

THE KIRK WINDOW



WINTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

Knockando Elchies & Archiestown Parish Church of Scotland. Scottish Charity No: SC014428

Roths Parish Church of Scotland. Scottish Charity No: SC016116

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Presbytery Elder	Sheila Brumby	(: 01340 831588
Safeguarding Officer	Sandra Bruce	(: 01340 831317
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Boys Brigade	Julie Christie	(: 01340 831322
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Advent Reflection from Morris

Friends,

There is a saying that, 'Christmas comes but once a year', which is true except that Christmas seems to start earlier and earlier with adverts and Christmas lights and preparations long before the big day. I see from the news that turkeys are going to be more expensive and there are adverts encouraging us to shop early for Christmas. Of course, it is right that we should prepare for Christmas and Jan and I normally have the family for dinner on Boxing Day and arrangements for that were made a while ago. I'm sure many other folks will be looking forward to visits from family at Christmas or have already started thinking about what to buy for their loved ones, or maybe thinking, 'I hope Auntie Jean doesn't knit me a jumper like last year.' Of course, if she does, it will be welcomed with grateful thanks and no hurt feelings.



Christmas is also a time when there will be Nativity plays in churches and schools that will tell the story of the babe for whom there was no room, and of the angels' message of peace on earth. I suspect there will be many a proud parent or grandparent with glowing smiles watching for their shepherd or their king, or their angel. However, the Christmas story is about more than a cosy tale of a stable with shepherds and angels, and the inevitable donkey, all gazing fondly at the infant Jesus and his mother. It is about the birth of a

Saviour.

Luke tells us that Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. A reminder to us of the millions for whom there is no room in our world of refugees and migrants fleeing hardship, looking for a better life. For many of whom, a stable would be a welcome shelter. No room for those who flee oppression and war to find some peace for themselves and their families only to end up in refugee camps with thousands of others. No room for millions who don't fit the ethnic, cultural or religious code of the majority. No room for those who seek to bring peace amidst the wars and strife of our world.

The gospels also tell us that Jesus' birth was announced to shepherds watching their flocks at night saying, "*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all people.*" Yet peace is fragile and elusive in our world of wars and talk of wars, of divisions and lives damaged and broken in so many different ways. The shepherds went to Bethlehem, not because they were promised a cute baby had been born, but because they were told a Saviour had been born. The birth of the Saviour of the world is what the Christmas story is really about, and the world still needs our Saviour. Unfortunately, that is a message that is too often ignored or forgotten. So, this Christmas let us rejoice in the birth of our Saviour and pray for a welcome for those for whom there is 'no room' and for that peace which is so elusive for the world and its people.

A Happy & Peaceful Christmas to you all,

Morris & Jan.

Dear Friends

There is so much to thank God for around this time of year; a season that we ourselves fill to capacity with extras, even fripperies. For so many there is no expense spared when it comes to buying gifts for our loved ones. Organising special meals with all the tasty treats, filling the cupboards and fridge freezer as if the shops will be closed for a month. Deciding on a tree, choosing appropriate cards to send and all the other odds and ends that go to make up what we see as a traditional Christmas. Part of the panic of Christmas is not simply the volume of work to be done but the fear that we may have forgotten something or someone.

But astonishingly, at Christmas, there is someone we all too often do overlook, and that is Jesus himself! We may sing about him, read about him and hear about him from time to time and yet we can still fail to stop and meet him. We can be so busy with our festivities, even our carol services and celebrations, that we miss out on the personal encounter that Christmas offers. Don't let this happen to you this Christmas. Place Jesus at the centre of your celebrations, for he is ultimately what Christmas is all about.

In this season of Advent, as the waiting and expectation heighten, deepen our desire to serve you. As we look forward in faith to what the future holds for our congregations, may your hearts be filled with hope, peace, joy and love as we journey together knowing you are with us every step of the way.

May I wish you all a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, the greatest gift of all.

Your Interim Moderator and friend

Ann Bowie

The Meaning of Christmas

Far away in Bethlehem, a Baby Boy was born, with neither riches nor fame,

Yet Wise Men came from all around to bring Him their gifts,

And peace was felt by all who heard His name.

Angels watched Him as He slept, and gently rocked His bed:

Their voices singing softly in His ear, His Mother and Father both gave thanks to God, f
or the greatest gift of all, their Son, so dear.

They knew His life upon this earth would not be filled with wealth,
they also knew He would encounter strife:

But most of all, they knew that He would be a loving Child,
and teach the love of God throughout His life.

At Christmas, as we celebrate this Birth of Jesus Christ,

Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day

For it's not the Christmas wrappings, nor the gifts that lie within

But our gift of love to others shown in every way.



Reflection. Stepping into the Wheelbarrow.

Recently I used a story to illustrate that faith in Jesus means putting our lives in his hands. It is the story of the Great Blondin who was an acrobat and tightrope walker in the 19th century and the Editor thought that others might like to read it.

Blondin trained as an acrobat and tightrope walker from an early age. As an adult he was renowned for his skill and courage and in 1859 he walked a tightrope stretched 1100 feet across and 160 feet above the thundering waters of Niagara Falls. Huge crowds watched on both sides of the Falls, in Canada and the United States. It is told that many in the watching crowds expected Blondin to fall to his death in the surging waters below the Falls. However, to their growing amazement he walked across the Falls several times and performed various acts of daring as he did. The crowds 'oohed and aahed' at his feats and cheering and clapping every act of death-defying skill. In one of those acts of daring he pushed a wheelbarrow over several times and finally with a sack of potatoes on board. The crowd went wild and when Blondin asked if they thought he could push someone across in the wheelbarrow they yelled and cheered, 'Yes! Yes! Yes!' But when Blondin asked for a volunteer to sit in the barrow, suddenly, there was absolute silence. Not one person volunteered. They claimed to believe that he could do it but not one person was willing to put their life into Blondin's hands.

Sometimes, when I ask folks about their Christian faith, they answer by saying something like, 'Oh, my grandfather was an elder in the Kirk and my mother was in the Guild, and they were at church every Sunday.

Which does not answer the question because faith is not about what others have done or have told us about their faith in Jesus. It is about our own faith in Jesus, and it can be compared to accepting the challenge of getting into the wheelbarrow. Because Christian faith is about accepting Jesus' invitation to follow him, heart, mind, and soul. Taking the risk of putting our lives into his hands and living that faith as his disciples. every day of our lives. God grant that we can all make that step of faith.

Morris.



PARISH REGISTER

KNOCKANDO, ELCHIES AND ARCHIESTOWN linked with ROTHES

BAPTISM

(The promise is for you..... and for your children)

Name	Church	Gender	DOB	Baptism	Address
Tobias Harry Masson	Rothes	male	16/12/21	29/5/22	Rothes
Amelia May Rose Junor	Knockando	female	3/4/22	18/9/22	Aberlour
Robyn Helen Monaghan	Knockando	female	8/5/22	2/10/22	Bishopriggs

DEATHS

(Do not grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope....)

Name	Minister	Death	Funeral	Location
Eva Gray	M Smith	19/2/22	3/3/22	RK/Cem
Hazel McGregor	K Gauld	27/2/22	7/3/22	RK/Cem
Margaret McLean	M Smith	8/3/22	17/3/22	RK/Cem
Robbie Mackie	M Smith	26/3/22	4/4/22	Crem
Helen Bremner	M Smith	31/3/22	12/4/22	RK/Cem
Elma Chisholm	M Smith	27/4/22	9/5/22	RK/Cem
Rita Stephen	M Smith	30/4/22	9/5/22	Aberlour
Phyllis Jefferson	M Smith	13/3/20	17/5/22	Reem/Interred ashes
Dena Marshall	M Smith	12/6/22	22/6/22	RK/Cem
Ronnie Fraser	E Enslin	25/6/22	5/7/22	Knockando
James Bartlett	E Enslin	23/7/22		Rothes
Cyril Shaw	A Kimmitt	21/7/22	3/8/22	Knockando
Catherine Wills	RA & MS	29/7/22	22/8/22	Knockando
Jean Brown	M Smith	30/7/22	9/8/22	RK/Cem
Bill Cruickshank	M Smith	6/8/22	16/8/22	KK/Cem
Arthur Humphreys	M Smith	8/8/22	17/8/22	RK/Cem
Rita Stuart	M Smith	19/8/22	1/9/22	KK/Cem
Hilda McDonald	R Anderson	3/9/22	13/9/22	Thom'/Crem
Sheila Eddie	E Enslin	17/9/22	5/10/22	RK/Cem
Andrew Craig	C Clasper	22/9/22	6/10/22	GT/Crem
Robert McGovern	E Enslin		7/10/22	RK/Cem
Nan McPherson	M Smith	4/10/22	27/10/22	RC/Cem
R. Thomson	R Anderson	11/10/22	28/10/22	Crem
Margaret A. Grant	M Smith	21/10/22	2/11/22	RC/Cem

LOOKING AHEAD TO SPECIAL SERVICES

KNOCKANDO AND ROTHES KIRKS

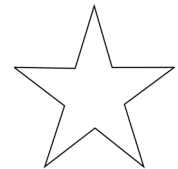
KNOCKANDO

Sunday 11 December	Star Service	10.00— 11.00
Sunday 18 December	Nativity	10.00—11.00
Sunday 25 December	UnitedChristmas Day Service	10.00—11.00



ROTHES

Sunday 11 December	Star Service	11.30—12.30
Sunday 18 December	Nativity	11.30—12.30
Sunday 24 December	Christingle Service	6.30pm—7.30pm
Sunday 1 January 2023	United Service	11.30—12.30



Presbytery

Knockando linked with Rothes



The article in the April Kirk Window talked about a small group called the Presbytery Planning Team (PPT), which was set up to provide a solution for the changes required of us by the Church of Scotland.

Having worked hard through the summer, the PPT presented its findings to the September Presbytery. The findings were a very mixed bag for us in Rothes and Knockando, the first being the dissolving of the Rothes-Knockando linkage, followed by the creation of Unions between Rothes and Mortlach and Cabrach and between Knockando and Aberlour. Both of our Sessions had reservations about these arrangements and our Interim Moderator and Elders have continued to call upon the Presbytery to modify their proposals and allow an initial linkage between the respective churches leading eventually to a union.

On Tuesday 29 November we had a further chance to put our case to Presbytery. As Knockando moved the amendment to allow a linkage prior to a union between the respective churches, we spoke first followed by Sheila from Rothes, who spoke particularly well. This time the vote was 19 each way, so it was up to the moderator who had the casting vote. We all sat with bated breath, until he announced he was voting **for** the amendment. However..., these matters have to be agreed and ratified by the central Church in Edinburgh before any new arrangements can be undertaken.

These proposed new linkages give the opportunity for the congregations of the groupings to work together and understand how each approaches its worship and mission as well as for both Knockando and Rothes to get to know the ministers currently called to the other congregations. We are assured that both of our churches in Rothes and Knockando are to be retained. We await the outcome of the deliberations in Edinburgh but, as always, continue to work for Christ's Kingdom in Love and Peace.

Stuart Foster and Pat North

ON LINE SUNDAY SERVICES



We at Knockando continue to provide a service live on line on a Sunday Morning in support of those not able to attend or those far away who continue to be interested in Knockando Kirk.

These services can be found on the ***Knockando & Rothes Kirk Online facebook page***. We realise that for some access to this page can be difficult so we are exploring the possibility to also put it on the YouTube site and from there onto the Kirks Web Page.

<https://moraykirk.co.uk/knockando>

At Rothes services have been live streamed for a number of years now. They can be found on the YouTube site.

Knockando, Elchies & Archiestown Church News

Sunday Services 10am

How can it be nearly winter time again so soon? I suspect the same issue as the remarkably young looking policemen, is behind the ever faster passing of the years. For those young enough to wonder what on Earth I am going on about, it is just a matter of getting older.

I am writing this just after the middle of November. On Sunday just passed, there were around forty people in church, which I hope heralds a return to pre-covid numbers. It feels so much more cheerful to see a good turn out.

The stressful process of Presbytery Planning continues to be a hot potato, but as yet we seem no closer to a conclusion, which in some ways may be a good thing, as at least some further thought is being given to the way forward. Keep praying!

It is wonderful see to our young church continuing to flourish, and thanks go to the four teenagers now taking a turn on door duty. It may seem a small step, but contributing in this way to the work of the church is a great way to show that our young people are responsible, and willing to help.

We still have a number of members who have not yet returned to church after covid. I would urge you to come back to join with us on Sundays, - we miss you a lot.

I hope this magazine makes it into your hands in time for the Star Service on 11th of December. In a slight change to usual procedures the stars will be available for you to pick up at the door on your way in, to give you more time to write on them. As normal there will be an opportunity to hang them on the tree during the service.

We look forward to a Nativity play on the 18th of December, and we note the hard work going into preparation for this. With Christmas Day on Sunday this year, we welcome Rothes to Knockando, and in turn anticipate meeting together in Rothes Church on New Year's Day.

Finally I wish all our readers a very happy Christmas, and good health and contentment throughout the next year.

Pat North

Session Clerk

Knockando, Elchies & Archiestown Church News

Church Flowers

Many thanks to everyone who has provided flowers on made donations to the flower fund this year. They cheer those who see them in church and I'm sure they lift the hearts of those who are in receipt of a bunch.

The flower list is full this year until December but next year's 2023 list will be out soon.

As always anyone wishing flowers in church on a special date please get in touch and I'll see what can be organised.

Elizabeth Brown

Flowers Convenor

Guild News

It is with great sadness that I have to announce that the Knockando Guild has closed. We carried on for a long as we could but with the diminishing numbers it was decided that we would join another Guild. It really didn't matter which Guild we joined as being part of this movement is so fulfilling.

I still remain Treasurer and Resource Contact for Moray West Guilds Together, at least until we join with Moray East Council. This does not mean that there will not be individual Guilds in all the Churches. On the 7th December at 2pm in Buckie Church there will be a Carol service hosted by the two Councils.

Suzanne Foster

Treasurers Report

Here we are the end of another interesting year. It seems as though the months are getting shorter somehow. The year has continued with people now starting to make their way back to Church and this has meant an increase in Open Plate donations. It has been so nice to once again talk to people without face masks and more importantly have refreshments at the end of the service. Once again we in the Church are thankful for the continued Free Will Offerings and the many large donations made to the Church. Offerings and donations can be like pebbles on a beach, whether they are large or small they mount up.

The fundraising efforts of Heavenly Pieces at the Church are not just Heavenly cakes etc but they raise an amazing amount of income to the Church along with the Winter Warmer. Outreach to the community with these events brings so many people who don't know each other together to chat. This extends also to people who are on holiday and happen to see the notice advertising these events, some from far flung places.

Suzanne Foster

Treasurer Knockando Church

World Day of Prayer

On the first Friday of March 2023 there will be a short service held in Knockando Church at 6pm for the World Day of Prayer. The service for 2023 was written by the ladies of Taiwan. This is an especially difficult time for Taiwan with the constant threat of being attacked. Our prayers go to them and to the people of Ukraine.

The Scottish Committee of WDP sent a donation to Ukraine of a £1,000 and we also sent £500 to the Scottish Bible Society who had been asked to provide Bibles for the people in Ukraine.

Someone told me that before Covid 'the well of connectivity was full, now it is empty'. We on the Scottish Committee want to refill that sense of being connected to each other by asking those who organise or help to organise the WDP service to join us on the 17th June 2023 at Perth. Registration forms will be sent to contacts in January.

Suzanne Foster, Treasurer WDP Scotland

ROTHES KIRK NEWS

Hall Keeper

The Kirk Session was delighted when Judy Hobbs applied to be the church hall keeper. It has meant that groups have been able to resume meeting again and we are grateful to Judy for opening and closing the hall, for ensuring the heating is on and for checking that everything is ok for the various groups to meet.

Monday Morning Coffee

It has been lovely to see so many people back in the Kirk Hall on a Monday morning enjoying a coffee and scone as well as a good old 'catch up'.

There will be no coffee on Monday 26 December 2022 or Monday 2 January 2023, but we hope to see you on Monday 9 January 2023.

The Monday Morning Coffee Team

Saturday Coffee Mornings

It is great to see coffee mornings taking place in the Kirk Hall on a Saturday morning. We have some bookings for the first half of the year already so if you are thinking of holding a fund raiser contact Sheila Brumby on the church office telephone - 01340 831479. The last Saturday of each month is when the church holds its coffee morning.

Church of Scotland Guild– Rothes

It was so good to meet again after a 2 year absence and we were delighted to welcome some new members.

Our first meeting was on 11th October and we were so happy to welcome back Sheena Nicholson as our speaker. Sheena has been supporting disadvantaged children and young people in Malawi, enabling them to have an education. It was so interesting and heart-warming to hear news of the children and see the difference the help has made to them personally and to their community.

On 8th November we welcomed Mr. Morris Smith and his wife Jan to our meeting. Morris told us about their walk on part of the Camino de Santiago (Way of St James) in 2019. It is a pilgrimage route which starts in France and finishes in Santiago, Spain. It was so interesting to hear of their experiences along the way, the people they met and the ups and downs of the journey. We were also very grateful to Morris for re-dedicating the Guild at the meeting.

Our annual Christmas Carol evening will be on Tuesday 13th December at 7 p.m. in Rothes Kirk Hall. Please come along and join us and get into the spirit of Christmas.

Rothes Guild meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 2 pm in Rothes Kirk Hall. We have a variety of speakers and activities. The Guild is open to both men and women so why not just come along to a meeting, no obligation to join.

Celine McDuff-Jones



POVERTY IN MORAY

At a recent meeting of the Moray Council Education Committee, I was surprised and shocked to learn that 1 in 5 children in Moray are living in poverty. Compared to children from wealthier backgrounds, children living in poverty tend not to perform as well at school and in examinations. In addition, children from poorer backgrounds are less active than their peers from wealthier homes. This impacts further on educational achievement and also on physical and mental wellbeing. Marjory Swinton has to be applauded for her efforts in achieving an outdoor gym at Knockando – a facility that can be used by all age groups, from youngsters flexing their muscles on the equipment to the elderly taking a stroll round the track. However, more needs to be done to encourage young people to be more active, such as issuing a free Fit for Life pass to every child.

Did you know that 32% of households in Moray are living in fuel poverty - a number well above the national average of 24%? Fuel poverty does not affect only the elderly but also families, in particular those where someone is disabled, or housebound due to illness or simply families living on a low income.

I decided to find out about the Moray School Bank and it came as no surprise to find that there were 479 referrals this summer for school clothing compared to 365 last year. That is an increase of over 30%. Referrals have increased year on year with Covid having made a huge impact, particularly on families where the breadwinner was or is self-employed. Moray, where unemployment is low, is not seen as a deprived area, but most people in the rural areas work in seasonal jobs and in factories. 70% of families in the more rural areas of Moray end up working in low-paid employment. A factor deterring women in particular from taking up better paid employment is the fact that there is little or no child care facilities in the more rural areas.

In Rothes there is a Blessings Box, which anyone can use and contribute to. There has been an increase in the use of the Box, with people tending to access it early in the morning or later in the evening when it is dark and they are not seen.

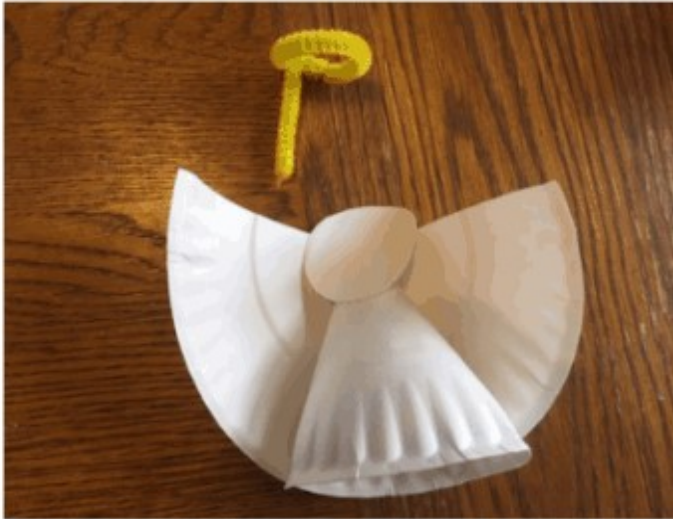
One of the Marks of Mission in the Christian Church is to respond to human need by loving service. In the current economic climate many of us may be cutting back on heating, cutting back on food or meals or feeling isolated due to being housebound. We all need to look out for each other and help where we can.

Sheila Brumby

Moray Presbytery Representative on the Education Committee

ALL AGE ACTIVITIES!

Make your own Angel



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wordsearch

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.



T	U	K	E	B	S	N	Y	Y	V	G	I	I	O	X
L	D	P	Y	O	O	V	F	Q	S	N	O	G	N	U
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YULETIDE
GREETINGS
CAROLING
PRESENTS

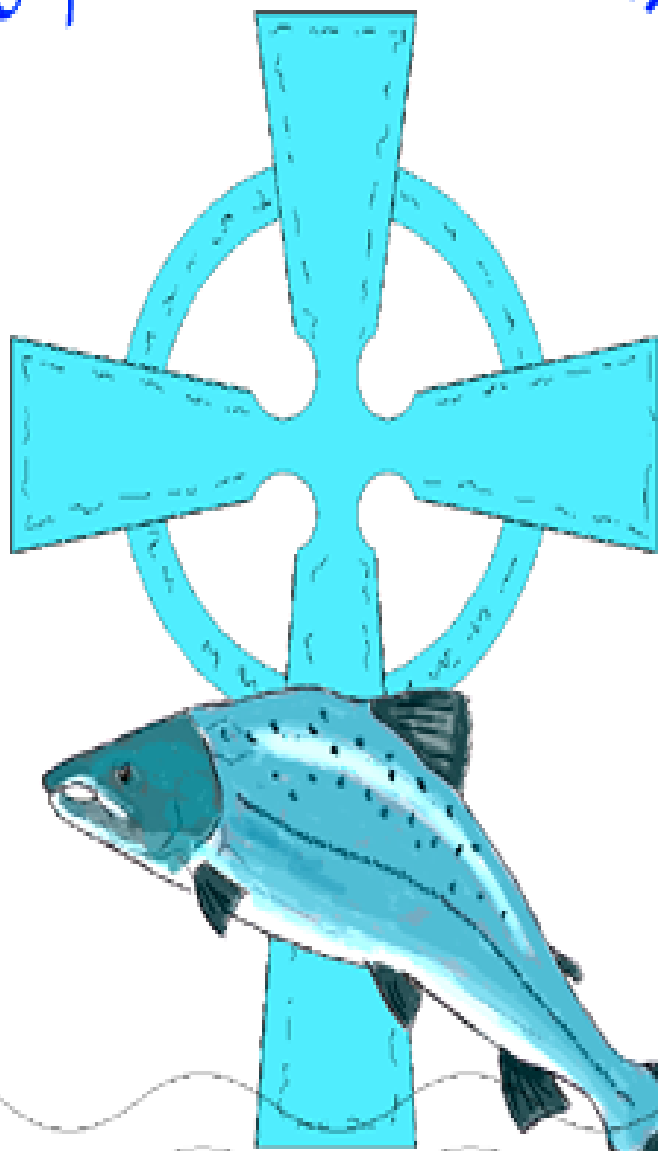
WREATH
NUTCRACKER
TREE
MISTLETOE

SANTA
GINGERBREAD
ORNAMENT
ELVES



womanofmanyroles.com

Knockando, Elchies & Archiestown



linked

with

Rothes Parish Church