

Kilsyth Anderson Parish Church News

December 2023 / January 2024





Christmas Fayre 2023

The Fayre, held on Saturday 25th November was, as ever, a great success. Thanks to everyone who donated goods for sale (especially the home bakers), set out and manned the stalls, and those who came along and spent their money. Of course there was then the clearing up to do – thanks to many hands, it didn't take long.

The total raised for the Fabric Fund was £2335 – great team work.



Services and important dates

December 3rd Gift Service

3pm Service at Craig-en-Goyne

December 17th Nativity presented by the JAM Club

December 24th Christmas Eve Service at 11am

Christmas Eve Service at 6.30pm (offering for Lodging House Mission)

December 31st Service as usual

January 14th Joint service in Burns and Old

Other Sundays as normal in Anderson

“More than 1 in 5 people in the UK was living in poverty before the cost of living crisis hit. That’s 14.5 million people. At Christians Against Poverty, we get to know the real people behind this statistic. People who can’t afford basic necessities like a cooker, a bed or even something as essential as food for their families.”

christians
against
poverty

CAP

CAP’s Debt Help service and community support groups in hundreds of churches across the country are working hard to meet the needs of as many people as possible. As a Christian charity they want to see people living with faith in Jesus and hope for the future.

Prayer is the foundation of everything they do. It’s part of the culture. Every morning, staff join together to pray for those they serve and issues relating to UK poverty. They ask you to **Join them** in praying for lasting change for those experiencing poverty. **Join them** in praying for those they support to experience freedom in Jesus. “We pray because we believe that God answers prayer.”

CAP offer practical money advice, help managing debt and life skills or job coaching. It can be hard asking for help, but if you or someone you know need to sort out financial issues, big or small, CAP are waiting to hear from you. There are many routes out of debt and they can advise you on what’s right for you. This is God’s love in practice!

Find out more at <https://capuk.org> or call 0800 328 0006

The Guild



I can't believe that we are so close to celebrating Christmas. We have had lovely, varied and interesting meetings at the Guild and now we are looking forward to our Carol Concert as well as our Christmas Social. William Shaw is preparing our festive meal and the singing group, Harmony will entertain us.

It is never too late to join us on a Monday evening at 7pm. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Meanwhile the members of the Guild wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

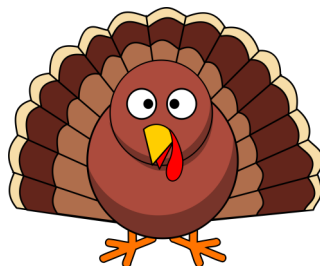
Margaret Brown, convener.

Festive Stuffing Recipe

As an alternative to the usual sage and onion, we invite readers to try a new stuffing recipe for their Christmas menu. This was found in Lady Claire MacDonald's book, but the amounts have been halved as it looked like creating a mountain!

Ingredients

1 lb (450g) fresh white breadcrumbs
½ lb (225g) shredded suet
2 oz (50g) butter
1 large onion peeled & finely chopped
1 or 2 cloves garlic
Grated rind and juice of a lemon
2 eggs, beaten
2 rounded tablespoons of finely chopped parsley
Salt and pepper.



Mix the breadcrumbs and suet in a bowl.

Melt the butter and cook the onions & garlic in it gently until they're translucent and soft. Allow to cool.

Add to the breadcrumb mix in the bowl stir in all the other ingredients.

Do not be tempted to add more egg if the mixture seems dry, this will make the stuffing stodgy. When completely cool pack in a bag and freeze until required for stuffing the bird.

You can vary the amounts to your own requirements – just remember you need twice the quantity of breadcrumbs to suet.

Remembrance Sunday

Thanks to all the young folk and their families who attended this special service along with our own members. This year we hosted the main parade. We were able to welcome a large contingent of young army cadets and our MP Stewart MacDonald, all of whom joined us for tea, coffee and fellowship after the service. The retiring offering, in aid of Poppy Scotland and Erskine Hospital raised £356. Subsequently a cheque for £200 was sent to each of these organisations.



Scripture Union Ambassador

On 26/11/23 Karen Stangoe was Commissioned as the new Scripture Union Regional Worker for all of Lanarkshire which is a huge area. Karen has supported our church very much by running a three day Holiday Club in August and supporting Hazel in the one day holiday club in October which Hazel ran.

We are having Karen back on Saturday 2/12/23 to run Christmas Unwrapped in our church halls. Our young people are the future of our church and it is so valuable to engage with our young people of Kilsyth. We pray for a good turn out for all outreach events in Kilsyth.



Jean Ewen



Over 70s Dinner

Many people have expressed their thanks (too many to mention everyone) to the Kirk Session Benevolent Fund which covered the cost of this year's dinner.

Thanks to William Shaw who spent many hours – maybe even days – making the hall look so good and cooking the 3 course meal for around 100 guests.

It was good to have some of our former ministers and their wives – Rev. A Vint (Lynne couldn't attend as she had organised an event in their own church) , Rev. C. M. and Dr. C.C. MacKinnon, along with Rev. K.D. and Mrs. K. MacLeod. We were also joined by Mr. G and Mrs. M. McNally and some friends from Burns and Old. Entertainment was provided by Euan Russell – a singer who is well known to groups around Kilsyth.

In Anderson's church, a gathering grand,
Where silver strands adorned each hand,
Over 70 souls, hearts filled with grace,
Gathered 'round a table, a cherished space.

William, with care, his apron tied tight,
Prepared a feast, a culinary delight,
Flavors melded, a symphony of taste,
Love in every dish, not a moment to waste.

The service, a jewel, shone ever bright,
Each course served with utmost delight,
Plates passed with grace, a dance so refined,
In Anderson's church, true hospitality we find.

Laughter echoed through the hallowed hall,
Memories shared, stories enthralling all,
Years woven together, a tapestry strong,
In this sacred place, where they all belong.

With wisdom etched in every face,
They savored each moment, embraced the grace,
Years may have passed, but spirits stood tall,
In the heart of Anderson's church, they found their thrall.

So let's raise a toast to the ones who've seen,
The trials of time, yet stayed evergreen,
In the warmth of fellowship, hearts found their perch,
A tribute to life, in that over 70s church.

This poem, believe it or not, was created using artificial intelligence (in other words a computer algorithm) by Allan Vint during the event He typed a few words of describing the event into his ipad and hey presto a fully fledged poem was produced in moments!



2nd Kilsyth Girls' Brigade

We want to thank the parents of our girls and Kilsyth Anderson Church Family for their continued support especially at our previous lunch and our stall at the Church Fayre.



Our Christmas party will be at Probowl at

Kirkintilloch on Tuesday 12th December, which the girls enjoyed so much last year.

We are going again with our own Boys' Brigade Company to Dalguise PGL at Dunkeld for our Camp in May.

Jean Ewen

The Warm Home Discount is a yearly payment of £150 to support with the cost of heating your home over the winter. It was introduced by the government to provide additional support to eligible customers living on low incomes or pensions.

There are two main groups that are eligible for the Warm Home Discount in Scotland:

1. Households receiving the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit: If you or your partner receive the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit, the Department for Work and Pensions should have written to you in November 2023 to confirm that you are eligible for the scheme. You will automatically receive the Warm Homes Discount via your energy bill, or if you have a pre-payment meter, you will be sent a voucher to redeem at your local Post Office branch.
2. Households receiving certain benefit combinations: Customers living in Scotland who do not qualify for the Core Group¹, but who receive one of the following benefit combinations, will need to apply via Good Energy to receive the Warm Homes Discount.

Income support

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA)

Income based Job Seekers' Allowance

Universal Credit and have earned income less than £1,418 in at least one month since 1st October 2021

Housing benefit

Gross taxable annual household Income* of less than £17,005

Is in the receipt of a disabled child premium

Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers, cards, gifts and good wishes I received recently for my 80th birthday. They were very much appreciated.

Kathleen Ross

I would like to thank the church for the lovely

flowers delivered by Margaret

They made my day

Clem Bryden

Thanks for the beautiful flowers sent Sun 26 Nov. An absolutely miserable day and this really brightened up the home.

John Weir

We would like to thank the Church very much for the beautiful flowers we received recently. They were much appreciated. Thank you again.

Mae and David Shaw

Thanking you for the lovely flowers we received and to Margaret for delivering them

From Jean & Joe Robertson

Thanks a lot to everyone for the flowers we received on moving to our new house and for all the lovely presents Stephanie received for her 18th birthday.

Sharon Moore.

A special thanks for the church flowers on two occasions recently and for all the lovely cards received after my stay in hospital. Thanks also for your prayers.

Catriona Clark.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers you gave us last week. They were very much appreciated. Thanks again and god bless.

Steven and Andzia Wardrope

Thank you for the lovely flowers so kindly sent to me on Sunday 19th November. Nice to know you were thinking of me. I wish you all Seasons Greetings.

Audrey Glover.

Last deadline for the February/March edition will be Sunday 28th January for publishing on 4th Feb.

Please send emails to andersonchurchmagazine@outlook.com or give your articles to Rona McFadyen on a Sunday.

Thank you for your support and the articles you send—please keep praying for the magazine!

WWF Tips for Sustainable Christmas Shopping

Remove packaging: Reduce waste by buying gifts with little or no packaging. Sometimes shopping locally can help with this, especially if you have a local refill shop. If you must use packaging, use recycled, or recyclable, materials. Choose sustainable gifts made from recycled or FSC-certified materials, avoid single-use plastics, and consider Fairtrade, Organic-certified, or second-hand options like vintage clothes, home furnishings, and refurbished technology.

Eat seasonally: Make your shopping basket more sustainable by buying seasonal products, locally produced where possible. Doing so reduces the energy spent growing foods out of season or flying food to the UK. Support UK farmers by eating fruit and vegetables that are in season.

Make your own decorations: Save yourself some money by upcycling old decorations. Or make your own using spare material around the house, like turning old paper into paperchains (remember them?!)

Shop small Buy from small businesses and ethical brands rather than retail giants.

Think before you buy: Waste increases by 25% between Black Friday and the New Year, and some of this waste comes from unused/unwanted items.

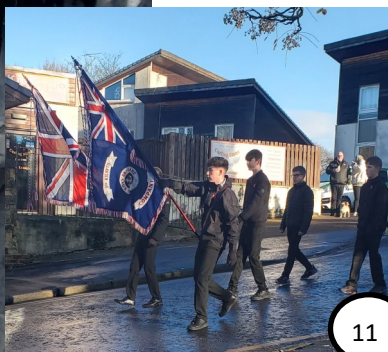
Check out the WWF online shop for more ideas. A WWF gift can help protect and restore our natural world, keeping it safe for future generations.

www.wwf.org.uk





Remembrance Day 2023— Above: the Boys' Brigade & Girls' Brigade, The Pipe Band leading the parade. Below: Army cadets and the BB flag bearers





Cleaning Day

A huge thanks to all the volunteers who turned out to help give the church a real good clean in time for the remembrance day service. We concentrated on the upstairs first, getting rid of dust and cobwebs that have been there for quite a while (and a few disgruntled spiders into the bargain). The windows were given a wash, pews vacuumed and wiped and the columns attacked with an extra long duster. As you can see from the pictures everyone was hard at work.

Thanks also to the team who did the halls the following week and those who tidied up and mopped the new toilet area at the back of the hall.

Many hands make light work and we always have a bit of a laugh so if you'd like to join a cleaning team please let Rona know and she will add you to the rota.

