

Christmas 2018

We are heading into the Big Retail Festival and it is time to make a change. Every year, we bemoan the commercialisation, the expense, the loss of the real meaning, so plan to do it differently this year. It is not remotely Christian, Christmas that is. We have symbols without significance, rituals without relevance, a message without a meaning, religion without relationship.

Martin Lewis, the well-known finance expert has recently been sounding forth against unnecessary gifts which force the receiver to give in return and on a similar level of expense. Everybody loses, as he says, it is tit for tat giving and what we end up with is "tat", more in the land-fill or charity shop. His message has gone viral on the internet and it is younger people who are picking it up. Over the season many have walls covered in cards many from people we see regularly or from others who have never bothered to contact us all year. After a couple of weeks it all goes to recycling. Apart from a few distant and important friends, we haven't sent Christmas cards for over fifteen years. It is a great relief, and a saving of money that we put to charity. When we first did it, we told everybody the year before and lots of people said "What a good idea." Crackers are even worse, they only last an hour or two before being binned.

Parents who are money rich and time poor, may overdo Christmas gifts to children they spend little time with. Grand-parents may give bag loads of useless stuff, kids playing with the wrapping, more than the overpriced toy. For some there is possible competition, unintentional maybe, "What did you get from your other gran?" and a quick assessment of how your present compares.

Stepping back from that, we could teach the value of giving, adopting a child, a charity project, involving the children in the choice of that, fund raising, making things, stage events, coins in jar, teaching the children to care about others and this may be the only time that they can give unselfishly. Everybody else will give return and give more. Practice and teach the joy of generosity, of supporting and learning about those who are less fortunate and those who cannot give anything back.

Discuss a spending limit, especially grand-parents, easiest if the parents talk about it and lead on raising the issue first. Some families make an "Only from a Charity shop" Rule, or use the Good Gifts scheme to buy a donkey or some chickens through Aid Agencies abroad.

Neither Christmas nor any of today's practices originated in the Jesus movement or in the early Christian Church. Christmas was adopted by Christianity late, by some three hundred years. We readily ignore most of the things Jesus commanded us to do, forgive, love one another, love our enemies, turn the other cheek, go and baptise, teach, serve, do this in remembrance of me. Yet things that are not mentioned we celebrate with great gusto. For Christ's sake, join the fight-back this Christmas. We can change!

Ken



Bryce Kirk

TRUDI NEWTON - CANDIDATE FOR MINISTRY

It's a privilege to write this article to introduce myself a little. I have just started training for the Ministry, which involves an academic and placement programme. I am studying at St Andrews and I am delighted that my first placement is here at St Bryce Kirk. I would like to thank everyone for their very warm welcome over the past few weeks. It has been great to meet so many of you and I look forward to getting to know you all better over the coming months.

I was born and brought up in Orkney as part of a close family, moving away to Edinburgh to study Religious Studies. After this, I spent some time in Malawi, and since then my work over the past 12 years has been in different locations with various churches in children and family ministry.

I am excited to be on this new stage of my journey as I learn more about Ministry of Word and Sacrament and how to walk with people in meaningful ways through life's journeys.

People and places have always been very important to me. I enjoy spending time with family and friends and visiting Orkney is always special - especially in the long days of May and June! I enjoy walking and wildlife photography, both of which can be done in abundance there! I love painting, especially pet portraits, though as yet, I have not painted my cat Selkie! My musical tastes are on the classical line, though I do like playing Christmas Carols on the piano and clarinet! I'm very much enjoying being part of the choir at St. Bryce Kirk. I enjoy books by a variety of authors including Marcia Willett and historical novels by Laura Ingalls Wilder and Cynthia Harrod-Eagles. I enjoy playing tennis and lately, I have been trying to build up my cycling - so if anyone has been on any good cycle paths, please do let me know!

I look forward to the different experiences and challenges over the next couple of years and especially to the next few months spent amongst you all at St Bryce Kirk.

LIVE STREAMING

Over the past few months the Sunday morning service has been live streamed on Facebook. We have recently moved to Youtube as this is more accessible for people. There have been one or two problems but we are working to correct these. If you would like to watch the service, either live or later, go to Youtube, type in St Bryce Kirk, and select the date of the service you want to watch. We will continue to keep you up-to-date on developments.



December 2018

CrossReach Information Sheet



Theraplay at Perth Prison Visitors Support and Advice Centre

The 'Ballerina Board' at Perth Prison Visitors Support & Advice Centre was created as part of a Snap Theraplay session. Through informal play, arts, crafts and face painting, Theraplay builds on relationships and usually lasts 6 weeks. For more information: bit.ly/crossreach-PPVSAC

Requests to take the Presbytery Pledge for CrossReach

Some churches have been asking for information about taking the Presbytery Pledge for CrossReach: Pray for CrossReach; Update your congregation with our news and updates; hold a Grey Cake Bake; Promote CrossReach and Social Care Sunday. For more information: supporters@crossreach.org.uk



The Moderator's 60th birthday request

The Rt Rev Susan Brown, launched her time with CrossReach by celebrating the 60th Anniversary of our Oversteps Care Home in Dornoch. While there she announced she soon would be celebrating her own special Birthday and invited donations to the Sensory Garden project at Oversteps instead of giving her a gift.

Staff working over the Festive Period

You may have seen the recent article in Life and Work magazine about Christmas Day Workers. www.lifeandwork.org/about-us/current-issue Please pray for everyone who will be working in jobs to support others and to keep us safe over this Christmas and New Year.

Speak for CrossReach.

If you like talking to people about things you are passionate about, then the role of Regional Speaker for CrossReach is made for you. Help present the work of CrossReach to communities and groups across Scotland. You will be playing an invaluable part in spreading the word and encouraging people to support the life-changing work of CrossReach in all sorts of ways.

For more information: www.crossreach.org.uk/support-us/volunteer/become-a-regional-speaker

CrossReach widget on your church website?

CrossReach can email you a link to their Prayer Diary widget with easy to follow instructions on how to upload it. Every week, it will update automatically with a new set of prayers.

Contact: bdd@crossreach.org.uk

Congratulations to The Bungalow in Stonehaven



Congratulations to the CrossReach-run The Bungalow in Stonehaven. The Bungalow was awarded Specialist Service/Unit of the Year in the Scottish National Care Homes Awards 2018. Staff and residents are delighted. The Bungalow is a purpose-built care home in Stonehaven for adults aged from their mid-twenties to mid-forties. For more information about the service:

www.crossreach.org.uk/our-locations/the-bungalow

We hope you can make use of these features and opportunities in your congregations. To contact the CrossReach Supporter Development Team please call: 0131 454 4374

December 2018

CrossReach Information Sheet

Will you be a guardian angel this Christmas?



The CrossReach Christmas Angel appeal is now underway. CrossReach spend a total of almost £2m annually in running community-based services for children and families. Every year CrossReach relies on financial gifts from generous supporters to provide life-transforming love and care. CrossReach needs to raise £200,000 so that people can be given the support they need. Congregational appeal packs have been sent to your CrossReach Congregational Supporter, Session Clerk or Minister. For more information: www.crossreach.org.uk

Share your care: buy a Care Share gift



Are you looking for something different as a gift for a friend or a relative this Christmas? CrossReach may just have the answer. For each Care Share purchased, CrossReach will send a gift card to you or to your chosen recipient. You will also receive a 'Care Sharer' lapel badge as a 'thank you' to you for choosing to support CrossReach in this way. Please note that all money raised by the sale of Care Shares will be used where it is most needed.



A picture speaks...

£10 worth of Care Shares could fund the purchase of a set of paintbrushes for children and families at our various services to express their emotions through art.



Easy Easel

£50 worth of Care Shares could buy 2 table-top easels for Heart for Art participants to create the work of their dreams.



We're all going on a...

£250 worth of Care Shares could allow a group of adults with mental health needs to enjoy a short break holiday at Seaton Sands Caravan Park.

To see more examples of just how far a gift can go in supporting the work of CrossReach, visit our online shop: <https://shop.crossreach.org.uk/>

Events - lots of ways to have fun and support CrossReach while you do!

Are you looking for something exciting to do in 2019? CrossReach have lots of ideas! Why not visit the website for some ideas - have fun and support them too! www.crossreach.org.uk/events

We hope you can make use of these features and opportunities in your congregations. To contact the CrossReach Supporter Development Team please call: 0131 454 4374

THE GUILD

- December 11** Finance Meeting and Snowman Drive.
- January 8** Project The Boys Brigade and Bring and Buy
- 22** Robert Burns Kevin Thompson
- February 12** Homeopathic Medicine Jane Mitchell
- 26** Norwegian War Stories Ragner Ingebrigtsen
- March 12** Growing Kirkcaldy Harry Kerr
- 26** Cleft Lip and Palate My Journey Alison Wardlaw



Everyone will be made welcome at any of the meetings.

Helen Mitchell

President

STOP PRESS :-

The Sweet and Soup lunch raised £317.50 and will be added to our project – The Boys Brigade and the Guild Coffee morning raised £757.30. Thanks to everyone who supported these events.

Finance

The Treasurer reported that despite the M & M refund we are still looking at a deficit of approx. £28k this year. The Coffee Bar has done better and we may get something from them. Heating & Lighting was lower in first 2 years following renovations. Salaries are down as there are now 2 less members of staff. The Redecoration Fund is still increasing.

Sunday offerings are as follows:-

	2018		2017	
	Open	FWO	Open	FWO
July-Sept.	£1526.82	£3404.50	£1173.40	£3401.00

S/O July-Sept. 2018 £10,199.50

S/O July-Sept. 2017 £10,365.50

Gift Aid: The tax reclaimed on Gift Aid contributions from July-September 2018 was £3,266.88 with a further £612.08 from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme Community Buildings making a total of £3,878.96.

VAT reclaim: A claim for £761 has been received from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

A letter is to be sent shortly to church members, with a further in the Spring, making them aware of the financial situation and especially the costs which have to be met and we have no control over. Also many will be unaware that we pay a fee to Presbytery for each member on the Church roll. .

Dorothy Smith, Convener.

YOUNG CHURCH

The Young Church have had a busy time since the summer outing to Muddy Boots which was enjoyed by all! The first five weeks covered stories from the Old Testament relating to Friends of God, Joseph, Moses, Jonah, Jeremiah and Nehemiah. Prior to the October holidays the children moved onto the New Testament and stories regarding Jesus, the teacher, healer and so on. The Leaders use various methods to keep the children interested including activities, reading, colouring and more recently we have a tablet that the children use. We are considering an interactive White Board and a demonstration has been organised for this. The two noticeboards in the Lecture room show some of the activities the children have been involved with, please feel free to have a look.

We held a Cake & Candy stall in September and hosted the Soup Lunch at the end of September raising £83 and £261 respectively. The funds will be used to cover the annual contribution of £200 for the child we sponsor, Umberto, the remainder being used for materials for the Young Church together with parties etc.

The Christmas party this year will be on the 9th December, we will ask the parents/grandparents to help with the food again which was a great success last year.

The Christmas Family Service, in which the children will be taking part will be on the 23rd December .

Once again thank you to our Leaders and Helpers, we would welcome some more volunteers to help on an occasional basis as a lot of outside commitments now fall on a Sunday and we sometimes struggle to have cover in place.

Kirsty



This praying thing !

I've heard folk say that praying is like having a conversation with you, God - but
I'm not much good at making conversation,
especially with people I don't know -
and I sometimes feel I don't know you very well - really I do!

I suppose someone, somewhere has got it all wrapped up ...
this praying thing ... but it's not me!
If I was asked to pray in public, I think I'd die - or if I didn't die,
I'd clam up and stutter out some stupid things I'd heard other folk say -
and it wouldn't really be me!

There are lots of things I don't like about praying, actually! For instance, I don't
like it when people sound as though they've got it all rehearsed and off pat! But
then - I don't much care for the over chatty types; that doesn't seem very
natural to me either, at least not in public.

So You see the problem ...
it looks as though I've to find my own way to You!
Do You know how I'd like to think of it?
I'd like to think of it as "coming home" ...
You know how it is?
If you want to talk - you do! If you don't ... you don't!
And everyone understands!

Could it be like that between You and me?
So that wherever I am, whenever my thoughts turn to You,
You would count that as prayer?
Because - if it wasn't such a difficult thing,
I think it would happen more often!

Major Joy Webb

We are living in troubled times. We do not know what lies ahead !

The World is full of trouble and strife - the major powers seem to be led by
individuals with their own power agendas. At home, politically there is confusion
and conflict and society in general seems to be hooked on social media "likes" and
personal advancement.

The Church, our very faith, is challenged to the core. We have to be careful
about what is said about other peoples' beliefs and yet we are constrained about
expressing our persona; beliefs.

It has been said that, "The Church is on its knees".

We should be, as we seek God's guidance for the way ahead. *George Luke*

Church Register - 2018

Baptisms

“ I baptise you with water for repentance” - Matthew 3 : 11

14 October Elizabeth-Rose Berezcki
Daughter of Alexandro and Elizabeth



Deaths

“ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish” - John 10 : 28

20 October Tom Muir, Boglily Road



CHRISTMAS CONCERTS IN ST BRYCE KIRK

Saturday 8 December 7.30pm Dysart Silver Band with
the Songburds

Sunday 16 December 2.00pm The Kinghorn Singers with
Fair Isle School Choir

Contact Details :

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Sunday 9th December



Service 11.00 am

Festive Celebration of Carols 3.30 pm

Afternoon Tea 4.30 (Booking Required for Tea)

Sunday 16th December

Family Gift Service 11.00 am

Offering for UNICEF - Yemen



Sunday 23rd December

All Age Worship 11.00 am

Fellowship Team Soup Lunch



Monday 24th December

Christmas Eve Candle Light 8.00 pm

Offering for Alzheimer Scotland -

(Kirkcaldy Branch)



Sunday 30th December

Joint Town Centre Service

11.00 am in St Bryce Kirk