



# 231st Boys' Brigade

## Christmas Fair

Saturday 3rd December 2016

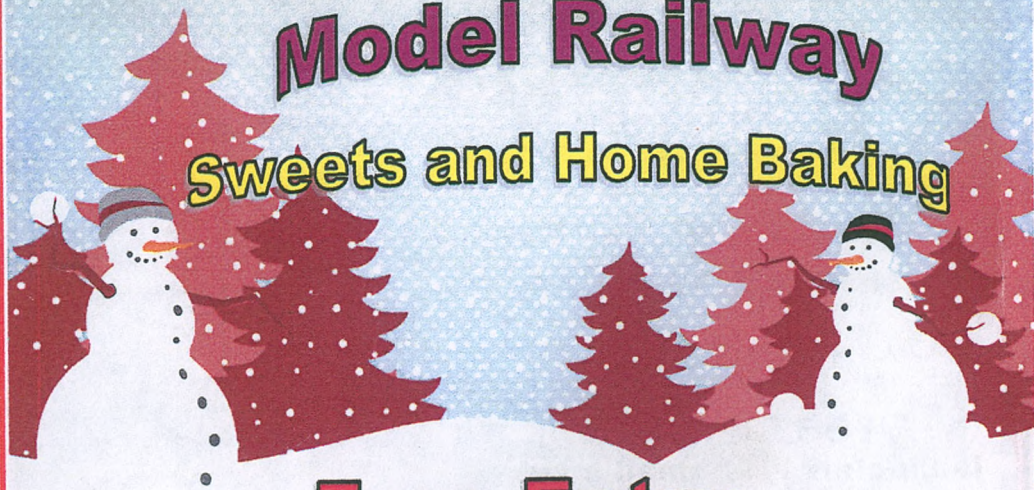
10.00am - 1.00pm

Tea, Coffee and Cake

Toy Sale Bouncy Castle

Model Railway

Sweets and Home Baking



Free Entry

*Stamperland Parish Church Magazine*

# *Focus*



*Merry Christmas  
&  
Peace on Earth*



## *December 2016*

Available for distribution on the last Sunday of the preceding month  
<http://www.stamperlandchurch.btck.co.uk/home>  
Registered Charity No SC003155

# **The Church of Scotland Stamperland Parish Church; Clarkston**

Registered Charity SC003155

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**Dear Friends,**



This magazine is ready for distribution on the Sunday known as "Advent Sunday". The four Sundays before Christmas are called the four Sundays in Advent. The word "Advent" means an arrival and we should use this season of Advent to prepare in a fitting way for the arrival of Jesus on Christmas Day.

December can be a particularly busy month, especially if you have a young family. Christmas shopping, wrapping and delivering parcels, writing Christmas cards, parties, preparing a Christmas dinner. All take up a considerable amount of time. So we have to take care that Jesus is not squeezed out of our preparation for Christmas. We can so easily forget the meaning of Christmas.

In the old Testament, the prophet Isaiah speaks to us about the arrival of a great King. He promises a child born to be King for us, a King who will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Isaiah tells us that the birth of this King will bring light into people's lives where once there was darkness.

To illustrate the light that Jesus' birth brought to the world, on Advent Sunday a candle is lit on the Advent wreath. The wreath remains in Church through Advent, with another candle being lit each Sunday, followed by the lighting of the largest candle on Christmas Day.

Before Christianity came to the shores of the UK, pagan sun worshippers, on the shortest day of the year, built fires which they thought would give the sun god strength to come back to life again. As the days inevitably lengthened they rejoiced because they believed the sun god had lived through the winter, and would bring them to the light and heat of summer. Before the birth of Jesus, fire and light played an important part in pagan worship.

The Jews had a festival of lights in which candles were burnt. Their festival was to remember the rebuilding of Solomon's temple, and the candles were lit to show that the truth was to be heard again in the temple. So the light of a flame became the emblem of truth. Similarly the lighting of advent candles is a sign of the truth of Jesus.

According to tradition, it was Martin Luther, one of the leaders of the 16th century Reformation, who first put candles on a fir tree to remind people of the star that shone above Bethlehem at Jesus' birth. So when we decorate our Christmas trees with lights we are continuing this old tradition of proclaiming the light that came into the world when Jesus was born just over two thousand years ago.

Advent is a busy season of the year. As you prepare for Christmas may you

be richly blessed and may the presents you give and the love you share be a blessing to your families and friends.

May God bless you at Christmas and in the New Year of 2017,

Yours in Christ's service,

**Jack Drummond**

### Baptism


Sunday 20th November

Louisa Kelly-McDonald, 126 the Oval

### COMMUNION ROLL CHANGES

Change of Address: *We hope you are happy in your new abode.*



		From:	To:
	Mrs Grace Esler Mrs Nancy Bruce Mrs Marion Conejo	5 Homeblair House 131 Stamperland Gdn 66 Stamperland Ave	Darnley Court Care Home Glenafton Care Home 45 Strathview Park

### Cracker Fun

**Mum, Can I have a dog for Christmas ? No you can have turkey like everyone else**



**What's the best thing to put into a Christmas cake?  
Your teeth !**

**We had grandma for Christmas dinner ? Really, we had turkey!**

**What did the Eskimos sing when they got their Christmas dinner ?  
"Whale meat again, don't know where, don't know when " !**

**Man: That train set looks fantastic. I'll take one.**

**Assistant: I'm sure your son will love it, Sir!**

**Man: (sighs) Oh, yes..... I suppose he would. You'd better give me two, then.**

# Flower Calendar

## October/November 2016

by May Paterson 0141 571 8652



### December

4 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs N Fisher
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs C Anderson
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J Silcock
25 <sup>th</sup>	Miss H Dunbar

### January

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs. G. Marshall
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A Charlton
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mr W Anderson
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs E Moseley
29 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A Martin

### February

5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J Marshall
12 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M Allan
19 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs G Walker
26 <sup>th</sup>	Miss J Stewart and Mrs. E. Macpherson

**Donations of Poinsettia plants can be brought to Church on Sundays 11th and 18th December. These will be distributed within the Parish and Care Homes.**

### LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "And she turned into a telephone pole!"



### GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

## Pastoral Care

**Your Pastoral Care Team are here for you. If you need ;**

- **Transport to Church**
- **Doctors Appointment**
- **Could do with a chat prayer request**

**Hospital  
Shopping  
Have a**



**Please contact Grace Scott, 0141 637 2226**

A few months ago we introduced a Library service to you, and this month would like to commend this to you again. Kay is able and willing to exchange your library book, assist you with future choices of your favourite authors, or like authors. Additionally she can provide listening books and large print books. If you are not already a member of the library Kay will happily see to this for you. With winter coming in, why not make use of this great service? We hope you will.

Remember that we are only a phone call away to help you with shopping, getting to Church, hospital and doctor's appointments and any other assistance that we can help you with.

## Open Door

You will be aware that Stamperland Church sanctuary is open on a Wednesday morning from 10.00 o'clock until 12.00 o'clock for quiet contemplation and personal prayer. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available in the vestibule where fellowship can be enjoyed. It would be encouraging if more of our members were able to come along.



As you will know we are trying to work more closely with Netherlee Church. They also have an Open Door on a Wednesday morning. They have a short Service at 10.00am for approximately 30 minutes. They also have tea, coffee and fellowship after the Service. If any one from Stamperland Church would like to attend they would be made welcome. This may be of interest to you if you feel you are unable to attend Sunday morning worship at Stamperland. If you require transport to Netherlee their minibus can collect you. Please contact either, Evelyn Graham or Nancy Fisher Tel. 638 3844.

Over the Christmas holidays there will be no Open Door on Wednesday 21st and 28th December. Open Door will re-start on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

**Parish & Beyond Committee**

7.  
**Guild**



It is hard to believe that the season of Advent is upon us with Christmas just a few weeks away. We have had a an interesting programme from October through to the end of November and thank all who came to support us, including everyone who came to our Soup. Bread and Cheese Lunch on the 27th of November.

**Dec 6 Illusions with an Advent Theme**

**Rev John Martindale**

**Dec 31 Christmas Party**

To allow you to choose any evenings which may be of interest to you, here is our programme from January to April. Please mark them in your dairy and come along to join us.

<b>Jan 10</b>	<b>Romania</b>	<b>Grace Scott</b>
<b>Jan 17</b>	<b>Working at the BBC</b>	<b>Christine Finnigan</b>
<b>Jan 24</b>	<b>Robert Burns</b>	<b>Joy Blair, Carine &amp; Sheena</b>
<b>Jan 31</b>	<b>My Garden through the years</b>	<b>John Kinloch</b>
<b>Feb 7</b>	<b>Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia</b>	<b>Stuart Smith, Christian Aid, GUILD PROJECT</b>
<b>Feb 14</b>	<b>Music of the 50's, 60's &amp; 70's</b>	<b>Margaret Weldon</b>
<b>Feb 21</b>	<b>Holmwood House</b>	<b>Iain McGillivray</b>
<b>Feb 28</b>	<b>Fashion Show by The Edinburgh Woollen Mill</b>	<b>OPEN NIGHT</b>
<b>Mar 3</b>	<b>(Friday) World Day of Prayer</b>	<b>Held at Stamperland Church at 10.30am</b>
<b>Mar 7</b>	<b>Burma</b>	<b>Rev Jan Mathieson</b>
<b>Mar 14</b>	<b>Outing</b>	
<b>Mar 21</b>	<b>Look good, feel good (Colours)</b>	<b>Denise Winton</b>
<b>Mar 28</b>	<b>Musical Evening with Jill Leavy &amp; her Choir</b>	<b>OPEN NIGHT</b>
<b>Apr 4</b>	<b>AGM</b>	
<b>Apr 10</b>	<b>HOLY WEEK</b>	

**Continued overleaf**

Grace Scott and Christine Finnigan from our own congregation are speaking to us in January. Please come and hear about Grace's visit to Romania and Christine's work with the BBC. Both evenings will be very interesting I am a sure.

All Guild members wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Evelyn Graham, Secretary**



**Girlguiding**

**Brownies**

**1st Stamperland**



The Brownies have had a jam packed few weeks enjoying Halloween crafts, the number fun badge, creating an indoor campfire and enjoying a visit from Owl magic who brought along eight owls for the girls to learn about and hold.

The next few weeks will be filled with Christmas crafts, a visit to the panto at Eastwood theatre, and then finishing the year off with a Christmas party.

Wishing you all a very merry

Christmas and a happy new year from the girls and leaders of the 1st Stamp-  
erland Brown-  
ies.

**Alison Gill &  
Kirsty Stewart**



## Distribution of Focus

Electronic input should be Arial size 11 where possible. The magazine is formulated on Publisher and will destroy some settings if Word or Publisher is not used. Please also allow for set margins that the magazine has, when trying to fill an A5 page.



As there was little material for September copy in 2016 the distribution date for September is later than other months. For further advice contact the Editor.

Handwritten letters are also acceptable where computer input is unavailable. You can either use the oink box provided in the vestibule on the date specified or hand them in to 56 Stamperland Dr anytime beforehand.

Issue	Copy Input on or before	Electronic Input on or before	Collection Date for Distribution
February	15th January	18th January	29th January
March	12th February	15th February	26th February
April	12th March	15th March	26th March
May	16th April	19th April	30th April
June	14th May	17th May	28th May
September	20th August	23rd August	3rd September

### Even More Cracker Jokes

**Mother bought a huge turkey for Christmas dinner. 'That must have cost a fortune!' I said. 'Actually I got it for a poultry amount,' she said.**



**A man went to a butcher's and saw that the turkeys were 90p a pound. He said to the butcher, 'Do you raise them yourself?' 'Of course I do,' the butcher replied. 'They were only 50p a pound this morning!'**

**How do you tell the difference between tinned turkey and tinned custard? Look at the labels!**

**Did you hear about the stupid turkey?  
It was looking forward to Christmas!**

**Who made this Christmas pudding?  
Our chef. He's a little green man who lives in a toadstool.  
What did he use to make it?  
Elf-raising flour, of course.**

## Progressing the Vacancy

In last year's December edition of Focus I wrote: *"It is more than 18 months since we became vacant. Slowly, our future and the way ahead is becoming clearer..... It is proposed that, early next year along with Netherlee, we can start looking for a new minister."* I'm afraid I was rather optimistic. However, I am now confident in writing that, *"early next year (2017), along with Netherlee, we will be looking for a new minister."*

Stamperland and Netherlee congregations elected representatives to the Nominating Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> October. The six members representing Stamperland's congregation are Mrs Christine Finnigan, Mrs Evelyn Graham, Mr Peter Dale, Mr Ronnie Kirkwood, Mr Steven Owens and Mr Norman Bolton. On 6<sup>th</sup> November, the Nominating Committee met with Rev Linda Walker, convenor of the Presbytery Vacancy Procedures Committee and our next meeting is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> December. At this meeting it is hoped that we will be close to finalising two important documents – one outlining both churches' vision for the future and one, the "Parish Profile", which describes the two churches, the two parishes and the wide range of activities being undertaken by both churches. The purpose of these two documents will be to give prospective ministers a clear idea of their role and associated work-load as minister at Stamperland and at Netherlee.

Whilst the Nominating Committee are responsible for preparing the documents, both Kirk Sessions have to formally approve them before they can be published. I imagine that the Kirk Sessions' approval will be given by the end of January 2017. Once approved, the Committee can start the process of seeking potential candidate ministers – as long as Glasgow Presbytery designate our manse as "satisfactory".

Presbytery have to inspect our manse and indicate whether they consider the it to be "satisfactory". Our manse has always been below the minimum criteria regarded as essential by the Church of Scotland with one room fewer than specified. We can, however, hope that, in our specific circumstances, Presbytery will decide that the manse is "acceptable and satisfactory".

If you know of a minister whom you think might be interested in becoming our new minister, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the Nominating Committee.

The work of the Nominating Committee has, by its nature, to be confidential and the committee cannot give regular updates on progress. So I would ask everyone to continue to be patient as they have been for the last two and a half years.

Christmas greetings to all and best wishes for a healthy and happy 2017.

**Norrie Bolton, Session Clerk**

## Rainbows



The Rainbows are now well into our programme for the year and we are having a brilliant time. Since our last article we have learned about road safety; the seasons; Remembrance Day, the Olympic Games and Fire Safety. We've made strawberry mice, truffles, Olympic flags and medals, scratch art Halloween masks, and camp fire biscuits.

Our newest girls are also working through their Rainbow workbook to allow them to complete their promises and receive their promise badge. This should be achieved by the end of the session.

We had a super Halloween party including, crafts, pin the tail on the cat, "dookin" for apples, party games and a fancy costume parade. The girls all put in so much effort to make their outfits amazing – it was hard picking a winner!

On the 1<sup>st</sup> November, we had a visit from the Scottish Fire and Rescue crew based at Clarkston station. The girls loved this, especially as they got a tour of the fire engine and got to have a go at firing the hose (sorry to anyone from the Guild or Choir who may have got wet!). The girls also had the opportunity to ask the fire crew questions about their role and received a short talk on fire safety including; stop, drop and roll.

In addition to everything else we have been doing we had a "design at Christmas card" competition which was won by Eden. We have printed her design and are selling them for Rainbow funds.

**Cards are available from Lynsey or Gillian any Tuesday night in the small hall (6.30-7.30pm). They will also be on sale at the BB Christmas coffee morning on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. They are priced £2.00 for ten cards. Bargain!**

Gillian and I are already starting to think about our next term and we are keen to make our programme as varied and interesting as possible for the girls. If you feel you have any skills or knowledge that the girls would benefit from, and you would be happy to talk to the girls about this, then please get in touch!

Wishing Everyone a merry Christmas.

**Lynsey McKee and Gillian Robertson, 07739 473 827**  
**stamperlandrainbows@hotmail.com**



*T'was the Internet Night Before Christmas*  
*by Author Unknown*

T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the Net,  
There were hacker's a surfing. Nerds? Yeah, you bet.  
The e-mails were stacked by the modem with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The newbies were nestled all snug by their screens,  
While visions of Java danced in their dreams.  
My wife on the sofa and me with a snack,  
We just settled down at my rig (it's a Mac).

When out in the Web there arose such a clatter,  
I jumped to the site to see what was the matter.  
To a new page my Mac flew like a flash,  
Then made a slight gurgle. It started to crash!!

I gasped at the thought and started to grouse,  
Then turned my head sideways and clicked on my mouse.  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear?  
My Mac jumped to a page that wasn't quite clear.

When the image resolved, so bright and so quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick!  
More rapid than mainframes, more graphics they came,  
Then Nick glanced toward my screen, my Mac called them by name;

"Now Compaq! Now Acer!", my speaker did reel;  
"On Apple! On Gateway!" Santa started to squeal!  
"Jump onto the circuits! And into the chip!  
Now speed it up! Speed it up! Make this thing hip!"

The screen gave a flicker, he was into my "Ram",  
Then into my room rose a full hologram!  
He was dressed in all red, from his head to his shoes,  
Which were black (the white socks he really should lose).

He pulled out some discs he had stored in his backpack.  
Santa looked like a dude who was rarin' to hack!  
His eyes, how they twinkled! His glasses, how techno!  
This ain't the same Santa that I used to know!

With a wink of his eye and a nod of his head,  
 Santa soon let me know I had nothing to dread.  
 He spoke not a word, gave my Mac a quick poke,  
 And accessed my C drive with only a stroke.

He defragged my hard drive, and added a "Dimm",  
 Then threw in some cool games, just on a whim!  
 He worked without noise, his fingers they flew!  
 He distorted some pictures with Kai's Power Goo!

He updated Office, Excel and Quicken,  
 Then added a screensaver with a red clucking chicken!  
 My eyes widened a bit, my mouth stood agape,  
 As he added the latest version of Netscape.

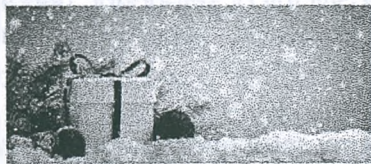
The drive gave a whirl, as if it were pleased,  
 St. Nick coyly smiled, the computer appeased.  
 Then placing his finger on the bridge of his nose,  
 Santa turned into nothing but ones and zeros!

He flew back into my screen and through my uplink,  
 Back into the net with barely a blink.  
 But I heard his sweet voice as he flew from my sight,  
 "Happy surfing to all, and to all a good byte!"

---

### The Landlady's Christmas Gift

Forging ahead through driving November rains, I hurried to my home in Vancouver, British Columbia. Home was a basement suite I rented in a large old house. When I flicked on the lights, I noticed something peculiar on my small kitchen table. A cooking pot had been turned upside down, revealing a blistered bottom with a note attached. "Will you be more careful?" said the note. "Turn down the gas when food begins to boil." It was signed by Lily, the landlady.



Tears sprang to my eyes. All afternoon, I'd jostled crowds in noisy shopping malls, seeking a perfect Christmas gift for my mother, but every time I'd come upon something I knew she'd like, it was too expensive for me. Saving money for nursing school and living expenses didn't leave me much for Christmas gifts. Totally discouraged, I'd taken the bus home. It seemed unfriendly to me to sit shoulder to shoulder with people without saying a word, so I'd started a conversation with the woman beside me. She'd answered me curtly, then stared out the window as though wanting to be left alone. Then I came home

to find this rebuke from my landlady.

A country girl living on her own in the big city of Vancouver--the idea seemed so glamorous a few months ago. Now, crushing loneliness overwhelmed me. I threw myself across my bed behind a curtain and sobbed out my heart.

Eventually, I lay there thinking and praying about a suitable gift for my mother. Suddenly I remembered a conversation I'd overheard at work. Some women had discussed a home party they'd attended. A saleswoman had come to demonstrate her wares and, because sales had reached a certain amount, the hostess received a lace tablecloth for her efforts. "There were only about ten people there," the woman had said, "but it's surprising how fast sales mount up when everybody buys a little."

A lace tablecloth! What could be more perfect for my mother for Christmas? I could just see her worn hands smooth it across the table in our old farmhouse kitchen. On Christmas day, as on other special occasions, she'd place roast chicken, still hot in its juices, on that small table, (we couldn't afford turkey), mashed potatoes whipped with an egg until they glistened, spicy crab apples, feather-light buns, German Pfeffernuesse and Lebkuchen . . .

The more I thought about that lace tablecloth, the more I wanted it. But a home party? Could I really carry that off? I'd never done anything like that before. Besides, who would come to it?

Well, there were people at church. I didn't know anybody there really well, but they might come. And then there were the women I'd had lunch with at work. I counted them up: yes, there were at least ten.

Still full of self-doubt, I booked a party. Encouraged by the saleswoman's enthusiastic response, I distributed my carefully written invitations at church and at work.

The day of the party in early December dawned heavy and grey. I decorated my scrubbed basement suite with cedar boughs and placed a red candle and Christmas napkins beside the dishes I'd borrowed from the landlady. By evening, my place smelled of cedar, chocolate brownies, and coffee.

Half an hour before the party was to start, the saleswoman arrived with a load of boxes. I helped her carry them inside, and soon a lovely display of colourful kitchenware and toys decorated my bed, the only flat area big enough.

I offered the woman a cup of coffee. Cradling my own mug in clammy hands, I glanced at the clock again with one ear cocked to outside noises. Where were my guests? Only five minutes to go and nobody had come yet.

Promptly at 7:30 the door burst open; it was Lily, my landlady. Her eyes swept the empty room, and she blurted out,

"Where is everybody?"

"I don't know, Lily," I stammered. "Nobody has come yet."

"Well, we can't wait much longer," she said and stomped out of the room.

I groaned inwardly, thinking that I should have known better than to book a party.

"I suppose we'll call it off," the saleswoman said, as she rose and began to gather up her wares.

Apologizing for the inconvenience I'd caused her, I helped her pack. Toys swam before my eyes. Embarrassment burned my cheeks.

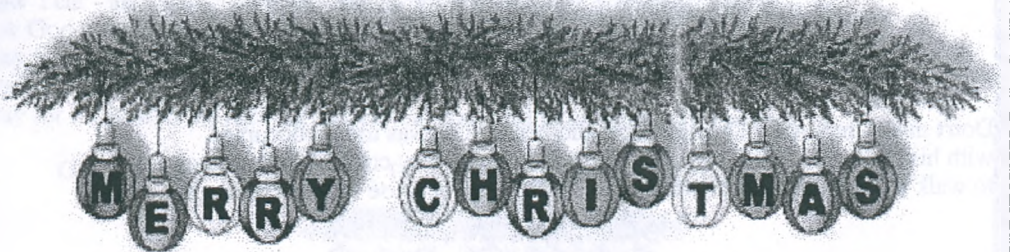
Suddenly, I heard a noise outside and the door opened, framing two women I'd never seen before. "Hi! We live down the street. Lily tells us there's a party here."

Bewildered, I asked them to take a seat. During the next ten minutes, this scenario repeated itself several times. The room filled with people. I stared incredulously at each unfamiliar, yet friendly face. Finally Lily herself returned, wearing a grin, and winked at me. Over coffee, the buzzing of animated voices reminded me of other gatherings of friendly people at home in the country.

Soon I had invitations for coffee and Christmas baking. Lily invited me to attend a Christmas contata at her church with her. I could hardly grasp the good will of these people who an hour ago had been total strangers to me. Perhaps people seem unfriendly because they've lacked opportunity to prove otherwise, I mused.

Oh, you're wondering about the lace tablecloth? When the sales were tallied, I had enough for the coveted hostess gift. For many years, my mother decked her old table with it, and her face revealed the pride and gratitude she felt.

But Lily herself gave the greatest gift that Christmas: underneath her brusque manner lay a warm, caring heart that reached out to ease my loneliness. Lily gave me a gift for my mother and a home in her heart for Christmas



## SHARING IN PRAYER



The good news of Jesus Christ - the Message! begins here, following to the letter, the scroll of the prophet Isaiah (Chapter 40).

"I will send my messenger ahead of you  
who will prepare your way"

"a voice of one calling in the desert,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"

(Mark 1: 2,3 NIV)

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

"Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ... You will find a Baby ... lying in a manger."

(Luke 2:8-12 NIV)

One Christmas in London Phil Yancy went to hear Handel's 'Messiah'. He said he'd spent the morning viewing remnants of England's glory – crown jewels, a gold mace, the Mayor's gilded carriage...such images must have filled the minds of Isaiah's contemporaries who heard the promise,

"The glory of the Lord shall be revealed"

(Isaiah 40:5 KJV)

No doubt the Jews thought back to the glory days of Solomon when "silver

and gold were as common ..as stones"

(2 Chronicles 1:15 NIV)

The Messiah who showed up however, wore the glory of humility. The God who could order armies and empires like chessboard pawns emerged as a Baby who depended on a teenage couple for shelter, food, and love.

'In London I caught a glimpse of the way rulers stride through the world: with bodyguards, trumpet fanfares...bright clothes...flashing jewellery.

God's visit to earth took place in an animal shelter with no attendants and nowhere to lay the new-born King but a feed trough. A mule could have stepped on Him! The sky grew luminous with angels, yet who saw that spectacle?...

Illiterate hirelings who watched the flocks of others, 'nobodies' - who failed to leave their names.'

The story inspired an Episcopal priest visiting Bethlehem in 1865 to pen the familiar words:

"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given;

so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin;

where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in."

(Taken from UCB Word for Today 2016)

Don't miss Christmas. The innkeeper did because he was too preoccupied with his business. The Jewish leaders did because they couldn't be bothered to walk five miles to check things out. Herod did because he was threatened by a Baby.

## SHARING IN PRAYER



### Thoughts for 2017

Money can buy medicine but it cannot buy health  
 It can buy a house but not a home,  
 It can buy companionship but not friendship,  
 It can buy entertainment but not happiness,  
 It can buy food but not an appetite,  
 It can buy a bed but it cannot buy sleep,  
 It can buy a crucifix but not a Saviour,  
 It can buy a good life but not eternal life.

\* \* \* \* \*

For a couple of years I've been blaming it on lack of sleep and too much pressure from my job, but now I've found out the real reason: I am tired because I am overworked.

The population of this country is 58 million.

24 million are retired.

That leaves 34 million to do the work.

There are 20 million at school, which leaves 14 million to do the work.

Of this there are 7.5 million employed by the government, leaving 6.5 million to do the work.

Take from the total the 3,770,000 people who work for local authorities and that leaves 30,000 to do the work.

At any given time there are 20,000 people in hospital, leaving 10,000 to do the work.

Now there are 9,998 people in prison.

That leaves just two people to do the work.

You and me.

And you're sitting here reading jokes!

(From 'Bursting at the Seams')

\* \* \* \* \*

There are many people whose faith is not strong enough to get them to church, yet they expect that it will be strong enough to get them to heaven.

'If you want to get to heaven, then you have to travel via King's Cross.' (J. John)

\* \* \* \* \*

'Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths;

guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour,

and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;

according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord. (Psalm 25)

New Year - ask God to help you stay close to Him every day in the coming year.

Ask God to help you turn to praise, even when times are hard.

Pray for those who are trying to fill the emptiness they feel with things other than God. Ask God to show them that He is all they need.

Pray for those who are battling anxiety and ask God to give them His peace.

GOD LOVES YOU ... STAY BLESSED THIS NEW YEAR 2017



## SHARING IN PRAYER : PASTORAL CARE : PRAYER MEADOW

For all those requests on the Prayer Meadow, if you now have the answers to your own prayer requests, please let us know how we can give thanks. The people who take time to pray for them are always interested to know what's been happening. Please also keep the requests coming in.

There is a true story of a pastor who wrote:

"I was a prayer request of people I didn't even know. Not long after I became a Christian, I met a lovely couple at a church I was visiting, who became good friends. The man, Charlie, asked my name. I told him. He asked with a puzzled look "Where have I heard that name before?" Just then, his wife May came over to join our chat. Charlie said to his wife, "This boy is a new believer" and he told her my name. Charlie asked his wife "May, how do we know that name?" May's expression changed from one of puzzlement to sheer delight! "Charlie! This is the lad we have been praying for a few years, his name is in our journal! Remember a few years back, a lady visited our house group, just once, and asked us to pray for a local boy who really needed saved as his life was spiralling out of control."

We all laughed at how, despite not knowing any Christians personally, God had 'set me up for saving' by getting my name to these faithful prayer warriors."

Psalm 116 : 4

I was overcome by trouble and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the Lord:  
"O Lord, save me!"

1. 'Sharing in Prayer' 'Focus' Sept 2016 asked someone to 'stand in the gap' for Andy, aged 22, losing job and home due to his addiction to gambling and then alcohol; Keep praying and watch this space! Prayer works!
2. Our own Jean Cranston, very seriously ill last Easter, is now recovered, with only a slight, attractive huskiness to her voice left after the surgeon's work to save her life. Prayer works!
3. So many prayers answered in the last year or more – too many to list here but right now, there may be someone you know who is terminally ill. Pray for them that they may come to know how much Jesus loves them and will take them Home to be with Him if they believe in Him. Prayer works!

As most of my family- husband, elder son and daughter have become members of another church, I now leave Stamperland to worship God with them. As I leave this special congregation at Stamperland, my deep appreciation go to two people in particular - my elder, Connell Cranston, and Reverend Jack Drummond, each with a heart for the Lord that have enriched my life in these latter years. My thanks also go to past Ministers – the late Frank Grimstone (in my teens), the late John W. Goudie (who married Ronnie and I), and those following on to the present, who have each helped me attain my vision that Christ should be the Head of the home, through a husband. Goodness, what a time it's taken for my family to get to know the Lord!

My prayers are now ongoing for your and Netherlee Church's Nomination Committees as God leads you to the next Minister for Stamperland & Netherlee Churches. With love and God's blessings to you all.

**Grace Walker.**



## **231<sup>st</sup> Glasgow Company Boys' Brigade** **JUNIOR SECTION & SPARKS**



Mobile: 07917801622 E-mail: [scottrussell87@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scottrussell87@hotmail.co.uk) Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/231stBB](http://www.facebook.com/groups/231stBB)

On Friday the 28th of October we enjoyed our fancy dress party where some of our Boys brought along friends. We had a Halloween disco and went dookin' for apples. After we did that and pinned the mouth on the skeleton we had some party games before making our 'mummies' with some toilet paper. All the boys had a great time and there were many party sweets that were won on the evening.

The following week we learned about the history of fireworks and how to stay safe when using them and being around them. We created firework pictures and created craft fireworks with paper card glue and glitter. We were pleased to welcome Theo into our section on this night and we hope that he has a good time with us in the 231st.

On Friday 11h of November we taught the boys about the importance of Remembrance and the significance of the poppy. We worked hard to create our own poppy wreath and remember all of those who have served for our country in conflicts, throughout the years. The following Sunday we marched to the Church to commemorate Remembrance Sunday and the boys who were on parade all looked very smart and well turned out.

Also on the 11th of November we had a group of parents who got together to chat about how our Section works, what we do well, and what we can improve on. We talked about fundraising and we decided that we would like to hold a 'mini Christmas Fair' on Saturday 3rd December. We will be serving tea and coffee, having a toy and bake sale, having the model railway and the bouncy castle. I hope as many of you reading this will be able to come along and support this, which will be one of our major fundraising events of the year.

Throughout December we will be having our Christmas Party for the boys and also attending our annual trip to the Kings theatre's Pantomime of Cinderella.

Look out for reports about these two events in the up coming editions in Focus. As this will be the last Focus article before the New Year may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all of the boys and staff at the 231st.

**Scott Russell, 07917801622**

## 79<sup>th</sup> Glasgow (Stamperland) Scout Group



### Cub Pack

**More Changes** – As noted last month we have had a number of new joiners recently. In November we have also welcomed Mark, Ruairidh and Ben into Cubs moving up from Beavers. We hope that they really enjoy their time in the Cubs. Our pack is now full again with a number remaining on our waiting list.

**Halloween** – At the end of October the Cubs held their annual Halloween party. We had a great number of very imaginative costumes and the Cubs took part in a number of games as well as traditional dookin for apples and a few other messy games.

**Auchengillan Weekend** – At the end of November most of the Cubs, as well as the boys moving up from Beavers and the 4 boys that have just moved up to Scouts will be taking part in a weekend away at Auchengillan. We have a full action packed weekend planned for everyone loosely based around a Jungle Book theme. The Cubs will be enjoying a number of outdoor and indoor activities over the course of the weekend including favourites of wide games, campfire and outdoor activities run by the site staff.

We will also be using this weekend as a fitting round-off to Cubs 100 – the centenary of the Cub section – with everyone renewing their promise during the weekend.

A huge thanks goes out to all the leaders and parents who are helping support this weekend.

**End of Session** – As we rapidly approach the end of the year the Cubs will be rounding the session off with a number of activities. These will include a Christmas craft night, a games/party night and a trip to the Panto which will be joint with the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers.

Then we start it all over again in the New Year with a number of older Cubs starting their move up to Scouts and a number of new adventures for the rest of the Cubs.

On behalf of all the leaders and Cubs in the Cub Pack I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.

**Philip Moseley – Cub Scout Leader, Tel: 0141 620 3146**

**Continued**

## Scout Troop & Explorers

**Halloween** – This yearly event was organised and run by the Young Leaders and Explorers with traditional games and challenges which turned out to be an eventful night for all concerned.

**Remembrance Sunday** - I would like to thank all the Cubs and Scouts & Leaders who had taken the time on this special occasion in attending Remembrance Sunday church parade.

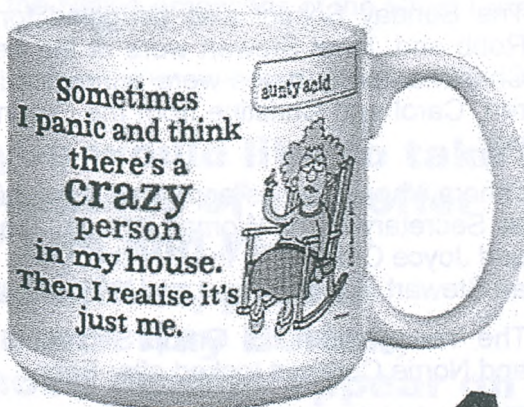
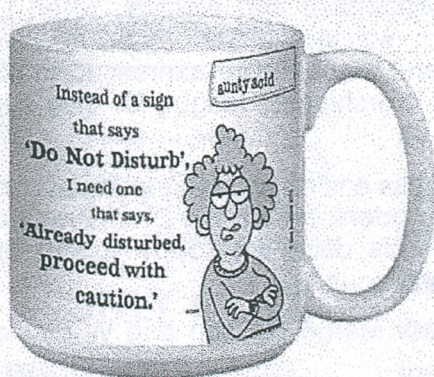
**Climb Zone Braehead** - Plans are in place to finish the session off with a night at Braehead Climb Zone for the Scouts and Leaders to take on the challenge of the high ropes and drop zone. Watch this space for the outcome!

**Auchengillan Jamboree** - At present we have 10 Scouts who will be taking part in the Auchengillan Jamboree in July & August of next year. Plans are well on the way for a full and exciting programme of events for Scouts and Guides from all over the world to take part and more information will be confirmed in the coming months.

**End of Session** - As we go into December the Scouts will be organising a night of international take-away food and games to finish the year off before the Christmas break.

Can I take this opportunity on behalf of the Scouts and Leaders to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year and hope to see you all in 2017.

**Joe Mailley – Scouter-in-Charge**  
Tel: 0141 571 0887



## A Walk Down the Memory Lane of Focus Magazines December 1977



From the Parish register the following children were baptised;

Richard & Stephen Sykes from Morpeth  
David Edward Halliday from Randolph Gardens  
Andrew Fleming Miller from Randolph Drive

A change to the Marriage Laws of Scotland in 1978 saw the cessation of Proclamation of Banns ceasing to have any legal validity although they can still be read out if requested by all parties. All legal requirements became the responsibility of the Registrars Office.

Jennie Fraser reported a successful Christian Aid Ceilidh in Clarkston Halls and advised an invite to join in carol singing with the Salvation Army band playing at Clarkston Toll.

The Cub Scouts welcomed 14 new boys and underwent some staff changes with the resignation of Tom McBeath and John Fearn stepping into the breach. A Seniors Six was created with Gordon Thompson, Gordon Mundie, John Fearn, Stuart McLeod, Garry Anderson and Derek Henderson.

The BB Company Section struggled with only two Officers, Captain Robert Blackwood and Lt Brian Stewart, ably assisted by S/Sergeants Drew Todd and Ian Johnstone looking after a Company of 59 boys. Meanwhile the Junior Section Christmas Fair took place on 3rd December, entry fee 20p for adults and free to children.

The Sunday School also struggled for leadership and pianists, when Liz Robb and Janet Stewart were at the helm, supporting Sam Esler, however Christmas party dates were announced and thanks were expressed to Karen, Carol and Christine from the Young Worshippers league for their support.

Others whose names appeared in print in this edition were Anne MacKenzie as Secretary of the Woman's Guild, Jean Anderson from the Dramatic Club, and Joyce Crombie in the Crèche, John Dodds, doing the Poppy Appeal, Brian Stewart, John Stewart and W Findlay on Focus.

The Young Woman's Group Secretary was Margo Neilson and W Findlay and Norrie Cuthbert looked after Fabric.

Finally, DH Brown, Treasurer reported shortages in finance with a timely reminder that "there was still time to fill the gap"!



## How They Forecast a Cold Winter



One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if the winter of 2011/12 was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with the reading signs from the natural world around the Great Lakes.

In truth, neither of them had any idea about how to predict the coming winter. However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief rang the National Weather Service in Gaylord Michigan.

'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood.

A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked.

'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him.

As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find.

A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked.

The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans of the Great Lakes are collecting wood like CRAZY!!'

The perfect gift this

*Christmas*

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## Stamperland Congregation's own Page for Messages

**THANK YOU**

This is the page for your Good Wishes, Get Well, Happy Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, A Thank You, or any other message you wish to make.

*I would like to thank the congregation for the Church flowers I received on Sunday 23rd, October 2016. Many thanks for your prayers and lovely get well cards that I have received. A special thank you to Rev Jack Drummond for his kind words and prayers during his visit. Once again thank you,*  
*Anne Kirkwood*

Once again, many thanks to everyone who contributes to the "Sweetie Treat" on a Sunday morning. It is very much appreciated. Happy Christmas to all,  
The "Sweetie" Lady

*I would like to thank Grace Walker for her many years of contributions to the Focus magazine with her centre pages entitled "Sharing in Prayer". As Grace is moving to pastures new for worship, this magazine holds her last contribution. I am sure these pages will be missed by members of the congregation.*  
*The Editor, Focus*

### The last Word on Christmas Cracker Jokes

What did Cinderella say when the Chemist lost her photographs ?  
Someday my prints will come !



This turkey's disgusting! Well, you asked for a foul roast!

This turkey tastes like an old settee. Well, you asked for something with plenty of stuffing.

What's brown and creeps around the house?  
Mince spies!

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?  
Deep pan, crisp and even!



## Duty Teams for the coming Months

### Dec 4<sup>th</sup> COMMUNION

Mr R Allan Con)  
Miss E Robb  
Mrs J Cranston  
Mr A Henderson  
Mr G Fairweather

### Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – TEAM 6

Mr A Graham Con  
Mrs E Graham  
Mr N Walker  
Mrs M Neilson  
Mrs K Baird

### Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – TEAM 1

Mr W Paterson Con  
Mrs M Young  
Miss L Robb  
Miss G Scott  
Mr D McKee

### Dec 25<sup>th</sup> - TEAM 2

Mr G Fairweather Con  
Mr R Russell  
Mrs J Silcock  
Mr S Owens

### Jan 1<sup>st</sup> - TEAM 3

Mrs A MacFarlane Con  
Mr A Henderson  
Mrs S Skelton  
Mrs R McNiven  
Miss J Stewart

### Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – TEAM 4

Mrs N Fisher Con  
Miss J Barr  
Mrs J Cranston  
Mr G Finlayson  
Mrs K Bolton

### Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – TEAM 5

Mr R Allan Con  
Mrs J Herriott  
Mrs J Curror  
Mr J Curror  
Mr S Russell

### Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> – TEAM 6

Mr A Graham Con  
Mrs E Graham  
Mr N Walker  
Mrs M Neilson  
Mrs K Baird

### ✓ Jan 29<sup>th</sup> - TEAM 1

Mr W Paterson Con  
Mrs M Young  
Miss L Robb  
Miss G Scott  
Mr D McKee

### Feb 5<sup>th</sup> – TEAM 2

Mr G Fairweather  
(Con) Mr R Russell  
Mrs J Silcock  
Mr S Owens

### Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – TEAM

Mrs A MacFarlane Con  
Mr A Henderson  
Mrs S Skelton  
Mrs R McNiven  
Miss J Stewart

### Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – TEAM 4

Mrs N Fisher Con  
Miss J Barr  
Mrs J Cranston  
Mr G Finlayson  
Mrs K Bolton

Any duty member who cannot attend on any date allocated should arrange a substitute for that date and inform the Duty Convener.



## **FOODBANK DECEMBER /JAN**

The total weight of food uplifted in October was 45.6 kg, the second heaviest so far. There was no indication in the thank you letter how many people this weight would feed.

As we are now into the winter months warm and comforting foods have been chosen for the months of December and January:

Tinned or packet Soup  
Sponge Pudding (Tinned)  
Pasta and pasta Sauces  
Breakfast Cereals including Weetabix and instant porridge  
Tinned Vegetables

Towards the beginning of December Christmas Treats would also be welcome.

UHT Milk and Creamed Rice or Custard (Tinned) are acceptable at any time. If you would prefer to donate any of the other items from the East Renfrewshire List please refer to the list as shown. If you are unable to carry heavy items please do not be deterred from donating, there are always lighter options available on the list.

Thank you again for your continued support which is very much appreciated. Again we would ask that items donated are within the "best before" date. The Foodbank will not distribute food which is out of date.

**Evelyn Graham on behalf of The Parish & Beyond Committee**

## **SHOPPING LIST**

Thank you for your support!

- \* Milk (UHT or powdered)
- \* Sugar (500g)
- \* Fruit Juice (carton)
- \* Pasta Sauces
- \* Tomatoes (Tinned)
- \* Tinned Veg
- \* Cereals
- \* Dried/ Boil in bag Rice
- \* Tinned Meat/Fish
- \* Instant Mash Potato
- \* Sponge Pudding (Tinned)
- \* Rice Pudding or Custard (Tinned)
- \* Tea Bags/Inst coffee
- \* Tinned Fruit
- \* Jam/Spreads
- \* Biscuits or snack bars

## **ALSO COLLECTING**

- \* Toiletries men and women
- \* Nappies & Baby Food
- \* Treats

East Renfrewshire Foodbank is a project of churches and community working together under charity no: SC029653



 <b>@netherlee</b>	 	<b>find out more on Facebook</b>  <b>www.netherleec hurch.org</b>
<b>Come along for fun and friendship at Messy Church</b>		



Due to the delayed halls project and the lack of other suitable venues we've had to cancel our Messy Church in December.

Have a very Messy Christmas and we look forward to you joining us in the New Year at Netherlee Church Hall on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**.

Messy Church is an opportunity for busy young families on a Sunday afternoon from 4-6pm to experience Church through games, crafts and activities; as well as something to eat as a family. It's OK to drop in at the last minute – you're always very welcome.

Sign Up sheet in the Lesser Sanctuary. (Messy Church is also on **5<sup>th</sup> March**)

## Motorcyclists - the Fun of a Christmas Toy Run

It's every driver's worst nightmare. You look in your rear-view mirror and see a pack of bikers revving their engines behind you. As you pull over to let them pass, however, you note that in addition to the typical burly men sporting skullcap helmets and tattoos, this "gang" also includes teenagers, senior citizens and other ordinary folk. Despite the diversity in appearance, they all share one thing in common—they're carrying sacks on the back of their bikes. What gives?

The truth is, this isn't a gang at all. It's merely a group of participants from the Fraser Valley Toy Run, an annual event for motorcycle enthusiasts in British Columbia's Lower Mainland. "The purpose of the ride is to raise money and toys for the local community, from Hope to Langley," says Bob Friesen, who participated in the ride for the first time this year. A manager of a meat department by day, Friesen



Bob on his bike with his grandson

has been riding for 30 years. He appreciated the opportunity to use his hobby for a higher purpose. "It's also a fun time to be with other people that enjoy doing the same type of thing you do."

Over 1,200 bikers participated in this year's ride, the 22nd running of the event, which took place on October 17. One group started in Mission, the other in nearby Chilliwack. They converged in Abbotsford, which is roughly halfway in between, for fellowship and refreshments. "You get a lot of funny reactions along the way," says Friesen. "Some people are frustrated at having to wait for us to pass. But most are excited to see so many bikers in one place." By the time the ride was over, they had raised over \$40,000 in toys, cash and gift certificates.

But the Toy Ride isn't just about helping kids. It also provides an opportunity for bikers from all sorts of different backgrounds to gather together and admire each other's bikes and trade tips and stories. "It's a pretty broad group," says Friesen. "There were bikers for Christ. And then there were other guys who, if they weren't already members, were probably pretty close to being Hell's Angels." Friesen says the group also included one rider who was only 16 and another who was 83. No matter their background, all of the riders were united by their love of riding and their desire to make a difference in their community. "Everybody wants to do something for a kid," says Friesen.

As a Christian, the ride also had a higher purpose for Friesen. "Part of what we need to do as Christians is get out and be with people who aren't. The Toy Ride is a great opportunity to do this, to make some non-Christian friends and share our lives with them."

JUST SPENT 15 MINUTES  
SEARCHING FOR MY PHONE  
IN MY CAR.  
USING MY PHONE AS A FLASHLIGHT.



I am a Seenager—Life is Great!

I have everything I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later.  
I don't have to go to school or work.  
I get an allowance every month.  
I have my own pad.  
I don't have a curfew.  
I have a drivers's licence and my own car.  
The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and they do not use drugs.  
And I don't have acne.

## The Christmas Eve Church Service

At the Christmas Eve church service, I sat with my two boisterous grandchildren, ages three and five. Their parents sat in front of the church to present a nativity reading entitled "Silent Night." They had warned the children to behave. I had warned the children to behave. With scrubbed angelic faces and Christmas wonder in their eyes, they looked like model children posing for a magazine holiday spread. I indulged myself in a few moments of pride.

Alec pinched Aubrey. I was grateful that the organ thundered into the first hymn just then, drowning out her yelp. I grabbed her hand before she could return the pinch. During the Lord's Prayer, Aubrey shredded the program I had given her to color on. The crayons had already rolled under the pew. I watched bits of paper fall on the carpet like snow. I would help her pick it up later, but for now the naughtiness I was allowing kept her occupied and her brother quietly admiring. We were enjoying an uneasy truce when their parents stood to deliver the reading.

"Mummy!" Alec yelled.

She frowned, and he sat back in his seat.

"Silence," my son said to the congregation. "Think for a moment what that word means to you."

My daughter-in-law signed his words. Earlier that year, she began to use her new signing skills for the benefit of the few hearing-impaired members of our church.

Alec said a naughty word, thankfully too low for many to hear. I scowled at him, shaking my finger and my head. Aubrey grinned. Then she proclaimed, every syllable enunciated perfectly, in a clear voice that carried to far corners of the sanctuary, "Alec is a potty mouth!"

Everyone stared. I was too stunned to speak. My son and his wife looked at each other. But instead of anger, I saw surprise.

My son set aside his script and told another story. He told about their daughter being born profoundly deaf. He talked about four years of hearing aids and speech therapy with no guarantee she would ever learn to speak plainly. He talked about the rugged faith that kept the family praying she would have a normal life.

He said Aubrey's outburst was an answer to prayer: the first perfectly enunciated sentence she had ever spoken.

From the back of the room, a lone voice sang the last line of a beloved Christmas Carol: Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king.

While the congregation sang four verses of the unscheduled hymn, my two little angels wiggled in their parents' arms, adding laughter and giggles to the joyful Christmas noise.

\*\*\*\*\*

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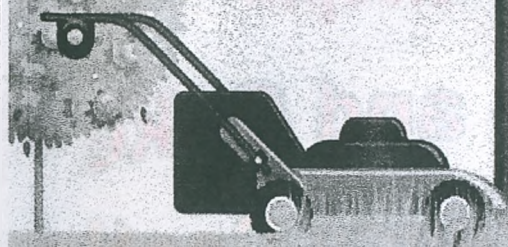


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# 231st Boys' Brigade

## Christmas Fair

**Saturday 3rd December 2016**

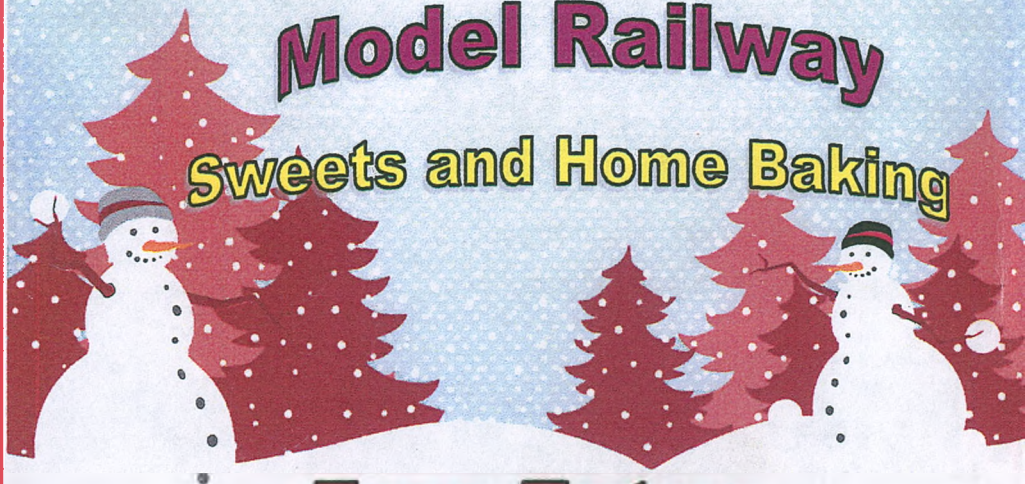
**10.00am - 1.00pm**

**Tea, Coffee and Cake**

**Toy Sale** **Bouncy Castle**

**Model Railway**

**Sweets and Home Baking**



**Free Entry**

*Stamperland Parish Church Magazine*

# *Focus*



*Merry Christmas  
&  
Peace On Earth*



## *December 2016*

*Available for distribution on the last Sunday of the preceding month*

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