God lead you in new paths as you follow Him more closely into the coming year.

Why not challenge the world's expectations (and your own) and do something quite different this Christmas?

Hear the call of the angels that sounds forth still, and follow the star of hope that still shines on.

Happy Christmas and every blessing for the year ahead

Alan

Rev A.D. Reid

LESLIE BARR: GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



Kinross Parish Church extends its congratulations to Rev Leslie Barr, celebrating 50 years of ordained ministry.

Leslie was Minister of Kinross Parish Church for 18 years from 1979 and oversaw the union of the East Church (now the

Kinross Church Centre) and the West Church in Station Road (where we worship today). Family Week started in Leslie's time. We were delighted to see him at Alan's 30th anniversary celebrations. Our warm good wishes to Leslie.

TIME FOR PRAYER

The monthly Prayer Diary is available in print at Church and can also be accessed via the website or by e-mail. Large print editions are also available.

Midweek Prayers: At midday on Wednesdays, in the middle of the working week, we gather in the Church to pray for individuals, the parish, and the wider world.

Silent Meditation:

2 December, 6 January, and 3 February.

Half an hour of guided stillness in the Church on the first Monday of the month at 8am.

Prayer Breakfast:

14 December, 11 January, and 8 February.

A breakfast of rolls and coffee at 8.30am in the Church Meeting Room followed by a short time of prayer. Names in advance to the Church Office, please, for catering purposes.

Compline:

19 December, 16 January, and 20 February.

20 minutes of reflective readings and prayers, a peaceful way to end the day, on the third Thursday of each month at 9pm.

DID YOU KNOW...? Sermons are available on the church website – go to www.kinrossparishchurch.org to download a pdf of the Minister's most recent sermons or ask the Church Office

RADICAL ACTION PLAN

'The future of the Church for years to come'



*Dr Sally Bonar presenting the plan
(Church of Scotland)*

A new focus on engaging with people under 40, £25m to be spent on church growth projects, 100 new worshipping communities to be formed. These are just three of the proposals agreed by this year's General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in its Radical Action Plan. This followed the rejection in 2018 of an earlier proposal as not being radical enough. Some have described this year's decisions as 'the most significant Assembly since the Union of 1929' (of the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland).

You may have heard on the news of some of the changes already happening around Scotland as presbyteries seek to turn the challenges the Church of Scotland faces - an operating deficit, declining membership and a shortage of ministers - into a renewed focus on 'equipping churches for mission in their local context'. The central

*Church of Scotland
Radical Action Plan: a
new focus on engaging
with people under 40,
£25m to be spent on
church growth projects,
100 new worshipping
communities to be
formed*



*Rt Rev Colin Sinclair (Church of
Scotland)*

administration costs are to be reduced by around 30% and presbyteries are to be reduced from 43 to around 12. Shetland Presbytery has already been amalgamated with Aberdeen and the three Fife Presbyteries are on the road to an amalgamation. Both Aberdeen and Shetland have approved a plan which sees around one half of their churches closed so that effort can be concentrated on 'well equipped spaces in the right places'. This includes, in Aberdeen, the opening of four new churches. Here in our Presbytery of Perth, a new church is starting in a shop unit in the new development north of Perth and initial discussions are being held about Presbytery amalgamations. Locally, the Kirk Sessions of the Loch

Leven group of churches have already held a joint meeting to consider the way forward.

Our Session Clerk, Jaffrey Weir says: "This is a challenging but exciting time for the Church of Scotland. I would urge all our members to read the special 4-page supplement summarising the Radical Action Plan which I commend to you. Copies

can be picked up from the welcome table in the church, from the office, or downloaded from the Church of Scotland website: www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-supplement."

A PRAYER FOR RADICAL CHANGE

As part of the recently-approved Radical Action Plan for the Church of Scotland, there has been a season of prayer, with new prayers written by a range of people thinking of these challenging changes. Here is part of the prayer written by the current Moderator, Rt Rev Colin Sinclair:

Jesus Christ

You call us all to follow You

In the adventure of faith.

As we begin the process of change

guided by your spirit,

help us to trust You.

Help us to willingly let go

of all "the ways we have always done things",

when it feels safer to shrink from changes that deeply affect us,

back into what we have known.

Inspire us

to take risks,

to creatively and courageously

be Your church today:

looking to you in worship,

reaching into our communities

venturing out in service.

Let us renew our commitment to follow You

as we step out in glad obedience.

For your name's sake

Amen

TO SPEAK WITH THE ACCENT OF HEAVEN

Celebrating 30 years of ministry with Alan Reid - Irene McFarlane reports

On Saturday 5 October, a large company of members and friends of our congregation and neighbouring congregations met in the church for a special service to mark the 30th anniversary of the ordination of our minister, Alan Reid. Among those present to share in this joyful occasion were members from Alan's previous charge in Newcastleton in the Borders. We were delighted, also, that Alan's two predecessors, John Munro, with his wife, Pat, and Leslie Barr, were able to join us.

Angus Morrison from Orwell and Portmoak welcomed the congregation and delivered a reflection. He joked that praising Alan within Kinross Parish Church was like "sending black pudding to Stornoway"! He thanked Alan for his "friendship, grace and many gifts" and said that "for 30 years, Christ's servant, Alan, has been teaching the life-transforming message for individuals, communities and nations".

Alan's long-term friend, Ken Stott, now minister in the North Church in Perth, reflected on Alan's student days in Edinburgh and how a group had met regularly for prayer and mutual support. This group continues to meet twice a year. Ken read messages from others who



Christine and Alan Reid

could not attend the service. One message said, "Alan is an all-round good parish minister. A preacher centred in real life."

Jaffrey Weir, Session Clerk, paid tribute to the contribution the church in Newcastleton had made to developing Alan's skills as a Minister, and also reflected on the developments in the church's activities in Kinross in Alan's time. He acknowledged the role in Alan's life and ministry played by his wife, Christine, and their sons, Sandy and Douglas.

Among presentations made to Alan from the Church were two bibles, including a pocket-sized one, a hand-painted commemorative plaque and a card, designed by Anne Sutherland. An enormous "30" cake, made by Anne Miller, was enjoyed by everyone when we had refreshments afterwards. A collection was taken for a charity of Alan's choosing, the Scottish Bible Society, and this raised over £400.

In his concluding words, Alan reminisced about the time of his early ministry and particularly the ordination itself. He spoke of Christian friends who had inspired him then, and particularly the Rev Tom Preston who preached at the ordination service and charged him to "speak with the accent of heaven".



Angus Morrison, Alan Reid, Ken Stott

OUR PRAYERFUL GOOD WISHES... to Rev Lis Stenhouse, minister of Cleish and Fossoway, following her recent knee operation.

PERTH STREET PASTORS

A couple of years ago we heard about the work of Perth Street Pastors and the Minister invited us to consider volunteering: Derek Goodwin from our congregation did just that. He undertook the training and is now commissioned as a street pastor, giving up two nights a month to “listen, care, help” on the busy Saturday night streets of Perth.

“We work in teams of three and have a uniform so are instantly recognisable, and we offer practical assistance with things like ponchos, flipflops, bottles of



water and sweets, and we also carry first aid equipment for minor injuries, but we are also there to listen.” Not everyone is having a good time - people

are experiencing mental anguish and turmoil about all sorts of problems and find in the street pastors a non-judgmental, compassionate, listening ear. The pastors can’t necessarily solve the problems, but they can give contacts for organisations that can

help, they can pray with and for the person and, importantly, they can show that they care.

“It’s very rewarding. It’s a practical way of expressing my faith. And, what I wasn’t expecting, is that it can be fun.” People they have helped one week with, say, a poncho to keep out the rain, return the next week to say thank you.

The police liaise with door staff at pubs and clubs and alert the pastors if someone is in difficulty and the pastors can respond with that precious commodity - time. They can stay alongside the person until the situation is resolved. Sometimes, the mere presence of street pastors can calm a heated situation with intervention being unnecessary.

Pastors can respond with that precious commodity - time

Would Derek recommend volunteering? “Yes, with more volunteers, the Perth Street Pastors could do more. I get as much out of the role as I put into

it. When we finish at 3am we feel we have done something worthwhile.”

Could you help one night a month? Contact Fraser Hunter, Perth Street Pastor Coordinator: 07751 185639



Derek Goodwin

Bethany Christian Trust: OUR RETIRING OFFERING

Bethany Christian Trust (Scottish Charity Number SC003783) is a national charity whose mission is to relieve the suffering and meet the long-term needs of homeless and vulnerable people in Scotland. They don’t just work with homeless people: they stop people becoming homeless in the first place.

They share a big vision - to work together to End Homelessness in Scotland.

They do this practically, one person at a time, one family at a time, and



**Bethany
Christian
Trust**

one community at a time. Bethany supports almost 7,000 people a year across Scotland including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Bathgate, Dundee, Aberdeen, Dumfries, and Fife. They provide high quality support services and accommodation for people who are at risk of becoming

homeless, people who are currently homeless, and people who have been homeless but now have their own home. Support includes housing, education and employment, addiction recovery, emotional well-being,

street outreach, community integration, offending reduction, and social support.

Kirk Session commends the work of Bethany Christian Trust and your support at the December Communion and Christmas retiring offerings would be greatly appreciated.

For further information:
www.bethanychristiantrust.com

Prayer: Pray for the work of Bethany Christian Trust in working for homeless and vulnerable people in Scotland.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Family Week Backpackers

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped with **Family Week 2019**! Over 170 children and young people came along over the course of the week to take part in the Backpackers Adventure.

Here are the dates for next year: 3-7 August 2020



JAMPact

If you're in S1-S6, why not come along to Jampact on Sunday mornings at 10.30am in our Church Centre. We'd love to see you.

Junior Church

Junior Church, which meets in our Church Centre from 10.15am on Sunday mornings, welcomes children aged 3 to P7 for stories, crafts and songs. Looking forward to the All-Age Nativity Service on **15 December**!



Enthusiastic and Energetic Crossfire

Crossfire is a group of enthusiastic and energetic young people (secondary school age) who meet every Sunday night during term time 7.30-9pm at our Church Centre on the High Street.

Our fun evenings are varied but include fellowship, friendship, time for reflection and, of course, food! In recent weeks we've enjoyed playing human golf and had a photo treasure hunt around the streets of Kinross. We are looking forward to a glow sticks and dark night as well as a special weekend away to Gowanbank Scripture Union Centre in Darvel, Ayrshire **6-8 December**.

As part of thinking about others, we plan to help with the church's annual Christmas Wrap on **11 December** and our last session of the year is our fabulous Christmas party on **15 December**.

Crossfire starts back on **12 January 2020**. If you would like to join us or would like more information, please contact jennymasson65@gmail.com.



Crèche

There is a **crèche** available every Sunday in the Upper Meeting Room, so if you are under 3 and would like to come, the helpers would love to look after you and your carers can enjoy Sunday worship knowing that you are in safe hands.

@KYTHE

By the time that you are reading this, October holidays will be a distant memory, as **KYTHE** starts to plan for Christmas and the New Year. However, the October holidays were a busy time @KYTHE with a variety of activities for the young people of Kinross-shire. Band camp was, as always, very popular, as were the art workshops and the various drop-in sessions.

Weekly activities continue @KYTHE with Chill'n'chat, lunch-time drop-in a couple of times a week, and open Friday afternoons, amongst other work that Barry and Gillian continue to support.

KYTHE has had a second Open Day but if you would like to visit @KYTHE by the Health Centre, please contact the office. KYTHE is delighted that Sharon Thomas has taken on the role of administrator to help support the work of the organisation, and can be contacted at office@kythe.org.uk.

Please pray for the work of KYTHE as Barry, Gillian, the management committee, trustees, and volunteers all reach out to the young people of Kinross-shire.



DYNAMIC
CHRISTIAN
YOUTH
WORK

Companions on the Road

The **Guild** has welcomed a number of new members this session but there is always room for more. The strategy *One Journey, Many Roads* continues, with this session's theme being Companions on the Road. It was decided to start early in September with the Dedication Service and first meeting, and have no January meetings.

Our current projects are Malawi Fruits and Free to Live Trust, which works to improve the lives of trafficked women and abandoned children in the city of Pune, India. It is amazing how much money is raised from Guilds for the projects. Our own members and visitors were very generous at our open night when entertainment was provided by the St Serf Singers.

Tuesday 4 February is the first meeting of 2020. Meetings are held in the Church Centre at 7.15pm. Join us!



The Brigade: Milestone Approaching

Kinross BB was founded during the Second World War by local teacher Roddy Beaton utilising the experience of the boys who had been evacuated from the Shettleston area of Glasgow who were members of the 1st Shettleston Company. The Shettleston boys were joined by many local boys from Arngask and around Kinross-shire as Boys' Brigade's popularity quickly grew. The Kinross Company recognises that the 1st Shettleston can be regarded as our "parent" Company. The founding of the Kinross Company in 1939 was officially endorsed by BB HQ early in 1940. There had been a BB Company in Kinross before this in fact, from 1892 till 1912. Taking these 20 years along with the time the current Company has been in existence, we are all looking forward to celebrating the Company's 100 years of service in 2020. All previous Company Captains, with the exception of founder Captain Roddy Beaton and current Captain David Munro, have come from boys who served in the Company: Jim Clark, Bill Daniels, Jack Hepburn, Alec Melville, and Henry Hardie.

The new session has started and all three sections are back in action. All three sections are learning about early Old Testament characters, took part in the Company's Annual Enrolment Service, and were on parade on Armistice Sunday at the Parish Church.

The Brigade (boys and girls) meets in our Church Centre on the High Street on Friday evenings and we have spaces in all three sections for new members: Anchors (P1-3) meet 6-7pm; Juniors (P4-6) 7-9pm; and Company Section (P7 to S 6) meet 7-10pm. For further details contact Company Captain David Munro (tel: 862126).



All Friends Together

All Friends Together have been enjoying the summer - from the Annual get-together in May, to the 'summer picnic' - which had to be moved to the Church Centre due to 'inclement weather conditions', in July! It didn't spoil the fun though, as everyone sang, played games and even had a parachute open for some of them! Followed, of course, by our indoor 'picnic'. Another special day was the August Gathering with two special visitors all the way from Immanuel House in Debrecen, Hungary.

As is usual at the Gatherings, everyone enjoyed singing and heard the story of Noah - complete with puppets (see photo) - before making bunting featuring the animals in the Ark, threaded on tartan ribbon for the special guests to take home with them. In September, there was a group outing to the Court House for a Pizza night. Everyone

enjoyed the food and fellowship - though no singing this time! It's hard to believe that the group has now been running for more than three years, and it is only just getting started.

Anne Sutherland



Can You Help? Short-Term Project to Coordinate Church Website Upgrade

How do people find out information these days? We Google it! Our church website is therefore an important way of sharing information about who we are, what we do and what we can offer.

For those regularly in church, we probably don't click on www.kinrossparishchurch.org because we tend to know what's going on, but for anyone else, it's a great way of finding out about us, and it's kept right up to date by our website administrator Margaret Clark.

It's hard to believe, but our current website is almost eight years old and so we are working on a new-look site which will be easier to use and will give us improved functionality in terms of window-display information and back-room administration.

This is really exciting! We are working with the highly-respected Sanctus Media team on the new-look website, who will guide us through the process.

Could you be the Coordinator or part of this project team? The plan is to launch the new website by September 2020.

Questions? Happy to answer them. Please speak with Alice Getley or contact Alice via the Church Office office@kinrossparishchurch.org 01577 862570.

Thank you!



A Word of Thanks

Mal and Alan McGhie would like to thank the members of the congregation who helped us through a trying family event. The prayers, kind words, gifts, and cards helped and supported us in a way we have never experienced before, and were such a comfort. You lifted us up in our darkest days. Thank you.



Summer Mission July 2020: Hungary

The eighth annual 'Scottish Camp' in partnership with the Great Church in Debrecen will take place from **13-17 July 2020**. We will soon be putting

together the team for next summer. Anyone interested in finding out more about what is involved should have a word with Alan Reid.



Fairtrade Sports Balls Changing Lives

While you are buying your Fairtrade Christmas hampers and cards from the Traidcraft stall please also take a look at our Fairtrade Footballs! They are £10 which is a bargain for such good quality and every ball bought makes a difference to the skilled workers who make them.

Bala Sport is the only importer of Fairtrade sports balls in the UK and they give a fairer deal to sports ball workers in Pakistan (where 70% of the world's stitched balls are made) and India.

Fairtrade ensures that workers are paid fairly, work in safe conditions and have access to union representation, and that there is no child or enforced labour. Workers benefit from the extra Fairtrade Premium paid by Bala Sport through democratically elected Premium Committees. Through these the ball producers decide which social development projects to invest the fund in, such as free eye and diabetes tests, free school books, free transport to and from work and a shop for cut-price food and household items. The Fairtrade Premium has been used to part-fund water purification plants built outside factory gates, allowing anyone access to free, safe drinking water.

Bala Sport provided the match balls for the Homeless World Cup in 2016 and 2017. Please check out the website: www.balasport.co.uk



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

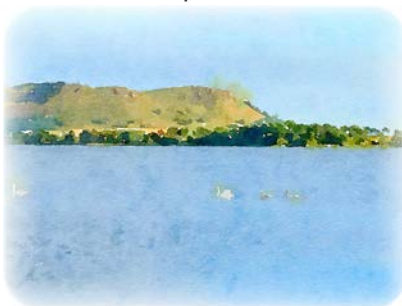
Mid-Week Worship at the Church Centre

Around 20 people gather at our Wednesday morning service, which begins at 10.45am lasts around 30 minutes; all are made most welcome.

We take a collection and our policy is to disperse funds as soon as we reach £500: we recently shared funds to support the Kinross Centre, the Cornhill Macmillan Centre, and Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong, India.

Thank you to all in Kinross Parish Church who support mid-week worship.

Jim Henry



Notelets for Sale from the Church Office

Only £1 each. Six designs of the local area including our church. Reflective Bible verse on the back. Produced by Kinross Parish Church to raise funds for our mission. Pack of 6 makes an excellent gift or for correspondence.

Office open Monday to Friday 10am to 12 noon.



Coffee Stop

The photo shows some of the regulars who come along most Saturday mornings to enjoy coffee/tea and home baking, and in the background two of our faithful helpers who take part in a serving rota. It would be good to see more of the congregation coming to support this outreach to the community. We have a book stall in the Lower Hall as an added attraction. All proceeds go to Church funds. If you have never visited Coffee Stop, we hope to see you there soon.

Margaret Michie

FOOD TIDINGS

If you or someone you know would like a bit of support with the gift of a home-cooked, hot meal delivered to your door, please remember that our Food Tidings Team are here to help you. Perhaps just out of hospital, coping with a new baby, dealing with illness or bereavement, then having a meal brought to you is one less thing to worry about. Food Tidings is for everyone, regardless of their relationship to the Church, and is free.

Contact
kinrossfoodtidings@hotmail.com
or call the Church Office on 01577 862570. *Esther Blackburn*



SUGGEST A CHARITY

Every year the congregation raises funds for four charities beyond the church through the 'Retiring Offerings' at our quarterly communions. The retiring offering in September is supplemented by our Harvest Thanksgiving collection and that in December by donations at our special Christmas services. In addition, a collection at our services on Remembrance Sunday raises money for Poppy Scotland.

The charities are suggested by members of the congregation and the Kirk Session tries to have a mixture of local, national and international charities over the year. Last financial year these collections raised over £6,500.

If you have a charity close to your heart which you would like us to consider supporting, send your suggestion to the Church Office or speak directly to Brian Timms, our Finance Convener.



LIFT YOUR BANNERS HIGH



On 3 November, we dedicated our Remembrance Day banner, strewn with red poppies. A single purple poppy commemorates the animal victims of war.

Earlier in the year we had dedicated our Grow in Christ banner - a beautiful depiction of a tree in leaf, representing strength and grace.

This is the work of the Banner Group, part of the Craft Group: "We share and discuss ideas - perhaps a phrase that Alan has used in a sermon that resonates with us, and we think about how this could be symbolised meaningfully."

Matching the image with the words requires careful thought: "With the Welcome banner, we chose 'All are welcome' because this is Christ's message" and the banner's rich colours stand out against the church's light walls, so it is impactful.

Once the theme is decided, the fabrics are gathered and the work begins, "It is fun and we enjoy what we do".



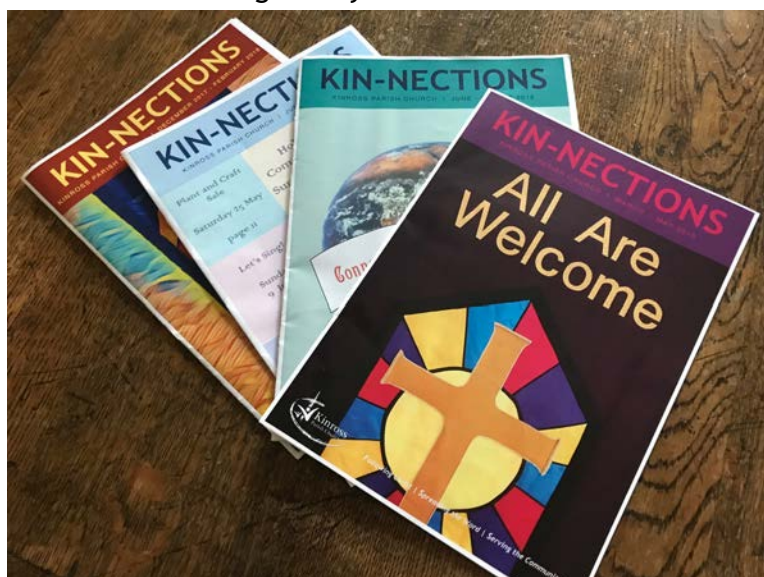
YOUR KIN-NECTIONS MAGAZINE NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for both a new Design Editor and a Managing Editor (administrative aspects) to produce our quarterly Kin-nections magazine. The magazine is currently produced on Mac but can be transferred to another format. Full training and support given from the current Editor, and there is small team of contributors who help.

Being a quarterly production, it is busy for a fortnight around the four deadlines when the magazine is compiled, then is quiet again! The roles are varied, interesting, and fulfilling.

This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in a key aspect of our church's focus on sharing information with the membership and community. Please give these roles prayerful consideration and if you think you or someone you know may be interested, please speak with Alice Getley, Ann Marie Neave or email

kinnectionseditor@gmail.com. Thank you and looking forward to hearing from you.



WE PRAY FOR...

The work of newly Ordained Local Minister Rev Anne Stott, presbytery pioneer worker in Bertha Park, Perth.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Track the Nativity and Meet the Cast!

The Family Week Team invites you to track the Nativity Story, starting and finishing at the church. It's happening from 2-3pm on **Sunday 22 December**. Hunt for the characters from the Christmas Story who will be hidden around the centre of Kinross, and ask them questions to complete the quiz and win a prize.

Finish off and warm up with some hot chocolate and carol singing back at the Church. Everyone welcome.



Christmas Wrap

House Groups will host the Christmas Wrap on **Wednesday 11 December** at 7.30pm in the Church and invite members of the church to come together to wrap gifts which are given to Churches Action for the Homeless (CATH). We will enjoy carols and fellowship, hear about the work of CATH, and as always conclude with festive food. More information later about items to donate for the parcels, but everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy Christmas carols and mince pies (and, of course, wrapping gifts!)



Watch Night Service

Christmas Eve 11.15pm

Gather with friends and family as we usher in Christmas Day with songs of worship.



A Light in Every Street

At the Christmas Market on **24 November**, small packs are being distributed to the public containing a booklet about the Christmas story, an invitation to Christmas events and services, and a tea light. The plan is that when darkness falls on Christmas Eve, the tea light will be lit and placed on a window sill to proclaim the coming of the Light of the World - Jesus.

We invite all those who receive Kin-nections to also be part of this witness and place a lighted tea light on a window sill where it can be seen.

Packs and tea lights are available in the Church leading up to Christmas Eve - just ask any member of the Outreach group if you would like one.

Brenda Fraser, Convenor Outreach Group

Crib Service

Christmas Eve 4.30pm

Children and their grown-ups are warmly invited to join our informal worship and praise of the coming of the Christ child

The Gift of Love

By Diane Taylor

'Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas' - Calvin Coolidge

'And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.' - 1 John 1:14, NIV

I heard The Voice of My God say,

"My Lovely One, I hear your prayer. You, My child, are always on My mind. I know how much this time of year makes your heart swell with joy, with love, with hope and a sense of awe and wonder. The colours of kindness and the joy of twinkling lights, the smells of cinnamon and squeals of delight. Christmas tree pine needles under your feet, cookies and candles and hot chocolate treats. My Child, you are precious, I have made you this way. I love how you love simple pleasures and how you notice that this season is a reminder of how to access your inner child and teach you how to have a simple faith.

I know too the pressures that you quell in your heart. The fear that this Christmas won't go well. The stresses and strains and demands on your time. The endless 'to do' list and expectations running high. I know too the tight grips of sadness and grief which leave your heart in a vice, for those

departed, leaving an empty place at the Christmas table and an empty place in your heart. I know the loneliness you feel, and count the tears you shed. But My child, I am here and urge you to press into Me. When you tighten your belt and push down the panic that finances are not going to stretch far enough, press into Me. When family tensions rise, and hurtful words and actions push you to breaking point, press into Me.

When you see the hurt in others and try to make them hurt a little less, by doing this, they see more of Me. When you give your time, your gifts and your talents to others despite your lack, they see more of Me. When you seek my understanding and react with love, others see Me.

I have made you to have My heart, My dear child, but I don't ask you to face the season alone, for I am with you. I am all that you need.

I am here and I am the Gift of Love."

DIARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Services are listed on the back cover.

Date	Event	More Information
24 November	Kinross Christmas Market, High Street	page 14
6-8 December	Crossfire Weekend Away	page 9
11 December, 7.30pm	Christmas Wrap, Church	page 14
15 December, 10.30am	All-age Nativity Service, Church	page 9
15 December, 7.30pm	Crossfire Christmas Party, Church Centre	page 9
22 December, 2pm	Track the Nativity, Church	page 14
24 December	A Light in Every Street	page 14
12 January, 7.30pm	Crossfire starts for 2020, Church Centre	page 9
4 February, 7.15pm	The Guild starts for 2020, Church Centre	page 10
13-17 July	KPC "Scottish Camp" in Debrecen, Hungary	page 11
3-7 August	Family Week, Church	page 11

A Prayer for Advent

Lord of heaven and earth, mighty Creator, you humbled yourself and came to us as a little child. Come to us anew this Christmas, Lord Jesus, and bring light and hope to us, to our community and to our world, by the grace and love of your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Christmas Services

Sunday 15 December

10.30am – All-age Nativity Service

Monday 16 December

6.30pm – Remembering a Loved One at Christmas

Sunday 22 December

10.30am – Service of Carols and Readings

Tuesday 24 December – Christmas Eve

4.30pm – Crib Service for Families

11.15pm – Watchnight Service

Wednesday 25 December – Christmas Day

10.30am – Christmas morning worship

Sunday 29 December – Christmas Sunday

10.30am – Morning Worship