



**Kilsyth
Anderson
News**

February / March 2016

From the Manse

Interviews, focus groups, statistics and writing – these have filled the last few weeks for me as I have spent time thinking, reflecting and praying about Kilsyth Anderson Church. It has been a delight to listen to stories of the history and to learn more about the people of this place. It has however also been a challenge to consider what the future might look like for us in the midst of a world which has changed and continues to change at a considerable rate.



I want to share with you some conclusions I have reached, which I believe are important for us all as we go into 2016 and beyond. Firstly, I am absolutely convinced that, as Christian men and women, we love and serve a powerful, gracious and loving God. Secondly, I am absolutely sure, based on what the Bible teaches us about the truth, that there is in Jesus and no other, eternal salvation. Thirdly I know that unless we share this truth with others then many will never experience the love of God, the truth of the Gospel or the reality of life eternal.

This places a heavy responsibility on us as Christians:

1. To pray for those whom we know
2. To work to demonstrate love, forgiveness and goodness to those around us
3. To witness clearly why faith in Jesus is important.

A favourite verse for many Christians is John 3:16 however we must always remember that this verse does not stand alone but within powerful teaching from Jesus on the relationship of real faith to having real life. *John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*



In the period after Easter there are plans to have another 'Christianity Explored' course on offer. My hope is that following from this there will be some who will decide to make a public profession of their Christian faith. If this is going to happen then now is the time for us all to make preparation

- 1 Make it your task to pray for someone you believe needs to know Jesus in their life.
- 2 Where possible, be a good example to them of someone with an active Christian commitment and faith
- 3 Look for opportunities to share your testimony (the difference following Jesus makes to you) and also information on how they also might know Jesus in their life.

My hope and my prayer is that in 2016 we will see the continued blessing of God on the mission and ministries of Kilsyth Anderson Church and also rejoice in the fruits of the work done to honour Him. May then God bless you as you seek to be a blessing to others.

Yours in Christ

Allan Vint



A New Year Prayer



O Lord, I'm sitting here looking at my new diary
It's all so clean and the pages are still blank
The very blankness is exciting it's good to get a new start
Good to wipe the slate clean good to let the past year slip away
Thank you for the possibilities I've made resolutions too
For there are things I don't want to repeat
And lots of new things I'm determined to do
Yes, lord, in the coming days these pages will be filled
There will be exciting things that thrill me
And I thank you for them there will be plans laid
And when these work out, it will excite me
And I thank you for these but some plans will wither and disappear
And be left among the hopes discarded at the year's end
And I need to face that, and it's hard
And there will be difficult things too things I can't cope with,
disappointments, and maybe even great sadness
And that's what I fear
Father, I'm taking this time to focus on these coming days
For I have to admit that as well as exciting me
The future also gives me a sense of dread for I fear the things I don't yet know
Lord Jesus, you have promised to be with me
And you invite me to come to you when I am weary and heavy laden
To be honest, I need your help, I need your presence and your loving care
And I need it now and I need it forever
I need to know that when I fail I can look to you for forgiveness and help
And when I succeed I need to be reminded that
Even then I still need your guidance so that I don't go wrong
So Jesus I hand this diary over to you, be with me through all these future days
And help me to live through them to your glory whether
They be easy or through dark times

Amen

The Story behind the Hymn...

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS



"The Old Rugged Cross" is an all-time, beloved gospel hymn. George Bennard wrote and composed the words and music in 1913. A sentimental favorite among Christians, it is one of the most popular of all 20-century hymns usually sung on Good Friday.

George Bennard, (1873-1958), was born in Youngstown, Ohio, but his parents soon moved to Albia, Iowa, and later to the town of Lucas in the same state. It was here that young George made his personal acceptance of Christ as his Savior. His father died when he was sixteen years old, and it was also the time he joined the Salvation Army. Bennard and his wife served this organization as officers.

Bennard, whose ministry was highly esteemed, was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was also involved in conducting revival services, especially throughout the states of Michigan and New York.

One day, after returning to Michigan coming from one of his ministries, Bennard passed through a trying experience which caused him to reflect seriously about the significance of the cross, in particular, what the apostle Paul meant when he spoke of entering into the fellowship of Christ's suffering. While contemplating on these truths, Bennard was convinced that the cross was more than just a religious symbol but rather the very heart of the gospel.

In 1913, an inspiration came to Bennard when he was staying in Albion, Michigan. He started writing "The Old Rugged Cross" and composed the melody first. The words of his completed hymn were put into his heart as an answer to his own need.

From that inspiration, he was able to write the words and compose the music of "The Old Rugged Cross." He sent copy of the manuscript to Charles Gabriel, one of the leading gospel hymn composers at that time. Gabriel predicted that this song was going to be widely popular. The sacred song was first introduced at a special meeting in Pokagon, Michigan on June 7, 1913, but it was during the Chicago Evangelistic Institute before a large convention that it was first heard outside the church. Soon afterwards, "The Old Rugged Cross" became extremely popular especially among Christians, first in the US, and eventually, worldwide. Even after the writing of this sacred song, Bennard continued his evangelistic ministries for forty additional years. He wrote other favorite gospel hymns, but none ever achieved the popularity of "The Old Rugged Cross."

Bennard spent the last years of his life by the "side of the road," a few miles north of Reed City, Michigan. At the age of 85, on October 9, 1968, he passed away. Near this home there still stands a twelve-foot-high cross with the words, "'The Old Rugged Cross' – Home of George Bennard, composer of this beloved hymn."

For the Memory Bank

Here are some verses for you to learn over the next few months. As we suggest elsewhere in the Notes, we can profitably use these weeks leading up to Easter to think about the life, work and the mission of Jesus. The verses chosen all reflect this.

February: Acts Chapter 2, Verse 22

“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs which God did among you through him, as yourselves know”

March: Mark Chapter 1, Verses 17 & 18

“Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. At once they left their nets and followed him”

April: Mark Chapter 10, Verse 45

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”

BOOKSTALL

Just before Christmas we had a very successful Bookstall which many took the trouble to look at (and happily to buy from). We actually sold over £500.00 worth of stock.

Well, we are planning another bookstall just before Easter. The details are still to be finalized, so this is meant to be simply advance notice so that you are not taken by surprise. The date we are working toward is Sunday 6th March, but this depends on the Faith Mission Bookshop being able to provide a stall that day.

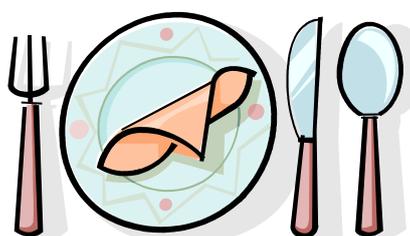
As before there will be cards, notelets, children’s books, devotional material, biographies and a whole range of general interest.

We hope you will be able to find something interesting there.



Over 70's Dinner

Our over 70's dinner will take place on Saturday 20th February 2016. Invitations are being sent out.



Please make sure you contact Cathie McIlwain if you or someone you know in the congregation has recently reached that magic number so that she can send out an invitation.

We will advise you of the time nearer the date.

Entertainment on the day is the Golden Days Band

Can You Help! - Church Cleaning

Everyone agrees that our beautiful Church is being well cared for. All credit for this is due to our happy band of volunteer cleaners, - men as well as ladies – who work well together for just over an hour , **once every 5 weeks.**

We have 5 teams of eight: 3 teams on Thursday morning/2 teams on Saturday mornings.

Perhaps you have been thinking about joining us?

While we feel we are doing something worthwhile, we all enjoy each other's company and the time just flies!

Some of our original team are no longer able to come and it would be much appreciated if we could have some more volunteers to fill the vacancies.

Margaret Waddell looks forward to hearing from you



Kilsyth Community Food Bank



We are still accepting non perishable donations especially meat that could be used for dinners and have a box out in the vestibule or goods can be handed in at the drop-in on a Friday.

You can find out more about their organisation on their facebook page where you can share their news.

Kitchen Update.....

At long last we have a date for the new kitchen to be started. All going well, Tom Anderson and his workers will be starting work on Tuesday 2nd February. Please accept our apologies if the work interferes with any of our groups, bear with us as in the end it will be well worth the upheaval. Please pray that the new kitchen goes in without any problems



DROP IN 2015



Thanks to the generosity of our lady hostesses who freely give their time & baking and to you, our guests who come faithfully every week. The church benefitted by the marvellous sum of **£3404.09**

£800.00 was given for heating & lighting

£2500.00 was given for the Fabric Fund which will go to help the refurbishment of the kitchens.

Thank you to the mid-week fellowship who set up the Wyper hall on a Thursday night. All this helps in the smooth running of the Drop In and helps to create a friendly, cheery atmosphere. The Drop In is open from 10.00am to 12.00 noon and you can "Pause for Prayer if you so wish at 11.00am when you can go through to the Reading Room, returning at 11.15am and join us once more for tea, coffee & fellowship, so please drop in where you will receive a warm welcome.

THE DROP IN RE-OPENS ON FRIDAY 5th February

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Christmas Fayre.

Over £2,900.00 was raised.

the winners of the Hamper and Pamper Boxes were

The Food Hamper - Frank McKenna

Ladies Pamper Box - Sheena Muir

Gents Pamper Box - Elizabeth Strang



Columban Singers Christmas Concert



The Christmas Concert held on Sunday 6th December, with the programme provided by the Columban Singers and the Balmalloch Primary School Choir was well attended and much enjoyed.

The collection for Yorkhill Children's Charity, Diabetes Fund realised the magnificent sum of £900.

Grateful thanks to all.

The Rose of Sharon Ministries

We received a letter from this charity thanking us for our generous donation of £200.00 from our Harvest retiring offering, which will be used for the continuation of Gavin and Des' work in South Africa.

They also asked us to pass on our thanks to the members of our church and for our continued prayers for the work of The Rose of Sharon.



Lodging House Mission.



A massive thank you to all who donated gifts on our Gift Sunday in December for the Lodging House Mission in Glasgow to distribute to those less fortunate than us. Such a simple gesture is very much appreciated and LHM thank us for our generosity. We were also able to send a cheque for £300 from our Christmas Eve

Service to LHM to help them continue their fantastic work.

Thanks



Church Diary

Sunday:	<u>Morning worship</u>	11.00am
	<u>Evening worship</u>	6.30pm
	(fellowship after service in main hall)	
	Time for prayer Wyper Hall	6.00pm
Monday:	<u>Ladies Bowling</u>	10.30am
	<u>The Guild</u>	7.30pm
Tuesday:	<u>Girls Brigade:</u>	
	Explorers (P1-P3)	6.00pm
	Juniors & Brigaders (P4 +)	7.00pm
Wednesday:	<u>Praise Group</u>	7.30pm
	<u>Boys Brigade:</u>	
	Anchor Boys (P1 -P3)	5.45pm
	Junior Section (P4 -P6)	6.30pm
	Company Section (P7 +Secondary)	7.30pm
Thursday:	<u>Mid-week Fellowship</u>	
	Wyper Hall	7.00pm
Friday:	<u>'Drop in Café</u>	
	Wyper Hall	10.00am - noon

Contact for urgent Pastoral Care

Minister: Rev. Allan Vint 012360822345

Session Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth Strang 01236824875

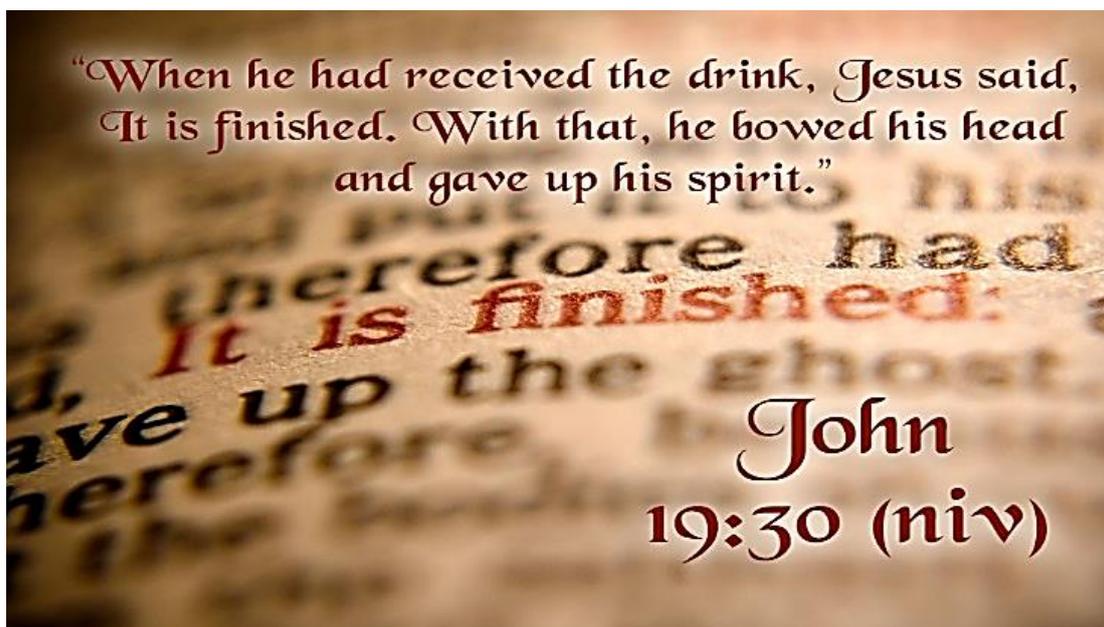
Flower list

7 th February:	Girls Brigade
14 th February:	Mrs Ann McCallum, William Wilson Court
21 st February:	Mrs Clem Bryden, Livingstone Park
28 th February:	Mrs Ann Johnstone, High Barrwood
6 th March:	Mrs Anne Harrower, Lairdshill Place
13 th March:	Mrs. Jan Bateman, Glen Marg
20 th March:	Mrs Jean Robertson, Montrose Gardens
27 th March:	Mrs Aileen Mitchell, Backbrae Street



Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 2nd February: Kirk Session (In Church) 7.30pm
Wednesday 3rd February: Praise Group 7.30pm
Sunday 7th February: Youth Parade 11.00am
*Meeting of Trustees (Elders and Managers)
to approve accounts (after morning service)*
- Saturday 13th February: BB Quiz Night
Saturday 20th February: Over 70's Dinner
Sunday 28th February: AGM after morning service
- Wednesday 2nd March: Praise Group 7.30pm
Sunday 6th March: Family Service 11.00am
Craig-en-Goyne service 3.15pm
- Sunday 13th March: Communion 11.00am & 6.30pm
Sunday 20th March: Palm Sunday Service 11.00am
(joint service with Burns & Old in Anderson Church)
God With Us Choir 6.30pm
- Thursday 24th March: Maundy Thursday
Communion Service in Twechar Parish Church
- Friday 25th March: Walk of Witness
Good Friday Service
In Burns & Old
- Sunday 27th March: Easter Sunday 11.00am & 6.30pm



Our Family Birthdays



Congratulations to Margaret Nolan who celebrated her
80th Birthday on the 28th January

Happy 91st Birthday to Mrs Betty Gordon
On the 18th February

Happy 80th Birthday to Mrs Clem Bryden
On the 23rd February

With Thanks



We wish to thank the church for the lovely flowers received on our dear daughter Lindsay's anniversary. Your prayers and thoughts sustain us during our dark days – thank you again
Mae & David Shaw

Sincere thanks from George and I for the beautiful flowers delivered by Margaret Martin following our stay at Glasgow Royal infirmary. We were sorry that we missed all the Christmas services, especially the JAM CLUB. The flowers brighten up the room now that the Christmas Tree is down. A happy and healthy new year to you all

Jane & George Barclay

Following my recent stay in hospital due to a knee replacement, I would like to thank everyone for the gifts, cards and prayer I received. I would also like to thank the Church for the beautiful flowers delivered by Molly. Many thanks to Allan Vint, our Minister & Gordon McInally for their visits. All was very much appreciated.

John Glover

I would like to thank the Church for the flowers I received and thank you to Molly for delivering them.

Marion Lauder

We would like to thank the Church for the beautiful flowers and good wishes when Jack & I were both ill in November/December, also the Guild for the lovely card received.

Christine & Jack Roberts

I would like to thank everyone for their cards & best wishes that I received for my 50th Birthday, thanks again.

Helen Shaw

BOYS' BRIGADE NEWS



Happy New Year to everyone. I must start by thanking all those who supported the Christmas card delivery service - we get a lot of help from friends of the BB both within and outwith the Church. As you can imagine, this help is greatly appreciated. We are also thankful that people will entrust their card to us for delivery. £2955 was the total raised - same as last year! I think, too that we are the cheapest in the area - other companies charge 20p or 30p, but we are happy with our price! We also understand that some people add extra to their donation - thank you for that.

We also express our thanks to the generous people of Kilsyth who allowed us to pack their bags in the Co-op on Christmas Eve. The money raised is going to Malawi - a fabulous £975 to help us carry out further work on Katete school.

The Session has started well. Badge work is ongoing - we need to press on as the Company Section parents' night will be earlier this year because of the SQA exams. Advance notice - Company Section Parents' and Friends' night will be on Wednesday 27th April and a joint Anchor and Junior Section one on Wednesday 4th May.

The staff has been discussing outings for the Boys following their hard work over the Christmas period. No decision has been made yet, but these outings will happen soon.

We had a meeting about our return visit to Malawi in June. It looks as though a slightly larger group will be going - 6 Boys and 4 adults. As it was when planning our previous trip, we do not have ALL the funds in place yet, but are trusting God that by June, we will have sufficient money to cover the costs.

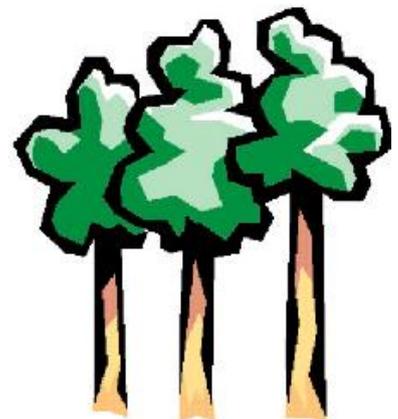
I have now had a meeting with Tony Begley of Classrooms for Malawi to discuss dates and the programme for our visit to Katete - exciting times. Hopefully, because some of us have already been to Malawi there will be some differences to this trip - to our journey, to the work being done and to our 'after work' time! I won't say any more until it is all finalised.

Thanks to all who have supported our work in Malawi, and thanks to those who will support our Quiz night on Saturday 13th February which is being organised by the Quizmaster himself, Douglas Anderson.

The Three Trees – an Easter story

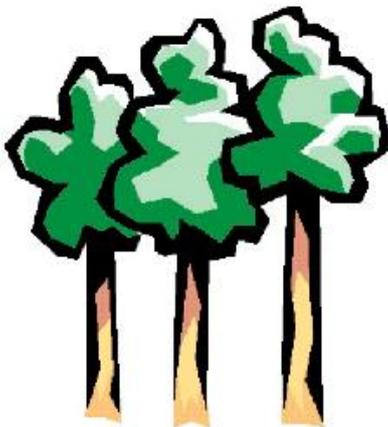
Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the

strongest ship in the world!" The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world." Years passed. The rain came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter



looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest. I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said. The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!" The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swoop of his shining axe, the third tree fell. The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, nor with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals. The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail on an ocean, or even a river; instead, she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" the once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God .." Many, many days and night passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her new-born baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world. One evening a tired traveller and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveller fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through with the wind and the rain.

The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the king of heaven and earth. One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried



through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth tremble with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong.

And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

The next time you feel down because you didn't get what you want, sit tight and be happy because God is thinking of something better to give you

MAKING A START

In the last issue of KAN, we spoke of the Christian Year and the opportunity we have between Christmas and Easter to read again the story of Jesus's life and to marvel at his words and the wonderful things he did. Most of all we have the chance to get to know Jesus in a special way as our Lord and Saviour. If you are new to this, however, you might be wondering where to start. That's a fair point and we hope we can give you some help.

At the start of the New Testament we have four books –



Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

These are referred to as Gospels and “Gospel” means “Good News”. More specifically it is Good News about Jesus. These four books tell the story of Jesus.

The Gospels were written for a specific purpose. John tells us “these things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ” (John 20 Vs31) They are not mere biographies.

They are proclamations of the truth about Jesus. So to learn more about Jesus the place to begin is with the Gospels in the New Testament.

Ah, Yes! – but which gospel? Well the first three are sometimes referred to as the “Synoptic Gospels” and that comes from the Greek meaning “viewed together”, for they each follow the same pattern and often use exactly the same words to describe events and sayings in Jesus's life. They are so alike that we can put them down in parallel columns and see them together. John is later and takes a slightly different position – being later John had lots of time to meditate on Jesus's life and to consider carefully just what exactly that life was about. This means that John is a more meditative work and is sometimes called a “Spiritual Gospel”. It makes inspiring reading, but for those starting out it is probably best to begin with Mark.

Mark is the shortest of the Gospels and almost certainly the earliest. It is very direct and straightforward and gives a very clear picture of Jesus life and mission. I suggest you might want to read it right through. Get to know the story fully and then think about what it means to you, Note any difficulties you have, either read a commentary on Mark or speak to someone well-versed in Scripture knowledge. There are people in our Church who would be delighted to help. We can supply you with a commentary should you need one.

By the time you get to the end of the Gospel, you should be feeling that you have to decide whether Mark is right and Jesus is who Mark believes him to be. That is the point of the whole exercise. I wish you well in your efforts and as the saying is these days – “ENJOY!”

AFTERNOON OF PRAYER – REPORT

As we intimated in the last issue of KAN (Kilsyth Anderson News) our second Prayer afternoon was held on Sunday, 10th January. The bare statistic is that 37 people were present for some part of the time and we had apologies from several more who were unavailable but who would have come. This is more or less the same level of support as last year. There were some happy aspects to the afternoon, we began by thinking about the JAM club and Dorothy shared a number of prayers that had actually been written by the children. There were simple and practical and deeply moving. This was commented on favourably. Another notable aspect was the preparation some had made by taking the trouble to write down some prayers before they came.



This was great for it increased the number of those praying out loud, while it was still made clear that no-one was expected or forced to take part simply by being there.

A third happy aspect was the fact that some mentioned the atmosphere, noting the calm and peaceful silences which helped concentrate the mind and made us more aware of God's presence.

All in all, it was a very worthwhile event, capped in the evening by the showing of a film, chosen by Allan, called "War Room" which illustrated the power of prayer in people's lives. Before we began we enjoyed a picnic lunch arranged informally around the tables, Thanks to all who provided soup, sandwiches, shortbread and other goodies. I suppose there would be around 20 people present for this, though we didn't actually count! We broke for tea a couple of times during the afternoon and again thanks to the ladies who nipped out to get the kettles boiling. These breaks sometimes stretched out a bit, but we managed to keep more or less to the programme we had arranged. At the end of the afternoon we had time for a light tea of sandwiches, sausage rolls, tray-bakes and other goodies. Congratulations again to the members of our church who always come up trumps when it comes to providing hospitality.

Hopefully the whole experience will have encouraged more people to make prayer a regular part of their everyday lives and will also remind everyone that all we do in Church is rooted in seeking God's guidance and built on prayer.

If you were unable to be there, but these comments have whetted your interest, you can still get the 'Prayer Guide' listing a number of suggestions for prayer which we used through the afternoon. Should you wish one, please speak to Alex.

Places to find us

FACEBOOK/ TWITTER

www.facebook.com/kilsythanderson

Twitter@ Kilsyth Anderson

WEBSITE

www.kilsythandersonchurch.org

[If you wish to listen to the morning service again, it can be found on the church website](http://www.kilsythandersonchurch.org)

CD MINISTRY

A copy of the morning service can be provided.
Please speak to your Pastoral Care visitor
who can arrange for a copy

Items of news, special occasions, etc. for the next
Newsletter should be given to
Helen Shaw by Sunday 20th March 2016

Contact: 01236 821992

E-mail: abicam111@aol.com

Charity Registration No. SC009866