

Greyfriars Gazette

The newsletter of Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark

www.lanarkgreyfriars.com

November 2015

From the minister ...

Dear Friends,

I am writing this a few days after being confirmed as your Interim Moderator. As you know when a minister is going to be off for any period of time Presbytery have to appoint an Interim Moderator and I'm afraid you are going to be stuck with me for a wee while.

I think that most of you will already know me. I am a Reader in the Presbytery and I have done a fair amount of pulpit supply at Greyfriars over the year. I am currently working as Locum at St Nicholas during their period of vacancy so it seemed to make sense for me to come to you now as Interim Moderator as well as offering some pastoral cover.

This means that I will moderate the Kirk Session when it meets as well as conducting funerals and do some visiting etc.

I cannot do everything that a full time minister does but with the help of the elders and office bearers and most of all the congregation, we can keep things ticking over until Bryan returns.

It's important that we all pull together and get on with the work that needs to be done and with God's help I am sure we will get there.

We are fast approaching the season of Advent and then before we know it Christmas will be upon us. Already I see the signs in some shops and it isn't

even Halloween!

As some of you might know I am left handed and I am always interested in stories about other "corrie fisters".

I recently discovered that many people believe that the artist Picasso was left handed. Indeed many web sites give this information as gospel truth even though he was most certainly right handed. His right handedness is proved by film and photographic evidence, so why then should so many people believe an untruth.

The answer is that they took someone else's words as fact. They assumed that what they read or had been told, was the truth.

It's a reasonable mistake to make because we often have nothing but hearsay to go on, but at the same time we need to be alert to the dangers, for at the end of the day there can be no substitute for first-hand experience. Until we have seen the truth for ourselves, either by witnessing it or testing its veracity, we cannot categorically say that we know something.

This is also true when it comes to knowing God.

We need to learn from the example of the shepherds who when they were told the good news that the Saviour had been born, went to find out for themselves.

We might have been taught the faith when we were children, we might have been brought up in a Christian home; we might have sat in church and shared

countless sermons; we might even know our bible back to front; it makes no difference. What matters is that we have met with Christ; that we have put our trust in him and discovered the truth of his words, the reality of his presence and we have put all of this into practice in our own lives.

This Christmas time don't let your faith rest on someone else's experience, on what others have told you about Jesus; turn to him, open your life to his love and let the gospel be true for you! I look forward to being with you over the next few months. I will do my very best for you.

May I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Your friend in Christ.

Bill.



breakfast with Santa

Saturday 5th December
Clydesdale Inn, Lanark
Adults £5, Children £6

Tickets available from
Clydesdale Inn,
Greyfriars Church Office
or call 01555 437050

Join us for our
GIFT SERVICE
6th December at 11am &
NATIVITY SERVICE
20th December at 11am
Greyfriars Parish Church

Come along and join us as the children of our church lead our service on the 20th. On 6th, please also bring with you a wrapped gift for a child or young person who will not receive many gifts this Christmas. Gifts will be shared between Families Outside & New Beginnings. Please mark the gift with 'boy' or 'girl' & an approximate age

Resources Action Group

There has been activity on the upkeep and maintenance of the church and Manse over recent months. The main item was the sanding and resealing of the hall which was carried out in early July and I am sure you will all agree that it is a great improvement. The projector in the church was replaced and upgraded and we are most grateful for the anonymous donation towards this cost.

A volunteer group painted the hall and staircase in the manse in the summer.

The church computer was replaced and we are indebted to Andrew Mathieson for his assistance with this project.

We have ongoing issues with the organ which continues to be unreliable despite regular servicing. A group is looking at the situation and considering our options for its future.

The heating system also requires modernising as it is not reliable and is much less efficient than more modern systems. Here again future options are being considered.

Looking at our finances you will recall that we managed to achieve small surpluses in the years 2013 and 2014. Unfortunately in the first 6 months of this year we have slipped back in to a deficit of around £5,000.

The voluntary income has fallen compared to last year which included a significant donation. We continue to benefit from significant income from the hire of our premises and our printing services.

The fundraising group continue to be very active and in the second half of this year they have organised the Flower Festival and the Shine concert and further events are planned before the end of the year. We are grateful to all concerned.

However our financial future continues to be heavily dependent on giving from our members and we would ask everyone to review their contributions and to increase them if at all possible. Also a reminder that the church can recover an additional 25% through gift aid tax recoveries if you are a UK taxpayer.

Greyfriars Guild



In September our joint annual re-dedication service was hosted by St Nicholas Guild. Worship was led by Bill Love and a lovely supper was provided by the ladies of the Guild.

Our first meeting in October was entitled 'Engaging Youngsters in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. We were blown away by the project and the sheer enthusiasm of our speaker Peter Hughes who swept us along, with a most engaging talk. On 21st October St Nicholas Guild were our guests when we enjoyed a wonderful audio visual evening with Bill Barr. His fine

scenes of Scotland, the North East of England and Italy combined with his friendly banter were much enjoyed by everyone.

As I write we look forward to a visit from Dr Bruce Davis who will speak on Mission Aviation Fellowship and later in November the World Mission Rally is in St Nicholas Church. At the beginning of December we are off to The Inn on the Loch for lunch and then we will have a break until January 13th when Alison Burroughs will speak on the Pitfalls and Pleasures of Living in France.

Our grateful thanks to Alan Boyd who has helped us with the sound system and screen etc. in Bryan's absence.

At the moment we are a group of 31 ladies. Come along and join us or visit us on any occasion.

Ladies and gents are very welcome.



"Want to keep Christ in Christmas?"

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you."

Steve Maraboli

Anna, Moderator of Lanark Presbytery

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of our very own elder from Greyfriars Parish Church, Anna Lumsden, as this year's Moderator of Lanark Presbytery! It is usually a parish minister who holds the position, and although there has been an elder elected as Moderator of Lanark Presbytery before, Anna is the first female elder to be appointed. She was inducted into her role during an evening service held in Greyfriars Church on 1st September, which was very well attended and supported by congregational members of Greyfriars and other churches from the Presbytery. Anna is well known around the Presbytery and it was lovely to see such great support for her filling our pews.

What is the Moderator of Lanark Presbytery? There are three main courts within the Church of Scotland: 1. Each parish church has a Kirk Session (it's moderator is usually the parish minister); 2. Each local area has a Presbytery made up of several parishes within its bounds - our local Presbytery is Lanark - and it's Moderator is appointed for one year; 3. Finally, there is the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, representing all of Scotland's Presbyteries, and again, it's Moderator is appointed for one year.

Each Moderator presides over their court's meetings, similar to a convener of a church committee and is thus the chairperson. They call and constitute the meetings, lead worship, chair the meetings, and close the meetings in prayer. They also induct new ministers to Presbytery, and with around half the charges in Lanark Presbytery currently vacant, Anna is probably hoping there will be some activity in this area!

Anna says she feels hugely honoured to have been selected for this role and is sure there will be a mixture of significant challenges and joyful moments throughout her year ahead. We prayerfully wish her every success in this big role - congratulations and good luck, Anna!

Lanark's Hills

See the hills in Lanark
They get steeper every day.
My footsteps they get slower
As I try to climb the brae.

I stop and have a blether
With all the folk I meet.
It lets me get my breath back
And rests my weary feet.

And as I struggle upwards
To myself I say

"If Lanark were on a see-saw
We could tilt the other way!"

Elsbeth Riddet

Mission & Nurture Action Group

Christmas is coming and Greyfriars is getting ready. As in previous years we have many activities planned for Christmas: Breakfast with Santa, Nativity Service, Gift Service, Sunday School Party etc.etc. Our visit to Robert Owen Primary when we join with our friends at Christ Church to take the Christmas Story to the children at Robert Owen and New Lanark Primary Schools is a big event for us. Hopefully this year will be as successful as previous years. When we first started there was a strong feeling that the Good News was "news" to many of the children and we were able to relate the great social celebration of Christmas with it's real meaning. In doing so we managed to build up a great relationship with both schools, our friends at Christ Church and the young people of Lanark Grammar who have so enthusiastically helped us. Bryan and Dan have provided steady and sure leadership with this school day. Sadly Dan is no longer with us and we will be reminded of our loss when we meet this year. We will also be reminded of all that Dan did in Lanark, for it is the contribution of people like Dan that makes our mission in Lanark work. If you would like to be reminded of the Christmas build up we all remember from our school days

please come along and help. As is always the case just one or two extra people makes all the difference.

I am always a bit worried that someone will ask me a really difficult question such as " what is mission?". Like most, I would struggle. Mission is something that is easier to see than describe. We can, with good intention, plan all of the mission activities we can think of and are able to attempt and then we are presented with wonderful examples that we did not plan or intend. This year we had a Flower Festival in the Church and it was a great success. It raised money and spirits in equal measure. It was also one of our biggest mission events of the year. It was not planned as such but it was. Over the planning for the festival and the days it was on, Greyfriars harnessed the skill of its people and friends in the community, gathered the sponsorship of those in the community who value our Church and brought the community into our church to celebrate the beauty of creation. I think it is worth pausing and thinking about just how much we achieve with a time honoured coffee morning and a kids disco. The Flower Festival was a wonderful example of this. Perhaps it is not such a difficult question after all.

What is CrossReach?

CrossReach was launched in June 2005 and was previously known as the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility. Under its new name, CrossReach continues the Church of Scotland's long tradition of providing care and support.

The Moderator of the General Assembly Rt. Rev Dr Angus Morrison recently said that CrossReach is ' the epitome of what the Church means' : "In November, I will take part in CrossReach Week- an annual event during which the Church of Scotland recognises and celebrates devoted service rendered ' in Christs' name to others. Through CrossReach, the Church of Scotland is one of the largest providers of social care in the land, recognised by local authorities and regulators as being of the highest quality. Social care is a vital part of our society. Our commitment to human rights places a justified priority on equality, yet some people in Scotland today still face barriers which threaten to prevent them from participating as equals in the life of their community. Social care is about overcoming those barriers- whether illness, disability



providing a caring future

or another circumstance- so that everyone has choice about, and control over, the way they live their lives. For me CrossReach Week is an opportunity to reflect on the phenomenal service being given by those working in social care. Through CrossReach, the Church of Scotland has been involved in social care for nearly 150 years, evolving to meet the changing needs of our society. Many thousands of lives have been transformed by this dedicated and determined service, people have been enabled to contribute to, and enrich, their communities. CrossReach work in social care is a demonstration of practical, neighbourly love: love incarnated in the places where people most need such love. This is the motivation for the work of CrossReach and the church's involvement in social care. It is an expression of our faith. The local church shares this motivation, and so my hope is that we can draw on the experience of CrossReach to make a positive difference in society. Social is a means of liberation and empowerment, without it our society would be so much poorer".

From Bryan ...

I would like to say thank you for all of the kind messages, thoughts and prayers that people have been offering during this time I have had off. Progress is quite slow but I am in good hands both medically with the NHS and personally with Pauline and the girls.

I do hope to be back amongst you soon, but in the meantime, please continue to work for our church, share God's love and join together in worship. Thank you once again.

Greyfriars Worship

Worship is at the heart of all that we do in Greyfriars. There are many opportunities to come together for worship and we hope to be able to welcome you to some or all of our services.

November

22nd 11am Morning Worship
29th 9:30am Traditional Communion Service
11am Morning Worship

December

6th 11am Gift Service & Sacrament of Holy Communion
13th 11am Morning Worship
20th 11am Nativity Service
24th 10:30pm Mince Pies
11:15pm Carol Singing
11:30pm Watchnight Service
25th 10:30am Christmas Day Service
27th 11am Morning Worship

January

3rd 10:30am Morning Worship in St. Nicholas Church
10th 11am Morning Worship
17th 11am Morning Worship
24th 11am Morning Worship
31st 9:30am Traditional Communion Service
11am Morning Worship

February

7th 10:30am Morning Worship in St. Nicholas Church
14th 11am Morning Worship
21st 11am Morning Worship
28th 9:30am Traditional Communion Service
11am Morning Worship

Remember that we want as many people as possible to be a part of our worship at Greyfriars. If you cannot attend our services you can watch it live, or when convenient, on the church website.

We look forward to worshipping with you in Greyfriars.



For children and young people ...

Facts about snowflakes

How does snow form?

Snow crystals form in clouds when the temperature is below freezing point. They are created by water droplets freezing on small ice particles. As an ice crystal drops through the cloud it bumps and knocks others and becomes a snowflake. This process of bumping others, along with a little melting and re-freezing aids the creation of their complex design. The air that the snowflake drops through has to be below freezing temperature otherwise the snowflake will simply melt and turn into rain.

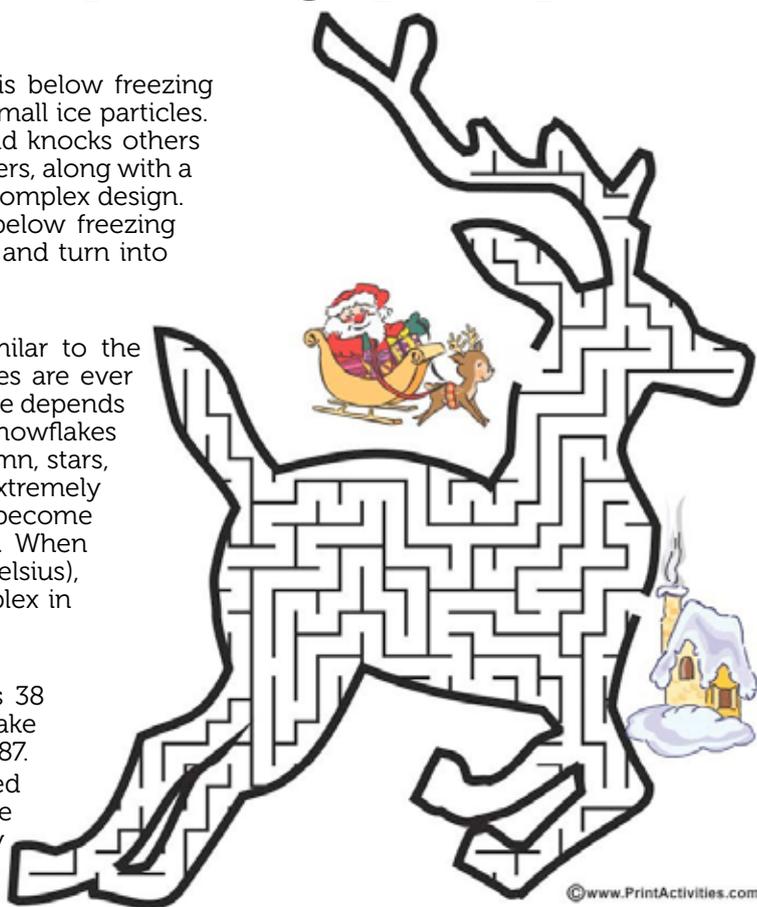
What do snowflakes look like?

Amazingly, snowflakes always have six sides and similar to the human fingerprint, it is thought that no two snowflakes are ever exactly the same. Both the form and shape of a snowflake depends on the temperature and moisture content of the cloud. Snowflakes can be categorized into six main types, plate (flat), column, stars, dendrite (lacy), needle, and capped column. When it is extremely cold the snow is very fine and powdery and snowflakes become quite simple in design, usually needle or rod shaped. When the temperature is near to freezing point (0 degrees Celsius), snowflakes become much larger and a lot more complex in design, for example, a star.

Snowflake Facts

The world's largest ever snowflake found to date was 38 centimetres wide and 20 centimetres thick. This snowflake occurred at Fort Keogh, Montana, USA on 28 January 1887.

The world's tallest ever snowman recorded measured a massive 34.63 metres and was made by the people of Bethel, Maine, USA. It took 2 weeks to build, finally being completed on 17 February 1999. The snowman, nicknamed Angus was so big that he had vehicle tyres for his mouth and trees for arms!



©www.PrintActivities.com



Re-Connect

What most of us would call a good friend can sometimes be increasingly harder to find as we get older. But a good friend is what older

people who have benefited from the support of the Re-Connect project say about its volunteers.

Re-Connect is a Healthy Valleys' project which offers support and help to isolated older people living in Clydesdale who need help to link them back into the local community.

The focus of Re-Connect is older people who are living in their own homes and are facing a range of disadvantages which increase their

isolation, making it difficult for them to live independently. For example, living alone, having caring responsibilities or recently bereaved, living with a disability or long term condition, poor mental health or recently discharged from hospital.

Re-Connect volunteers will provide practical support by visiting them at home, getting to know them, assisting them to get out and about and connect with old friends as well as relevant local services, clubs and opportunities in their communities. As the older person gains confidence and makes new links and friends, the volunteers step back and often go on to support another older person in need of similar support.

To find out more about Re-Connect please contact Fiona Gairns, Re-Connect Development Worker. 01555880666 / 07872160992

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

advent	frankincense	myrrh
angel	jesus	nativity
bethlehem	joseph	rejoice
birth	magi	stable
blessings	manger	star
camels	mary	three kings
infant	miracle	wise men

Greyfriars Church Contacts

Minister: Rev Bryan Kerr B.A., B.D. 437050
 Greyfriars Manse, 3 Bellefield Way, Lanark, ML11 7NW 663363
 Email: bkerr@churchofscotland.org.uk

Administrator: Morag Kelso 437050
 Email: morag@lanarkgreyfriars.com

Session Clerk: Graham Chapman 661385
 Email: sessionclerk@lanarkgreyfriars.com

For all other office bearers or enquiries, please contact the church office

Deadline

Material for the next edition of the *Greyfriars Gazette*, to be published in mid February, should be passed to the church office, or emailed to magazine@lanarkgreyfriars.com by Sunday 31st January 2016 at the latest.