

Greyfriars Gazette

The newsletter of Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark

www.lanarkgreyfriars.com

November 2018

From the minister ...

Dear friends,

What a privilege it is to minister alongside you!

I have great news to share with you! There are some 2.2 billion Christians in the world, roughly about a third of the world's population. And in a country like China, where there were only 4 million Christians 80 years ago, there are now 67 million, and growing at a rate of about 7% per annum! So the worldwide Church is, as we say in Church circles, "in good heart"!

Now the bad news! In the Church of Scotland we have been in constant decline numerically for the last 60 years. In the last 10 years our membership has gone from half a million down to 336,000, losing on average about 15,000 members per annum. And you and I both know that not all members come along regularly and get actively involved in the life of the Church, so cut to the chase, we are in a spot of bother! To be honest, we are facing the final demise of the Church of Scotland as we presently know it. One of our elderly members said to me recently, "The young folk of today don't come to Church anymore, so it'll be the end when we go!" The number of ministers will also fall in the next 5 years from 932 to 611. In the sunny worldwide picture, that is the dark cloud that now hangs over us.

We now live in a secular Scotland and, like much of Europe, we have seen the decline of Christianity in our land. It is easy to say that folk are not interested anymore in the Christian faith and that is partly true, even though there is some evidence to suggest that many are interested in the Christian faith,

just not in the way we serve it in the institution we know as the Church of Scotland. Is it not our task to make people interested in the Gospel again?

We have two choices. We can ignore this picture and continue decline until we fade away, or we can try, with God's help, to do something about it. I'm going for the latter option and I challenge you to choose it too!

I am not telling you something that you don't already know, deep in your heart. Look around you at Church, in worship and at various meetings, and we know that grey in the predominant colour. Yes, we give thanks for the families we have coming along, as well as our younger members, but the numbers just don't stack up. We cannot keep the show, as we know it, on the road for much longer.

Can life come back to these dry bones? Yes it can! Not by a resurgence of the old ways, but by letting God's Spirit breathe new life in new ways through his Church. What does that mean for us? It means radical change - if you thought a few new hymns was troubling, or sitting around tables in a cafe style was auspacmedia.com.au/ challenging then you ain't seen nothing yet! To our joint shame, the Church has been too slow to change these last 60 years - WE have been slow to change these last 60 years - this is our last wake up call before the snooze button gives up on us!

Radical change, what does that look like? In some places it is already starting, with new ways of Church emerging. It could mean giving up Church buildings and joining with other Churches nearby to share

resources; it will mean looking at new ways in which you can connect with your community, an outward looking Church; it will mean letting go of old ways that are now out-dated. We are set in an historic Royal Burgh ... but that doesn't mean that we need to let the past define us, or our history subsume us. Radical change in the churches in our area will be different for Churches whether they are rural, city, town, or leafy suburb, but all will need to make sacrifices. To date, many have stubbornly refused to change, but they will have to. May God grant us all the courage to follow Jesus anew into the unknown. Whilst there is inevitably a measure of sadness at letting go the past, there is a greater measure of excitement as we seek to meet God's challenge to us today!

What now? The General Assembly has asked it's Council of Assembly to produce a three year radical plan that will hopefully strike at the heart of our structures to make them lean and fit for purpose; our Presbytery is tasked to be robust and imaginative in planning with Churches for the road ahead; and for local Churches like ours, we need to sit down, reflect and pray, and see what vision God has for us for the next three years and more!

Follow me...make disciples...do not be afraid...I will be with you...time for us all to get back to basics! It will be a different Church but are you willing to help re-build it?

Your friend and fellow minister,
Bryan

(letter adapted from an open letter written by Rev Robert Allan, to the congregations of Falkirk: Trinity)



Christmas Events



24 th November	Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning, Greyfriars Church	10am
2 nd December	Advent Communion Service	11am
2 nd December	Blessing of the Town Nativity, Outside the tollbooth	5.15pm
8 th December	Breakfast with Santa, The Clydesdale Inn	9.30am & 10.45am
9 th December	Christmas Gift Service (Toys and presents) (see p.12)	11am
9 th December	Jingle Bell Rock... Greyfriars Church Children and Young Peoples Carol Service	6.30pm
12 th December	A star, a stable and a thirty foot security wall. TBC A fun and lively discussion evening	7.30pm
16 th December	Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children	11am
18 th December	Family Christmas Storytelling, Greyfriars Church	6.30pm
21 st December	Christmas Movie Time, Greyfriars Church	7pm
23 rd December	Nativity Service, Greyfriars Church	11am
24 th December	Beer, Carols and Pub Quiz with Greyfriars, The Clydesdale Inn	8pm
24 th December	Christmas Eve Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, Greyfriars Church	10.30pm
24 th December	Christmas Eve Community Carol Singing, Greyfriars Church	11pm
24 th December	Community Watchnight Celebration	11.30pm
25 th December	Christmas Day Service at St. Nicholas	10:30am
30 th December	Lessons & Carols (in Greyfriars)	10:30am

Greyfriars Guild



Well here we are again, ladies (and gentlemen) a new session of our guild. The 2017/2018 session went well, although we had a small problem weather wise. When we did have our meeting they were many and varied, both educational and entertaining. Our guild projects got their usual donations, which I am sure were gratefully received. We will shortly be choosing our new projects for the next session, more on this later.

We started our new session on September 12th, with our payments of dues and a quiz night, always good for a laugh, a good night was had by all. Things are going to be a bit different for us this year as, after many years Marlene has stepped down as president, although she is staying on the committee, so will be there if any help or advice is needed. June has also retired from the committee after many years. We are hoping to carry on as usual, with all of us taking a more pivotal role.

We had our rededication service on Wednesday 26th September joined by our friends from St Nicholas, ably taken by our minister Bryan, who also brought along John Love, our organist to accompany us in our wonderful hymns.

We have a varied syllabus this year, from tales in the classroom to BBC correspondent to a carnival in Venice. Instead of our usual Easter bonnet night, we thought we would have a decorated egg competition.

Anyone who would like to come along to any of our meetings will be made very welcome. We had some new friends join us this year which is wonderful, always looking for new members, trying to keep our guild alive.

We hope you will all pray for us as we embark in our new roles.



SING A SONG FOR CHRISTMAS



This year will be the 42nd time that Sing a Song for Christmas will have been held and over that period many thousands of pounds have been raised for the work of Christian Aid. Thank you, people of Lanark.

The schools and youth organisations of Lanark will again be taking part in this year's celebration so why don't you come along and join them and get this year's festive period off to a positive beginning.

Sing a Song will be held in St Mary's Church at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th December.

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

25th 9.30am Traditional Communion
11am All Age Cafe Worship

December

2nd 11am Communion
9th 11am Gift Service (see page 12 for more details)
16th 11am Morning Worship
23rd 11am Nativity Service
24th 8pm Beer & Carols
11pm Community Carols
11:30pm Watchnight Celebration
25th 10:30am Christmas Day Worship in St. Nicholas
30th 10:30am Joint Lessons & Carols

January

6th 10:30am Joint Worship (St. Nicholas)
13th 11am Morning Worship
20th 11am Morning Worship
27th 9.30am Traditional Communion
11am All Age Cafe Worship

February

3rd 11am Morning Worship
10th 11am Morning Worship
17th 11am Morning Worship
24th 9.30am Traditional Communion
11am All Age Cafe Worship

March

3rd 11am Communion
10th 11am Morning Worship
17th 11am Morning Worship
24th 9.30am Traditional Communion
11am All Age Cafe Worship

At Greyfriars we offer different types of worship services. Why? Firstly, we are a family comprising of individuals who all appreciate different styles. Secondly, we seek to share God's love with our community, where many have no experience of what 'church' might be, and so we understand the need to offer new ideas and experiences to allow people to experience God.

We broadcast our worship online at greyfriars.church/live and those who join us there speak of how connected they feel with those physically inside the church.

You are welcome to join us at any of our services in person or online.



From Our Partners

Greyfriars New Mission Partner: Rev John McCulloch in the Holy Land



John McCulloch grew up in France, Spain and Scotland, and then lived in Bolivia for a year, where he worked for a project that helped street children. Prior to training for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in The Church of Scotland, John was Head of Hispanic Studies at Glasgow University, where he lectured on Hispanic literature, history, politics and Continental Philosophy.

He left his academic career to respond to the call into ministry, completing his theological degree at Highland Theological College. He did his ministry placements in Govan & Linthouse, Bearsden, St Andrews Jerusalem and his probationary in the parishes of Lochgoilhead and Kilmorich l/w Strachur & Strathlachlan in rural Argyll. During his ministry training he spent some time in Central America.

John is married to Annette McCulloch, who is a GP with considerable experience in the field of refugee medicine and emergency care, and she hopes to be able to use some of the skills in the context of Israel/Palestine and the wider region.

John has four children, Esther, Anna, Joseph and David.

Extracts from his letter

The Church of Scotland has

partners within Gaza who work with education, primary care and other programmes. Gaza is roughly the same size as the island of Jura. Whilst Jura has around 200 inhabitants, Gaza has close to 2 million. A large proportion of the population are children and young people, living in conditions that the UN has described as “unsustainable” for human life. Any escalation in violence in such a densely populated area will cause untold suffering on a population that has already been subjected to so much. How the Church of Scotland can best support our brothers and sisters in Gaza is something that will be at the top of my list of priorities.

There are many strands to our work out here: building the churches, supporting the work of Tabeetha School in Jaffa, looking after our staff and institutions (The Guest House in Jerusalem and the Scotts Hotel in Tiberias), accompanying the pilgrims who visit the Holy Land, and engaging in advocacy for the circa 30 partners the Church of Scotland works with here, across Israel and the Palestine Territory.

Our work and mission is to be alongside Palestinians and Israelis, Jews, Arabs, Druze and many others who live in this beautiful and yet conflicted land. And I will say one thing at the very start of my ministry here. What I am about to write are not my words but have been expressed by many others before, but they do sum up for me how we should move through this land:

“Any solution to

Palestinian and Israeli situation has to do four things. It has to be pro-Israeli, pro-Palestinian, pro-justice and pro-peace. There are many ways of being pro-Palestinian that makes you anti-Israeli, and ways of being pro-Israeli that makes you anti-Palestinian. These have to be avoided”.

One of the challenges here is to see everyone through the eyes of compassion, and not to dehumanise the other, even those who are part of the structures of violence and injustice. It is not just the occupied who need liberating, but the occupiers.

Desmond Tutu once said:

“When we see others as the enemy, we risk becoming what we hate. When we oppress others, we end up oppressing ourselves. All of our humanity is dependent upon recognising the humanity in others”.

Seeing the humanity of those across the social-religious and political divides, and standing with those who are wanting to bring about a more just, compassionate and caring world is central to our mission here.

We greatly appreciate your continued prayers and support.

John, Annette and family.





Clydesdale Food Bank is a SCIO,
Scottish charity no SC045073

Greyfriars Church family is a valued supporter of the Food Bank, which has been operational since 2013.

It was started by the joint churches in Carluke, in response to an awareness of a growing need.

It was quickly realised that it was necessary to look at a larger area, consequently it now serves all of Clydesdale. It is supported by churches of all denominations in the area, as well as schools, clubs, a variety of organisations, and private individuals.

It is run by volunteers who give many hours sorting, packing, and

delivering food, as well as fund-raising.

It provides emergency food, household cleaning and personal hygiene needs, without judgement, to those who, for whatever reason, find themselves unable to adequately feed themselves or their families. In ALL cases, this is in response to a referral from a nominated agency.

All referrals are dealt with by home delivery, due to the widespread rural nature of Clydesdale. A team of volunteer drivers and deliverers provide this service on a rota basis.

As well as the main hub in Carluke High St (next to Boots) there are distribution sites in Lanark, Biggar, Douglas, Carstairs and Kirkmuirhill, where food can be stored until needed. Each centre has its own co-ordinator and teams of volunteers.

In addition to the packs of food, each client receives up to £10 worth of fresh food. With no public funding, they rely totally

on the generosity of the people of Clydesdale.

Donation trolleys available in Tesco, as well as other supermarkets, or can be handed in to church, or church office. Lists of suitable items are on notice board in Hall, with regular updates in Sunday Intimations.

Thanks to all who support this cause-it is hugely appreciated.



Commemorating 25 Years of Light Up a Life

Christmas is often a time to celebrate but it is also a time to remember our loved ones. Light Up a Life gives our supporters the opportunity to sponsor a light on our Hospice tree or on a tree at one of 32 locations across North and South Lanarkshire throughout the festive period. When you sponsor a light in memory or honour of a loved one, we will send a handwritten, personalised card to let someone know that you are thinking of them.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports our Light Up a Life campaign, which for 25 years has been providing comfort to people who know there is a light shining brightly in their community for their loved one.

If you would like to take part in our Light Up a Life campaign this year, you can complete the form in our Hospice reception, in any of our Hospice shops, by calling 01236 766951 or by visiting www.st-andrews-hospice.com

A wee chuckle ...

A little girl was sitting on her Grandmother's knee, as she read her a bedtime story.

From time to time the little girl took her eyes off the book and reached up to stroke her Grandmother's wrinkled cheeks. Then stroked her own cheek.

Finally she said. "Grandma, Did God make you".

Yes Grandma replied. "God made me"

Then the little girl asked "Did God make me?"

"Yes" her Grandmother replied " God did make you "

There was a pause before the little girl said "Getting better isn't he?"

Sunday School

Both Primary and Senior Sunday School have welcomed new boys and girls to their departments ensuring that the teachers and helpers are kept on their toes. The youngsters are enquiring and full of fun and questions!

We continue to use "Spill the Beans" material which complements the themes followed during the church service. The Family services are enjoyed by us all allowing an opportunity to feel "at home" in the church.

Our Hallowe'en party on Friday 26th October was "Spooky"-e-licious with wonderful costumes. One of our Dads even came riding on a unicorn. Thanks to all helpers including our Kilnie

Club friends. Traditional games and "dookin for apples" were the order of the night.

We look forward to hearing the Christmas story and taking part in our interpretation of the Nativity on the 23rd December when we hope as many people as possible will be able to join us.

Dates to note:

Visit to Lanark Panto "Aladdin" Sunday, 2nd December 2pm, Lanark Memorial Hall

Christmas Party Friday, 21st December from 1pm

Visit to the Secc Panto "Cinderella" Thursday 27th December leaving from Greyfriars 12.30pm

Christmas Coffee Morning
Saturday 24th November
10am - 1pm, Greyfriars Church
Entry £3



Coffee, Cake, Christmas Crafts, Tombola,
Fun & More.....

Gift Day ... Thank you

It is never easy decision to write to members seeking support in terms of our financial situation, however it is very easy to say 'thank you' when our members respond.

Our recent appeal has realised an astonishing £13,300 (which includes the figure from Gift Aid). So quite simply, thank you. This sum allows us to continue to

share the love of God within our community. With the money that so many give regularly to the work of Greyfriars this makes a huge difference.

There is still much work to be done to ensure a stable financial future. We encourage every member to look at their regular offering to the church. More of that on page 11 ... but for now, again, thank you.

Lanark & District U3A

We are a group that is available to anyone who is retired or semi-retired.

We were formed in 2011 by a handful of dedicated members. The membership has grown to 200+ members in a very short space of time. We first had our monthly meetings in Greyfriars Church, but as our membership grew we needed to find somewhere larger and so our monthly meetings are now in the Lanark Memorial hall which can accommodate hundreds.

You can join a vibrant crowd of local people. It won't take long for you to make new friends and get involved in something that interests you. Members participate as much, or as little, as they want.

Groups Information:

Monday

Photography, Social Cycling, Sugar Craft, Yoga, Scrabble (Alternate Mon/Thurs)

Tuesday

Coffee Morning, Gardening, Humour, Art, Book Club 1, Bookworms, Line Dancing

Wednesday

Outings, Walking, Book Club 2, Lunch, Ukulele, Mindfulness (monthly)

Thursday

Badminton, Craft and Cards, Family History, French Conversation, Poetry Reading, Poetry Writing, Scrabble (Alternate Mon/Thurs), Thai Chi

Friday

Circle Dancing, Pub Lunch & Discussion, Singing, Table Tennis Sunday Croquet
No Fixed Day Art Appreciation, Theatre

We are adding to our activities all the time and hope to be soon able to offer Bridge and Knit and Natter.

For more information visit our website u3a-lanark.xyz

Wrigglers

Parent/ Carer Baby and Toddler Group



Fridays from 9:45 - 11:45am
Greyfriars Church Hall
(Bloomgate, Lanark)

For more details call 01555 437050
or visit fb.me/langreyfriars

Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (Church of Scotland) a charity, registered in Scotland, SC016504

Holiday Club

It is almost time to start planning for our 2019 Holiday Club, Freedom Resort.

Each year in April we offer a week of activities to children from across our community, whether or not they are connected to Greyfriars.

Each morning there is a mix of songs, games, crafts, fun and silliness. Led by a team of volunteers from Greyfriars the holiday club seeks to encourage the children to think about who they are, their relationship with others in our community and world, and their relationship with God.

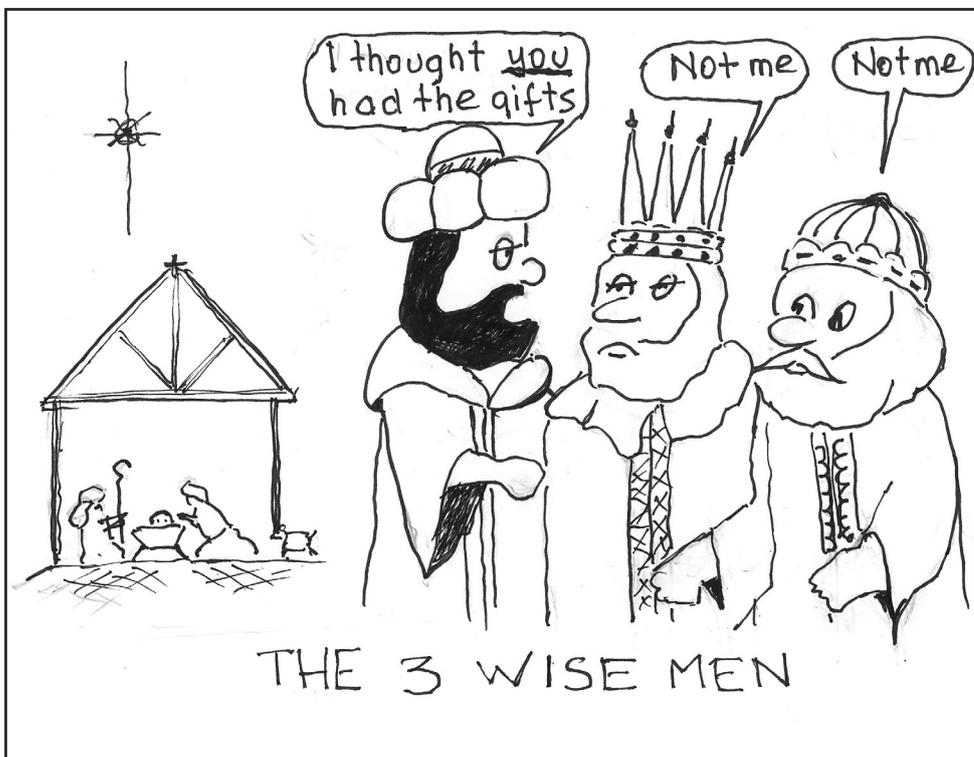
The holiday club is normally fully subscribed with over 100 children attending each morning. If you know of anyone who might like to come along then please let them know. Parents and carers

Freedom Resort



should watch our facebook page (fb.me/langreyfriars) or our website for information on how to register your child. Registration opens towards the end of January 2019.

Our holiday club is free to attend and everyone is guaranteed to have a great time. So join us at Freedom Resort and discover the freedom we can know when we live together in community.



HELP!

Christmas Activity Day, 6th December.

Once again, this year we are running the activity day at Robert Owen Memorial Primary School. We aim to take the Christmas story to all the children and helping them think about the true message of Christmas in lots of new ways.

Again this year we will be joined by pupils from New Lanark Primary giving us a very full day.

If you feel you would be able to help us by being at the school that day please contact the Church office as soon as possible on 01555 437050.

If you are unable to make it we would be grateful for your prayers to help us in the preparation and through this very busy day.

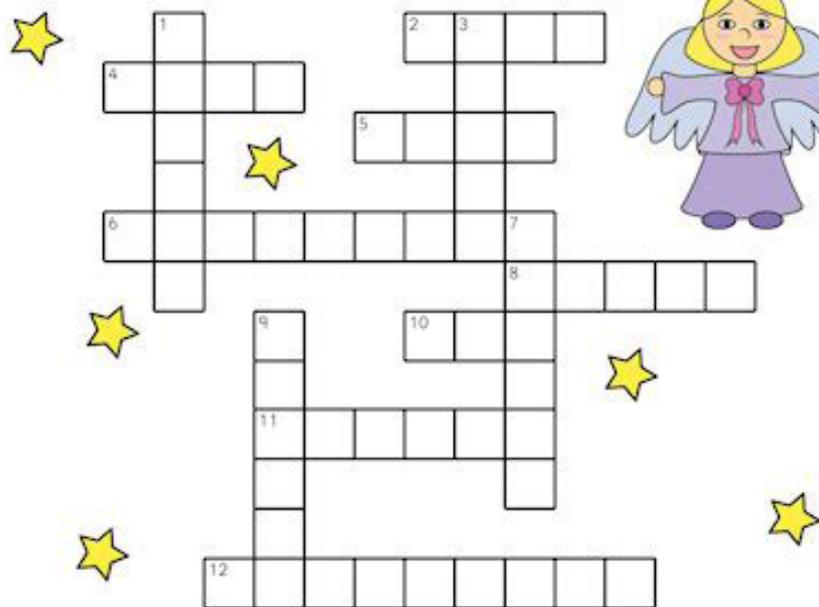
Changes In Our Office

In August there was another change in our church that some people may have missed, after nearly 4 years in our Church office Morag decided it was time to move on and explore a new role as a School Support Assistant. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Morag for her work in the office and the wider support she gave to all the organisations that use our premise. We wish her all the best and pray God will support her in this new role.

This left a vacancy in our office which we are glad has been filled, Helen Paget, a member of our congregation has taken on this role. After many years of working in admin and finance in a company in Glasgow she had found herself at a bit of a loose end just at the right time. The office is now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 1pm for anything you might need.

Contact details
 E: hpaget@lanarkgreyfriars.com
 T: 01555 437050

The Nativity Crossword



Across

2. The Wise Men followed this.
4. Precious metal given to the baby Jesus as a gift.
5. Mother of Jesus.
6. The town that Jesus was born in.
8. Mary was visited by one to tell her she would have a baby.
10. There was no room here for Mary and Joseph.
11. Baby Jesus was born in this building.
12. A angel visited them to tell them about the birth as they watched their sheep.

Down

1. Mary rode on one.
3. The number of kings or wise men who visited Jesus.
7. Jesus was laid in here as a crib.
9. Mary's husband.



COMPUTER WIZARD

Did you know the church has a wizard as one of its members? Well it does and he's nothing to do with Harry Potter. His name



is Andrew Mathieson and its him we have to thank for the amazing computer programs he has generated for Greyfriars. He can be a little bit invisible as he teaches down in England but we hope to see him over the Christmas period. Thank you Andrew for all that you do for Greyfriars Church.



breakfast with Santa

**Saturday
8th December
9:30am & 10:45am
Clydesdale Inn, Lanark
Adults £5, Children £6**

**Tickets available online* at
tickets.greyfriars.church
from Clydesdale Inn,
or call 01555 437050**

* A small banking fee applies to online orders.
Organised by Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (Church of Scotland). SC114594

Join us around our table ...

Everyone loves to get together around a table and share some food. At Greyfriars we are no different. Over the next few months we have a number of opportunities for people to gather, talk and eat together. We would love it if you were able to join us at some of these.

On Sunday 4th November we held a Pot Luck lunch with enough food to feed a passing battalion .. so don't worry there will always be enough for one more.

Join us on the following dates:

Sunday 9th December 2018 - 12noon - Soup & Sandwich Lunch

Sunday 27th January 2019 - 10am - Bacon Butty Breakfast

Sunday 3rd March 2019 - 12noon - Pancake Lunch

We can't wait to welcome you around our table.



Kilninie Club

Lanimer Time is on-going. We thank everyone, especially our nonogenerian designer - Keith for ensuring that our 2018 Lanimer Entry was wonderful. No rest though for our hard working flower ladies who are being presented with paper for next year! What's the theme?.....PINNOCHIO, chosen by the kids via the Activity Club.

We here had good attendance at the club, nest one being on Sunday 18th November from 1pm when we are showing, guess what? - Disney's Pinocchio.

Grateful thanks to all who participate and/or supported M&Co Fashion Show in September, many budding models in all age ranges.

Our main fundraiser - "Ladies Extravaganza" will be in Greyfriars Church on Friday 16th November at 7.30pm when we will have a fashion show by Brooks of Lanark followed by a DJ and entertainment. A glass of prosecco and nibbles are also included in the price of the ticket. We hope this will be a special evening.

Dates to note:

Lanimer Illuminated Parade - Light up Lanark Spectacular, Friday 23rd November 6pm.

A Year Has Passed In Our Church



It has been a whole year since we re-opened the Church after it went through major refurbishment. No more pews, heating that comes on when it is meant to and a flexible space which allows us to come together in a myriad of new ways. For some people this has been and continues to be, a difficult change to the fabric of our building but for many it has breathed a new life into the space. We have celebrated all the events on our Church calendar from Harvest and Christmas to Easter and our holiday club but we now include a cafe style church once month, meeting round tables and talking to one another face to face. There is still a traditional early service each month at 9.30am and most Sundays we sit in rows and worship together as generations have done before us but we have also celebrated communion in the round and

enjoyed many types of activities now made possible by the open space and the new technology we have access to.

We no longer consider the Church building a space for just the congregation on a Sunday. Whilst some mourn the

memories of the family pew others have seen the possibilities of the now open space and at times, this has been one and the same person. We have been able to offer a more flexible arrangement to many groups within our community as well as using the space ourselves. Each week we now have groups from both within the Church and community activities taking place, as well as one off meetings and events. In the past year we have had theatre in the form of 'A Monks Tale' which was enjoyed by many, the return of Fun Box for the younger members and the Watoto childrens choir made a return visit. We have had a wide range of meetings including piping practice, computer courses and community information evenings.

All of this has been made

possible because of generous donations from individuals and a vision that the Church building could be so much more than it was. We hope and pray that we can continue to develop the spaces in the Church so that ultimately people no longer see it as a mysterious building behind closed doors but a space rooted in the Christian faith and promoting a message to the



community that the Church is here for everyone.

There are many events mentioned in this magazine for the coming months and if you have not made it back to church recently we would love to see you at one of these or, on any Sunday to join with us as we worship.



Catch the **VISION** of Greyfriars

Stewardship Campaign 2019

You may remember I addressed the congregation a few months ago about our forthcoming Stewardship campaign. The story was told of the woman who poured perfume on Jesus' feet. This inspired me, and I hope you as well, on how we do stewardship not just within the Church of Scotland but in Greyfriars as well.

Stewardship is a way of life that calls believers in Christ to receive God's gifts, use them and share them, and (crucially) return them to God with increase.

Since being asked to lead the stewardship we have come on leaps and bounds. The full Session has had a meeting with a Stewardship advisor from the Church of Scotland. She gave us a very informative,

Watoto

As a church we have been privileged to host the Watoto Children's choir on two occasions and we have been inspired by the enthusiasm and true love for God these young people have shown. For those that have not had a chance to meet with these children and hear the story of Watoto this is a Church which celebrates Christ and cares for the community. Base in Uganda, over the last 35 years Gary and Marilyn Skinner have seen their first church plant flourish and grow. There are now 12 church campuses and three Watoto villages and they now provide a loving home, an education, food and medical care for over 3000 orphaned and abandoned children.

Uganda is a beautiful country which has been ravaged by civil war, poverty and was hit by HIV/AIDS with one of the highest infection rates and the highest number of AIDS orphans in the world. Over 20 years ago, however Gary Skinner felt God was calling on him to take choirs of rescued children around the world giving them a chance not only to speak for themselves but also to speak for those that have no voice. The children travel and expand their world view, they are equipped to be successful leaders in every sphere of life. There are now 95 choirs, and we have been blessed by their music

motivational, and frank talk on how we can keep Greyfriars firmly at the centre of our faith and community. The stewardship team met with her again to put in place a plan to continue and grow Greyfriars mission and vision.

Over the next few weeks leading up to Christmas we want to hear from you. We want to hear where Greyfriars stands in your life, and what your hopes and dreams are for our future. Where do you see us in 1,2,5,10 years?

After the most wonderful time of the year has past we will begin to launch our campaign. We hope to incorporate our pre-campaign into some pre- or post-service events or gatherings, as well as our end of month café church as well.

February will see us launch our Stewardship Campaign, more details of which will be given in our February magazine. We hope that this is the next chapter in our strong story, and indeed not the final chapter.

Giving to the work of the church gives us a sense of belonging. It brings us closer to the Spirit of God, and we give our thanks that God gives us his grace and that His Son Jesus Christ died for us.

Alan Boyd,
Greyfriars Stewardship Convener



and stories in Greyfriars.

They continue to expand their work and also care for babies and vulnerable women. We now have several families supporting children in the villages and this has been a real blessing.

If you would like to know more about the work of Watoto please visit www.watoto.com

Greyfriars Church Contacts

Minister: Rev Bryan Kerr B.A., B.D. Greyfriars Manse, 3 Bellefield Way, Lanark, ML11 7NW Email: bkerr@churchofscotland.org.uk	437050 663363
Administrator: Helen Paget Email: hpaget@lanarkgreyfriars.com	437050
Session Clerk: Graham Chapman Email: sessionclerk@lanarkgreyfriars.com	661385

For all other office bearers or enquiries, please contact the church office
Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (Church of Scotland) is a charity registered in Scotland, SC016504

Christmas Jumper Day

We all have one ... tucked away in the small corner of our wardrobe. It is time to get out Christmas Jumpers out ... and on. On Sunday 16th December Greyfriars will once again be playing its part in the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day.



All we ask is that you wear a Christmas jumper to church (if you wish) and make a small donation to the work of Save the Children. You are of course welcome to come to worship without a Christmas jumper ... but still make a donation if you are able.

We look forward to seeing the array of knitwear on 16th!

Everyone needs Prayer Sometimes

At Greyfriars we value prayer. If you would like someone to pray for you or if you know of someone who would appreciate help in this way either contact the Minister, Bryan directly or the Church office on 437050. Alternatively you can complete the slip below and return it to the Church. Please be assured any details given will be held confidential.

PRAYER REQUEST

I ask for prayer for:

Toy & Gift Service



On Sunday 9th December we will be holding our annual Gift Service. This is an opportunity for the Church and community to give an extra gift to those who are not as fortunate as ourselves at this time of year. We are delighted that the pupils and wider school community at Robert Owen Memorial Primary School are joining with our appeal this year.

The gifts will be donated to Families Outside which is an organisation in Scotland who work to improve outcomes for children and families affected by imprisonment so they can live healthy, active lives free from stigma and impediment. It is important to remember that it is through no fault of the children that a member of their family is imprisoned and that these young people and children should be supported through this difficult time.

We ask that you consider bringing an unwrapped gift to the service on the 9th December for a child or young person between the ages of 0 - 18. These gifts will then be wrapped and distributed by the charity helping the young people to celebrate a Christmas.

Please support this incredibly worthwhile initiative to help show children and young people of those in prison that they are loved and valued at Christmas time.