

November 2019



G

row up!, was, I remember, quite a stinging thing to say to a child of almost any age, usually out of frustration and a desire to modify their behaviour. It is also cutting if said to an adult although in that context it comes over as very smug and superior. So with that that health warning, this is the message, “We need to grow up” in our Christian thinking and nowhere is that more obvious than around the stories of Christmas.

Adults who love Christmas are very likely to be remembering their childhood Christmases.

The commercialisation, extravagance and waste is pretty well documented and many voices call upon us to moderate our spending, support more charities and think of people not possessions. It is hard to stand against social pressures to send cards, to give presents, to avoid embarrassment and to over-indulge. It is also hard to be grown up in our thinking.

All the images are childlike, the theology behind the images even worse. It is like captions from an illustrated children’s story book, God up there in heaven looking down, angels singing, stars moving around, simple Shepherds, exotic Wise Men, heavenly messengers, horrible Herod the villain, a “special” baby, a “special” birth etc, all vivid and delightful. For this period of the year anything vaguely analytical comes over as party pooping, scrooge like meanness.

But God is not “up there”, “looking down”. It’s a parable, a metaphor, a poem not a history. God is around and within and Jesus taught us that loving one another across all our differences and divisions is what really matters.

What are grown-ups supposed to do? This is a season to retreat and admit defeat. We cannot bring many Christian and church people into a more reflective and considered faith at this time of year. All the progress we feel we might have made will be abandoned. But if we want to have a faith that makes sense in the modern questioning world and that has any appeal beyond those already in faith communities, we have to understand the depth of the message behind it all.

And we should just enjoy it, the wonder, the drama, the characters, all vehicles to express the love of God made know to the world in a grown up Jesus. Anyway, he told us to become like little children didn’t he?

Ken

You are invited

to come at...

3 pm on Sunday 15 December

to enjoy our annual

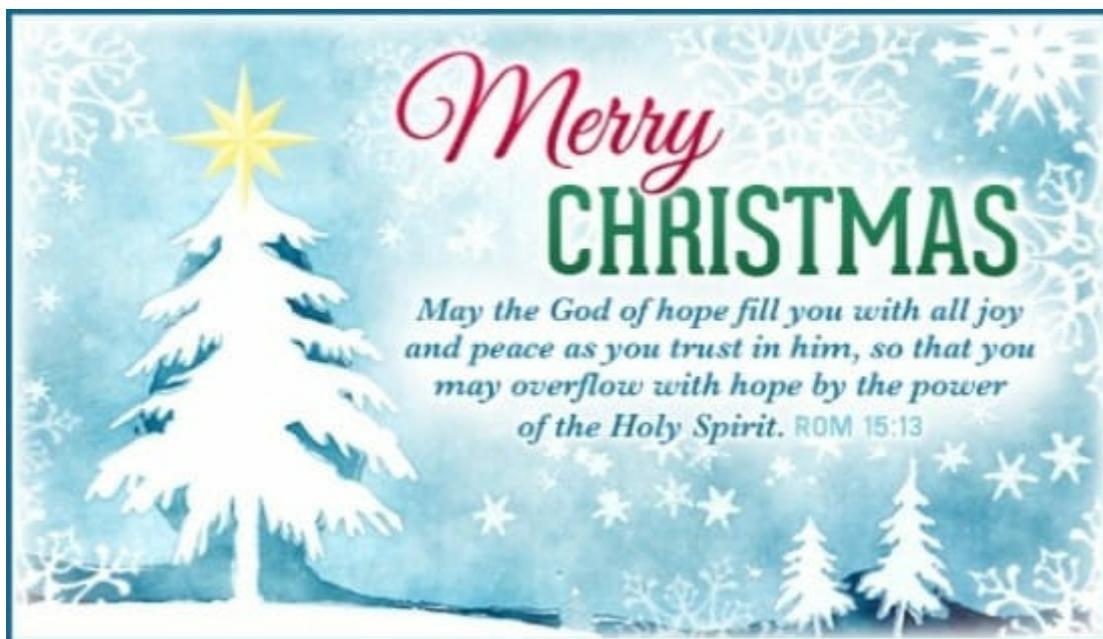
Celebration of Carols

The service led by the choir and the band, is open to all members of the congregation. However, the Pastoral Care Team have some specially invited guests coming for whom they are providing a Festive Buffet with Christmas pudding, drinks and tea/coffee, and it would be nice to swell the numbers and have a real party atmosphere. So - if you would like to partake of this festive meal, please sign up on the noticeboard and pick up a ticket from the office.

The ticket is free - it is simply a way to keep track of our numbers for the catering staff. There will be a donation basket available on the day.

For further information, phone :-

Dorothy Murray (Care Team Convener) ☎ 264456.



THE GUILD

The Guild started the new session with a talk on Highlights of South America. It was very interesting and took us on quite a journey. As Guild Week was changed to September we brought our Soup and Sweet lunch forward to 22 September and we had quite a good turnout raising £336 which goes towards our Project. Our thanks to everyone who supported us.

On 24 September Rev. Ken Froude led us in Communion followed by a talk on our Guild Theme. As usual Ken made it an interesting evening.

Our next meeting was a craft night led by one of our members Anne Murphy. I'm sure we gave Anne quite a challenge but a good time was had by all.

At the end of October Colin and Ann Moore came and spoke of The Real Sherlock Holmes. They were very entertaining and had us all engrossed in the story they told. It was a lovely night and as usual ended with Tea/ Coffee and a good blether.

In November we have Air Ambulance, then our Coffee Morning on Saturday 23 November - 10 am till 12noon, with all the usual stalls, and lots of home baking. A good time was had by all.

On 26 November Dr. Rennie Urquhart will give a talk on Medicins San Frontiers and then our Finance Meeting and Snowman Drive is on 10 December. If you would like to come to any of our meetings, you can find dates and times on the notice board in the foyer. It would be lovely to see you.

We finish up for Christmas holidays on December 10, resuming back on Tuesday January 14, 2020.

Happy Christmas to all from the Guild.

Helen Mitchell President

FINANCE

Finances are running on par at present. Heating and lighting is down. On checking, found out that we were on the wrong tariff. This has now been rectified and will get a refund. Catering, Coffee Bar and Hall Lets are all down on last year by approx. £9k.

Sunday offerings are as follows: -

	2019		2018	
	Open	FWO	Open	FWO
July – Sept.	£1,298.38	£3,163.50	£1,526.82	£3,404.50

S/O July - Sept. 2019 £10,882.50 S/O July – Sept. 2018 £10,199.50

Gift Aid: The tax reclaimed on Gift Aid contributions from July -September 2019 was £3,145.88 with a further £553.97 from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) Community Buildings making a total of £3,699.85.

Fabric: The cost of the carpet on stairs to Church to be reclaimed from the Consolidated Fabric Fund. The cabins at the back of the building to be repaired by replacing the wood and felt in the roof. The video camera was stolen but now replaced. Painting to be done to back corridors, office and toilets. It is proposed to have the Extractor Fan in the small hall blocked up as when it is wet and windy, the rain is blown in and down the wall. There are no major plans proposed, just general maintenance repairs.

Dorothy Smith Convener



And when you pray....

Matthew 6:7a

“How do you eat yours?” That was the question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it, but rather it’s about how you best experience the egg.

How do you pray?

Perhaps you haven’t really thought about it too much. Perhaps it’s now hard to concentrate because you’re thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

So then, how *do* you pray?

Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous? Do you respond to life with a ‘breath prayer’, off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steadying hand of our Creator and Sustainer?

Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Like a free-diver coming up for air after plumbing the depths. Maybe you carve out some time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen – a way of praying that helps us recognise God’s presence in the midst of the day just lived.

The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in the darkest of circumstances, when prayer is the only thing that we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday, or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just let God know how we are feeling. It might even be that thing that happens by accident or that we're unaware of until, looking back on a time of quiet, perhaps with a cup of tea or watching the world go by from our living room window, we realise that in the stillness, God was there the whole time.

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life. Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind.

How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.

Resourcing Worship Team, Mission & Discipleship Council

October 2019

CrossReach Information Sheet

CrossReach and Social Care Sunday 2019

Save the date - Sunday 17th November at 4pm

CrossReach invites you to a thanksgiving service in celebration of social care initiatives across Scotland, held in Dunfermline Abbey. Holding your own CrossReach and Social Care Sunday service? A resource pack is available. Contact: supporters@crossreach.org.uk

The service will also be live streamed from Dunfermline Abbey. For more information visit:

<https://www.crossreach.org.uk/events/crossreach-and-social-care-sunday>



CrossReach @150

During November 2019 the 150th Anniversary Exhibition is being hosted by Dunfermline Abbey in Fife.

To read about the history of CrossReach visit:

www.crossreach.org.uk/about-us/the-history-of-crossreach

For more information, please visit: www.crossreach.org.uk/150th-anniversary



Host the 150th Anniversary Exhibition

CrossReach is inviting churches and organisations to host the social care exhibition. There are various options available to ensure all can be catered for! This is a great resource you can use to engage your local community! Explore the brochure: bit.ly/150ExhibitBrochure



Mini Exhibition

In addition to the CrossReach 150th Anniversary Exhibition, smaller exhibitions are available to book as a display within churches in stacks and A2 poster formats.

If you are interested in hosting a mini exhibition at your local church please email: business.development@crossreach.org.uk

Moderator's Time 2019

The Church of Scotland Moderator, Rev Colin Sinclair and his wife Ruth Sinclair spent four days in various CrossReach services across Scotland. During their four day journey CrossReach showcased its work within older people services, children and family services, adult care services and central services. The personality and impact of each service were highlighted through the activities, hospitality and stories shared by the residents and staff.

To watch and download The Moderator's reflections about his visits with your church, please visit <https://vimeo.com/channels/1508361>



Looking to share ideas on local social care and outreach projects? The Social Care Forum is your one-stop-shop for social care resources. Visit: <http://www.socialcareforum.scot/>

October 2019

CrossReach Information Sheet

Get crafty and raise funds with a CrossReach Craftathon

Bursting with yummy recipes and exciting craft ideas from knitting to henna, Craftathon is a brilliant way to bring people together. Hold a Craftathon in your church, house or hall and help build friendships and community. CrossReach's Craftathon pack will get you started and their crafty team are on hand with tips and advice!

For your free pack email: events@crossreach.org.uk or call: 0131 454 4391



CrossReach Christmas Card and Calendar Catalogue 2019:

The CrossReach Christmas Card and Calendar Catalogue is available with the online shop open at 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Look out for videos and read how you can make a difference to social isolation and to loneliness.

Visit shop.crossreach.org.uk to order online or ring the hotline on 0131 454 4374



CrossReach 150th anniversary celebrations at Morlich House



Residents at Morlich House in Edinburgh hosted a tea party in celebration of 150 years of social care provision by CrossReach and the Church. The afternoon was filled with delicious cakes and party games for residents and staff to enjoy.

For more information about Morlich House, visit: www.crossreach.org.uk/our-locations/morlich-house

The "Running Walkers" marathon for CrossReach services in Inverness



CrossReach services, Beechwood House and Cale House in Inverness, help people who have experienced homelessness or who have been affected by substance use. After moving into their own accommodation, life can be lonely and the new Befriending Project introduces the people supported to positive friends.

In October, CrossReach Head of Service Vic Walker with sons Stuart and Robbie, ran in the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon to raise funds for this initiative and to support this great cause, visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/vicwalker>

Charity night for the Mallard



CrossReach's The Mallard supports children and young people with disabilities in Glasgow. After years of service, the hydrotherapy pool has closed and must be replaced at a cost of over £51,000. Congratulations to staff Ashley and Abby who organised a charity evening raising an exceptional £2000 towards the replacement costs. To support this project visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/one-year-one-challenge>

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

Christmas Services

15th 11 am ***Gift Service***

Donations to :-

Plan International - Disaster Relief for Children

22nd 11 am Family Service - Soup Lunch

24th 8 pm ***Candle Light Christmas Eve Service***

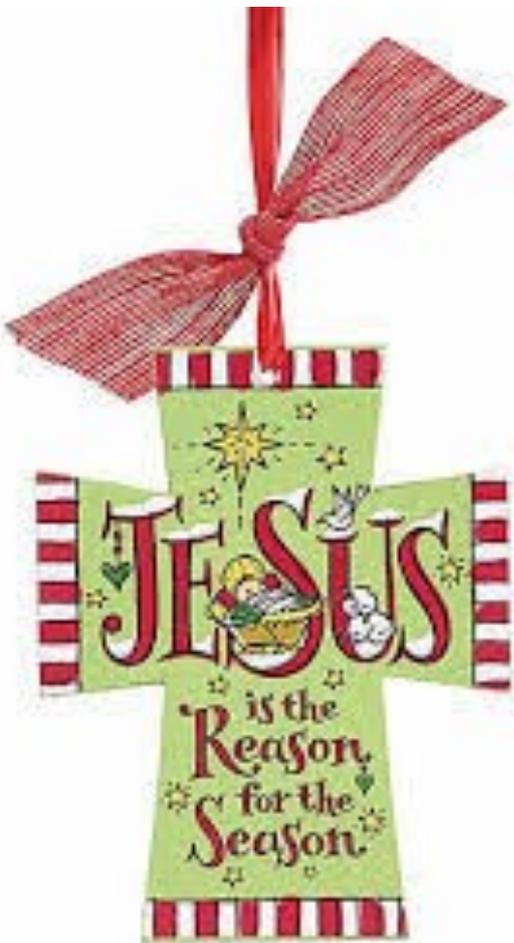
Bring a candle in a suitable drip-proof holder

Donations to :-

Crossreach - Church of Scotland Social Care

29th 11 am ***Joint Town Centre Churches Service***

in Bennoch Parish Church



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