

## BIGGAR KIRK OFFICE BEARERS

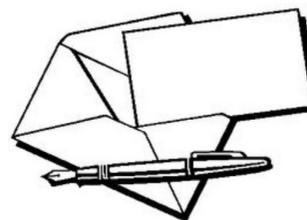
<b>Minister</b>	Rev Michael Fucella	229291
<b>Deacon</b>	Miss Ann Lyll ( <a href="mailto:ann.lyll@btinternet.com">ann.lyll@btinternet.com</a> )	229443
<b>Session Clerk</b>	Mr Michael Chad	220446
<b>Presbytery Elder</b>	Mrs Patricia Saulnier	221377
<b>Property Convenor</b>	Mr Alastair Fyfe	220132
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs Elizabeth Cochrane ( <a href="mailto:elizabeth.cochrane3@btinternet.com">elizabeth.cochrane3@btinternet.com</a> )	810262
<b>Safeguarding Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs Caroline Deerin	220224
<b>Organist and Choir Mistress</b>	Mrs Margaret Filshie	220119
<b>Gift Aid</b>	Mrs Anna Boyd	220068
<b>Weekly Freewill Offering</b>	Mrs Janette Rae	221241
<b>Coin Boxes</b>	Mrs Anna Boyd	220068
<b>Church Officer/ Beadle</b>	Mr Peter Brotherstone	220097
<b>Church Administrator</b>	Mrs Elaine Fyfe ( <a href="mailto:st.maryskirk09@hotmail.co.uk">st.maryskirk09@hotmail.co.uk</a> )	07532-266505
<b>St. Mary's Hall, Church Bookings and Roll Changes</b>	Church Administrator	07532-266505
<b>Church Website</b>	Church Administrator	07532-266505
<b>'News and Views'</b>	Church Administrator	07532-266505
<b>Pastoral Group</b>	Mrs Jean Shearer	221505
<b>Biggar Kirk Guild (President)</b>	Mrs Jean Shearer	221505
<b>(Vice-President)</b>	Mrs Nanette Stott	221163
<b>(Secretary)</b>	Miss Kathleen Roger	220235
<b>Sunday Club/ Holiday Club</b>	Mrs Anne Smart	830445
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Mrs Ruth Bryden	221005

Published by: Biggar Kirk  
Typeset and Compiled by: Church Administrator  
Printed by: Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark

*Biggar Parish Church of Scotland is a  
Charity Registered in Scotland: SC000333*



## Advent 2013



### First Impressions from Our New Minister

It feels a lot longer than just three months since I and the family arrived in Biggar! Thank you all so much for welcoming us so warmly. There has been a lot to do in terms of getting to know folks and how things are done here. But in three short months I think we have got many of the 'firsts' of our time here under our belts and we are feeling at home with you already.

My impressions of Biggar in this short time are:

- You are a loving and close knit community. I have seen this, sadly, because of the funerals I have been privileged to play a part in. It is awe inspiring to see how much people care about those who have been members of our community both for short times and for many decades.
- This community is full of talented and wonderfully gifted people. This I've seen in the flower shows in Dolphinton, Elsrickle and here in Biggar. I am just waiting to be invited to judge those scones and biscuits in future years! I've also seen your talents in the fabulous shows that were staged and the art on display during the Biggar Little Festival and, of course, the not-to-be forgotten production of 'Calendar Girls'. Jane even bought the calendar that has pride of place in our kitchen!
- The Church in Biggar does a great deal to serve the community and is, as it should be, an integral part of this town.

I am sure there are some negative things about living in Biggar, but I haven't found them yet!

I and the family are looking forward to being a part of your community. I, in

particular, am excited about leading Biggar Parish Church into a future that, I am sure, will be full of both blessings from God and challenges as we continue to serve one another and our neighbours as God leads and inspires.

Yours in Christ,  
Mike Fucella

## Two way partnership

Partnership in mission is a catch phrase that has been heard in the Church of Scotland for years. The picture it conjures up for many people is of a select few going overseas as missionaries. We do not often think of the role of the people left behind in the pews. When Mike and I were sent by the Church of Scotland to work in Thailand in 1990, we felt that a large part of our role was keeping in touch with our 35 partner churches here in Scotland. They encouraged us, prayed for us, wrote letters to us, sent us gifts, supported us and many projects financially and visited us. We wrote letters, informed the churches about what we were up to and I hope were able to both enthuse and challenge people to think more about both cross cultural mission and their own journey of faith. Mission for us really was a matter of partnership and we could not have stayed in Thailand without that partnership. We saw ourselves as the hands and feet of the churches in Scotland, carrying out their work in Thailand. And that work was not one way. As we engaged with the Church in Thailand, churches in Scotland were blessed as well as being a blessing, and learnt new and exciting things.

When we left Thailand to come to Scotland a very special thing happened. Partnership was expressed in a new way. Mike was a member at Rajdhevi Church. This is a small church that was started in 2010 close to where we lived. By the time we left in 2012 there was a regular congregation of about 50 members. They were sad that we were going, but immediately saw it as an opportunity to be in partnership in mission. Our last Sunday there was very moving as the elders laid hands on us and prayed. They commissioned us to be their mission partners, their representatives in Scotland. Their hands and feet in God's work here in Scotland. They have continued to pray for us, write to us and have sent us money to support Scottish children to go to SU camps (child sponsorship in reverse!!). It is humbling to be in a partnership like this. And it is not just us they support. They are praying for the congregations of Biggar and Black Mount. I am sure one day they will visit to see what God is doing here!

So what does it mean on a practical level to be in partnership in cross cultural mission? Over the next few months we will be hearing about different

## Announcements

### Deaths

*Our congregation has had a number of bereavements during the months from August to October and we would ask that you remember the families and friends of:*

#### August

Mrs Marjorie Hunt  
96 Cairneymount Road, Carluke.

#### October

Mrs Susan Barnes  
Coulter Rd, Biggar.

Mrs Thelma Black  
Greenhills Road,  
East Kilbride.

Mr William Bryce  
5A Sillerknowe Court, Biggar.

Rev Andrew Lambie  
Greenhills Care Home, Biggar.

Mrs Moira Duncan  
c/o Blackwood  
Broughton Road, Biggar.

Mrs Paterson (Martha) Frame  
Beechgrove Care Home  
Lanark

Mrs Jane (Sheena) Brownlie  
Care Unit, 3 Langvout Court  
Biggar

*"I am the resurrection, and the life:  
he that believeth in me, though he were  
dead, yet shall he live."  
[John 11 : 25]*



BIGGAR KIRK



### Church Roll

#### Admitted to the Roll:

Mr G. and Mrs S. Tweedie  
8 Stanehead Park  
Biggar, ML12 6PU

Rev M. and Mrs J. Fucella  
6c Leafield Road  
Biggar, ML12 6AY

Rev D. Easton  
Rowanbank  
Quothquan

Mrs Marion Bell  
9 Foreknowe  
Biggar

#### Change of Address:

Mr. K. And Mrs S. Millar  
7 Southpark Grove, Biggar to  
Flat 4, 19 Edinburgh Road,  
Biggar

### Weddings

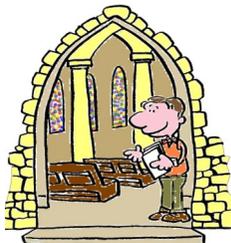


#### 30th August

Callum Taylor to  
Rachel Strudley



## Biggar Kirk



### Door and Offering Duties

#### December - Group 'A'

Nanette Stott  
Alec Clarkson  
Bill Gourlay  
Elizabeth McDonald  
Margaret Weir

#### January - Group 'B'

Ella Coubrough  
Joyce Kelly  
Margaret Moffat  
Patricia Saulnier  
Cameron Sutherland  
Anna Boyd

#### February - Group 'C'

Caroline Deerin  
Alastair Fyfe  
Shona Thorpe  
Kathleen Roger

### Bible Readings Dec - Feb

#### December

1st	11:15am	Morning Advent Service
8th	11:15am	Morning Advent Service
	2:00pm	Afternoon Service
15th	11:15am	Morning Advent Service
22nd	11:15am	Morning Advent Service
	3:00pm	'Blue' Christmas
	7:00pm	Lessons and Carols
24th	4:30pm	Christingle Service
	11:30pm	Watchnight Service
25th	11:15am	Christmas Day Service
29th	9:30am	Holy Communion
	11:15am	Morning Worship

#### January

5th	11:15am	Morning Worship
	7:00pm	Evening Service
12th	11:15am	Morning Worship
19th	11:15am	Morning Worship
26th	11:15am	Quarterly Communion

#### February

2nd	11:15am	Morning Worship
	7:00pm	Evening Service
9th	11:15am	Morning Worship
16th	11:15am	Morning Worship
23rd	9:30am	Holy Communion
	11:15am	Morning Worship

#### December

1st Stewart Houston  
8th Hazel Gourlay  
15th Alastair Fyfe  
22nd Vacant  
29th Elaine Fyfe

#### January

5th Stella O'Brien  
12th Elly Sutherland  
19th Daphne Chad  
26th David Campbell

#### February

2nd Caroline Deerin  
9th Sadie Cameron  
16th Olive Lyon  
23rd THINKING DAY

opportunities to be involved, whether with the partnership with Rajdhevi church, or with other people or churches in different parts of the world. Listen out for these mission spots on Sunday mornings. One way you can be involved is to pray. There is a new world mission prayer group starting on Tuesday mornings at 10am. All are welcome. Please contact Jane Fucella (229291) for details.

## Farewell to Ann

I first met Ann for a coffee in the Gillespie Centre shortly after she arrived in Biggar. We talked about the various ministries that were currently taking place for children and teenagers and she listened carefully to all I had to say. I had no idea at that point that she was going to prove such a huge support in all of the areas we talked about – or indeed introduce new initiatives taking us forward in all we are trying to achieve.

She immediately offered her help with that summer's Holiday Club and has been part of that team ever since. One of the things Ann and I have talked about during the time she has been with us is how wonderful it is to come across people who volunteer for things and say "Yes!" whenever they can. I can't think of a time when Ann has not come alongside us in our efforts and frequently offered to do more than was being asked – a real blessing to all of us.

She has been involved in so many areas of our children's ministry – frequently encouraging and supporting new developments and ideas. Last year she enabled us to organise a visit from Bibleworld and her previous experience and calm preparations were invaluable as we undertook this new venture. It was a great success with almost 400 children and 132 adults attending over the week. I know she has also been involved in planning Messy Church and the recent one day clubs held on school in-service days – again innovations which help us engage with families and children in our community.

For years members of our church have prayed that a Scripture Union club might take place in our local schools, and Ann has proved to be an answer to prayer in helping to provide this. We know there are many children who are interested in finding out more about Jesus – but who do not come to church. It is vital that we find opportunities to meet them where they are and explore different ways to engage their interest. Ann has not only built up a relation-



ship with our local schools but has faithfully been part of the small team who work with the children at SU every week. Her presence there will be sorely missed.

In the last few months Ann has been trying to foster another new development – a partnership between different churches to provide for the needs of the young people in our midst. It's too early to say what the response to this venture will be from the teenagers themselves although an important step has been taken in identifying this need and engaging willing volunteers to help as well as creating an exciting programme for the young folk. Her perceptiveness and desire to find solutions has helped us to see how we might work together in new and creative ways.

I know Ann has done so much more than work with our children and young people – but most of the times I have worked with her that is what she has been doing and I will leave it to others to talk about the many other ways she has served in our area. I know everyone will want to join with me in expressing our deep appreciation of all she has done. Thank you so much Ann – and all the best in whatever you take on next!

*Anne Smart*



### New Churches Youth Group

During the summer a group of people got together from various churches in the area including Biggar & Black Mount, The Tinto Parishes (Cairngryffe, Libberton & Symington) St Isadore's in Biggar and Upper Clyde to discuss the possibility of running a joint youth group for our teenagers.

After some discussion it was agreed to go ahead with this joint venture and the Youth Group started meeting on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October in the Gillespie Centre. This is an opportunity for our Church young people to come together and learn more about their faith and also to share issues that arise for them in their daily lives – and hopefully have some FUN as well.



All of the Churches agreed to support the venture with money, publicity, leadership or planning. We would ask for your prayer support and any help you might offer in the way of publicising the group, being a leader or financial.

The Programme and times for the group are available to view on all the Church websites.

### 'Afternoon' Service of Worship



Our next 'Afternoon' Service of Worship will be at 2:00pm on Sunday 8th December in St Mary's Hall, North Back Road.

These services are particularly intended for those who for whatever reason are unable to attend Church on a Sunday morning. Worship lasts around 30 minutes and is followed by a cup of tea/ coffee and a chance to meet and chat with friends. A very warm welcome is extended to attend this service.

Remember: Transport is available, and if you would like a lift please contact: Mrs Nanette Stott Tel: 01899 221163. If you or anyone you know would like to receive a Pastoral visit from the Church please speak to our Deacon, Ann Lyall, Tel: 01899 229443 or Jean Shearer, Tel: 01899 221505.

### Biggar Kirk Monthly Giving August and September, 2013

	Aug Actual	Sept Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Standing Order	2697	2477	25720.5	31500
Freewill Offering	814.4	1106.2	8493.2	9378
Open	894.85	979.17	7183.42	11664
Donations	1064.94	35	3173.31	3375
Gift Aid Refund	952	804.75	8172.6	9000
Total	6423.19	5402.12	52743.03	64917
<b>Surplus/Shortfall</b>	<b>789.81</b>	<b>1811</b>	<b>12174.65</b>	

*You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly.  
[2 Corinthians 9:7]*

Clerk or the Minister. It can be a very satisfying task, and would be a valuable contribution to worship.

On the subject of technology, we have begun to investigate the possibility of installing Audio-Visual equipment in one or more of our buildings, to enable greater flexibility in worship, training, and sharing ideas. More of this in due course.

Back to now – or the immediate future – Mike is planning an interesting and enriching programme of worship for advent and Christmas. Please take part as much as you can, and share in the blessings of the season.

*PS – the song was “Feeling Good”*

**Adult's Christmas Quiz Answers:**

- 1) John the Baptist - born to Zacharias and Elizabeth;
- 2) Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14);
- 3) Mark's and John's Gospels;
- 4) Silent Night;
- 5) Antiphon;
- 6) We don't know;
- 7) They would find him "wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger";
- 8) Jerusalem - because they expected a "King" to be born in a palace in the capital city;
- 9) The Jewish chief priests and scribes (Micah 5:2);
- 10) They fled to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod (Matt. 2:13-15.);
- 11) Noel means *birthday*;
- 12) His crucifixion - Jesus was offered a drink of wine mixed with myrrh but refused it. It was one of the spices used in the wrapping of Christ's body at the time of His burial.

**Brain Teaser 1:**  
A jigsaw puzzle piece

**Brain Teaser 2:**  
2 - Each answer given equals the number of circles

white candle in the centre is lit on Christmas Eve. It is called the 'Christ' candle for the life of

Christ that has come into the world. The colour white is for 'purity'.

**What is the Advent Wreath?**

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing 'eternity'. There are five candles on an Advent wreath: three purple and one pink on the wreath branches. One white candle sits in the centre of the wreath. The candles are to help us think about the 'light' of Christ coming into the world. The first purple candle is lit on the 1st Sunday in Advent. It is called the 'prophecy' or 'hope' candle for Isaiah the prophet who foretold the birth of Christ. The second purple candle is lit on the 2nd Sunday in Advent. It is called the 'love' or 'Bethlehem' candle for the 'manger'. The pink candle is lit on the 3rd Sunday in Advent. It is called the shepherds' candle for peace. The 'fourth' purple candle is lit on the 4th Sunday in Advent. It is called the 'angels' candle for 'peace'. The white candle in the centre is lit on Christmas Eve. It is called the 'Christ' candle for the life of

## Our Thanks To Ann

In the summer of 2011, the Ministries Council assigned Ann Lyall to serve in our corner of Lanark Presbytery. At the time there were six parishes without a minister, including ourselves at Biggar, with a seventh shortly to become vacant, and the task of providing cover was becoming increasingly difficult. Her appointment was welcomed, not just as a stop-gap measure, but because her outstanding record as a member of the Diaconate of the Church of Scotland, her proven gifts and spirituality wedded to practical sense, promised much. We have not been disappointed. In the two and a half years she has been with us, she has worked tirelessly at Biggar and in the parishes of Black Mount, Libberton and Quothquan, Culter (before the dissolution of the congregation in January of this year), Symington, Cairngryffe, Glencaple and Lowther. Services on Sundays and on weekdays in Care Homes, funerals, pastoral visits, assemblies and classes in the primary schools in the locality, Messy Church, holiday clubs, retreats to the Bield in Perthshire and Lindisfarne, Bible Study Groups and times of prayer – all have been part of the wide-ranging and effective ministry she has exercised quietly and without fuss among us. At Biggar Kirk, the monthly service on a Sunday afternoon in St. Mary's Hall which she has developed along with the Pastoral Committee for those who find access to the church on a Sunday morning difficult, has been particularly appreciated. Then there have been the relationships which have grown out of the pastoral care she has shown to many. We thank God for her and acknowledge our debt to her.

Ann's appointment, which originally was for two years, was extended, but the time has now come for her to move on, Her next placement is at Muirhouse St. Andrews and the Old Kirk in Pilton, Edinburgh. In expressing our warm thanks for her ministry among us, we wish her God's blessing in her new appointment and promise her our prayers.

*David Easton*



They always say 'time flies when you are enjoying yourself'. Well that has certainly been the case over the past two and half years and I often wonder where the time has gone. It only seems like yesterday that I arrived in Biggar and now it is time to leave.



My date to leave here is the 9<sup>th</sup> December and I will be going to work in the soon to be united parishes of Muirhouse St Andrews and the Old Kirk, Pilton in Edinburgh. It will be a change and a new challenge.

Before I go I would just like to say thank you to everyone for the warmth of your welcome, the support and friendship you have given during my time here. It is a placement that I have enjoyed very much and I look forward to hearing how the Church grows and develops under the guidance of your new minister.

Edinburgh is not far, so hopefully we will not become strangers to one another.

With thanks for the times I have shared with you and blessings for the future – I bid you adieu and God Bless

Ann Lyall



Over the past two years a small but dedicated group of volunteers have ensured that a Scripture Union Group meets in Biggar Primary. The numbers of children are not huge but those who come do enjoy it and are there every week.

With the departure of Ann Lyall and one of our other volunteers no longer able to assist we are looking for some new volunteers. We meet on a Tuesday from 12.30 -1pm but leaders do not need to be there every Tuesday. If this is something you think you could help with, please contact. Ann Lyall Tel: 229443 or Mairi Maxfield on Tel: 220393. Helping with this group is good fun and very rewarding - please keep the work in your prayers.

## A View from the Chancel



*"It's a new day, it's a new dawn..." (spot the song!)*

In the last News & Views, I shared some thoughts about the future, and the work which needs to be done. The future has now arrived, with the induction of our new Minister, Mike Fucella, and the work has begun. Indeed, I find myself wondering if Mike had any idea what he had let himself in for!

Apart from getting to know us individually, Mike has to become familiar with two churches, whose expectations of him are both different and demanding, and, at the same time, to use the opportunity to bring fresh and challenging ideas into our church life and worship.

Add to this an inherited list of weddings, funerals (which can never be scheduled) questions over the future use of our church buildings, and Presbytery activity, and you can quickly see that it needs a special person to take it all on board. We are already seeing that Mike is indeed a special person, and that, with Jane, we have not just a new minister, but a very capable and committed **team**. Our job, now, is to support them, pray for them, and respond positively when they ask for our time and talents.

I predicted that this will be a time of new beginnings and opportunities for all of us, and that Biggar Kirk will rise to the challenge.

One of the challenges is how we use technology in worship. We have a modern, good-quality sound system, but it doesn't always work in the way we would like. Much of the technology which we use every day has "intelligence" built into it. (My car has automatic lights, automatic windscreen wipers, automatic gearbox, automatic climate control and lots of other gadgets). But a sound system, no matter how good, needs to be "driven" by someone who has sympathy with how to use it properly. Fortunately, it is not particularly complicated, and a little training is all that is needed.

Ideally, we need a rota – a small team of people prepared to check the settings on a Sunday morning, and make adjustments discreetly during the service. If you would like to VOLUNTEER to help, please contact the Session

children ran up and down the pitch in front of the church creating a swirling dust cloud as they went.

The evening after the second and final service of the day is when the real fun begins. From then until late into the night troupes of performers, young and old, would display their skills that had been honed through weeks of practice for the watching crowds under the bright lights of the church stage specially decorated with fairy lights and tinsel.

The last performance of the night was invariably the nativity play – not unlike what we perform here in Biggar though there the players are usually adults. The crowd would be hushed in awe as they witnessed once again the miracle of God -made - flesh being carefully laid in a manger by his adoring parents. Following a prayer and a blessing the crowd would disperse after an exhausting and fun filled day – hopefully giving some thought to why that baby in a manger was worth all the fuss and perhaps wondering enough to come back and hear what that baby would get up to when he became a man and why knowing and trusting him is the best thing any of us will ever do.



### Biggar Guild

The Guild meets at 7:30pm in St. Mary's Hall on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from October until March with the meetings in January and February starting at the earlier time of 1:30pm.

Our Committee have worked very hard this year to provide our members with a varied and interesting syllabus and it would be really encouraging if more members of the congregation were able to come along. New members will always be made most welcome. We hope to see you at our meetings.

### Yorkhill Christmas Concert 2013 Sunday 15th December at 7:00pm City Halls, Glasgow



Come and enjoy a concert of festival cheer hosted by the BBC's Jackie Bird with performances from the Military Wives, Scottish Police Choir, Kirkintilloch Brass Band and the Kirkintilloch Male Voice Choir.

To get your tickets, please call the Glasgow City Hall Box Office on 0141-353-8000 or visit: [glasgowconceerthalls.com/whatson](http://glasgowconceerthalls.com/whatson)



**Advent and Christmas  
Celebrations at Biggar Kirk**  
**Everyone Welcome**  
**Join us to make your Biggar**

30th November	4:00pm - 6:00pm	Christmas 'Messy' Church - fun for the whole family: activities, crafts, food and the Christmas story as well! At Black Mount Church in Dolphinton
1st December 8th December 15th December 22nd December	11:15am	Morning Advent Services - Join us as we prepare for the coming of Christ into the world
8th December	2:00pm	Afternoon Service with Tea and Baking
22nd December	3:00pm	'Blue' Christmas - Come and join others in this alternative calm in the midst of the frenzy of shopping and preparations for the big day.
22nd December	7:00pm	Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols
24th December	4:30pm	Christingle Service with Nativity Play - a fun filled, children's service
24th December	11:30pm	Watch Night Service - See Christmas in with Carol singing and a candlelit procession
25th December	11:15am	All-Age Christmas Morning Celebration - fun for the whole family





## A View from the Pew

### “Until He Comes”

I love making up simple ways to recall learning disciplines. In the past I have referred to the “3 T s”, then the “4 T s” and this time I wish to recommend the “6 C’s”:- Communion; Community; Commemoration; Covenant; Celebration; Commitment.

Most Christians regardless of their denominational title will hopefully agree that whenever we approach the Lord’s Table we should remember that it is a corporate act. Hence the call to all those who love the Lord to share in that celebration feast is central to our focus on Christ’s redemptive powers as a result of His sacrifice at Calvary. We come together to show our loyalty to Him by a renewal of that pledge to follow and serve.

The celebration of the Lord’s Supper is wonderful within itself, but it is only a temporary provision. In the call to take part in this celebration some leaders make the statement “Once more- once less until He comes” which underlines the temporary provision celebrated within Christian congregations, we undertake this memorial feast only “Until He comes”.

What a privilege...what an honour offered to ALL those who love the Lord as their personal Saviour to be able to take part and to renew this confession of faith. Therefore before taking part in this feast we should draw close to God and in the name of His only Son the Lord Jesus Christ make our private confession of overt and covert sin to ensure that we do not heap condemnation upon our heads.

It is a serious occasion, more important than a family occasion, more important than meeting Royalty and so if for those occasions we present ourselves looking our best how much more important is it to present ourselves in the best and most meticulous manner available to us...after all, this is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

This sacrament is a token of our belief in our Master’s return, without such a belief it cannot truly be partaken of, so permit me to repeat it is only “Until HE comes”

Why not carry this one line prayer in your daily life, work and witness, “O Father, what can I say? My heart cries out in eager anticipation,” “Come, Lord Jesus”, Amen.

**Anon**

## Christmas in Northeast Thailand by Mike Fucella

Our first assignment in Thailand was in the Northeast of the country far away from the capital city on the border to Laos. People here have their own distinctive dialect, cuisine and culture. Christian people in *Issan* are a tiny minority amongst a majority folk Buddhist population.

Christmas was seen as the one annual festival that the Christians hosted and everyone, whether they were Christian or Buddhist, joined in the preparations as well as the celebrations. Christians also helped out at the Buddhist festivals that happened much more frequently than once a year.

For folk in the Northeast Christmas wasn’t always on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December as children would have to go to school if the 25<sup>th</sup> happened to be a weekday. So the church usually opted for one or other of the Saturdays or Sundays in December being sure to coordinate with the other Christian churches in the district so as not to have it on the same day. We did this so that we could travel to each other’s churches and celebrate together! Every weekend in December ended up being Christmas day as folks from each church loaded into the backs of pickup trucks to head off to a neighbouring church for fun and festivities!

Christmas day (whichever day that might be) began at 3am as the men went round the back of church to slaughter the cow bought especially for the occasion and which would become the staple food. Dispatching of the animal was usually swift and humane. After the deed was done the early dawn would be filled with the sound of meat cleavers on big blocks of wood as the women went to work mincing the beef to make spicy *laab*- a dish that is eaten at every festival and for which the Northeast is famous.

Food would be served as people started to arrive and everyone would then come to the first church service of the day. After the service the loud speakers would be switched on for constant, deafening music interspersed by a DJ who had funny jokes to tell or announcements to make. More food would be consumed and the children’s games would begin. Barefoot,



## Calling All 'Former' Biggar Kirk Young Women's Group Members



We are planning to hold a re-union for all who were members from 1976 onwards – which was when the group was formed at the time the two Churches – Gillespie Moat Park and St. Mary's united.

Several former members thought it would be a good idea to meet up in a sociable setting to remember the fellowship, fun and friendships which we enjoyed in the group. We might even be able to persuade Kathleen T. to lead us in the singing of some old favourites from the days of our choir, e.g. Abba Father, etc...

So, look out your YWG memorabilia, e.g. old photos of Gala Day Lorries, Christmas Parties, Fashion Shows, Coffee Mornings, etc... does anyone still have the scripts of the sketches we performed? Time may have passed but we are all still "Young Women" at heart so please think about coming along for what will hopefully be a happy relaxed evening filled with chat and lots of laughter.

The proposed date for this event is: **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at 7:00pm** for a 'Buffet Supper' in the **Elphinstone Hotel, High Street, Biggar.**

If you have any queries, ideas for the event or information about former members who have moved from the area, please contact:

kathleenetawse@hotmail.co.uk; dorothyaitken@btinternet.com; springdale40@tiscali.co.uk (Sue Pacey); lornamacdougall@hotmail.co.uk; or telephone Jeanette Rae on 01899-221241.



## Property News

The Reverend Mike Fucella has asked that the St Mary's Hall project work be paused so that he can concentrate on other aspects of ministry before he becomes involved with a large project. So, for the time being we will look at 'sprucing up' the large hall which badly needs some t.i.c. in the shape of upgrades for better accessibility at the west door, improvements to the lighting and ventilation, replacement windows, wall surface repairs and redecoration.

Reverend Mike has also suggested that some alterations could be made to the inside of the Kirk which will aid his style of worship - so please look out for changes in the near future.

Alastair Fyfe

## Kwai River Handicrafts



The Kwai River Handicraft project is located in a jungle village on the Thai Burma border. Karen women do exquisite cross stitch which is then sent to Scotland and mounted into cards and packaged for sale by volunteers. The project is possible because of this great partnership. For most of the Karen women what they earn from the cross stitch is their only income and feeds their families.

Jane Fucella was involved in starting this project in 2002. She has a stock of cards for all occasions which she is happy to sell from home to anyone who is interested. She will also be selling cards after church at coffee time on Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>, so don't forget to bring your money!



## Reverend Dr Angus Morrison nominated as Moderator Designate

The Reverend Dr Angus Morrison, Minister of Orwell and Portmoak Church in the Presbytery of Perth, has become Moderator Designate of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Dr Morrison will take up the office of Moderator in May 2014 at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Dr Morrison said after his selection: "I really am amazed and deeply moved to have this honour laid on me. I am truly humbled by the trust that has been placed in me. I shall do my utmost by God's grace to prove worthy of it".

The Clydesdale Food Bank was delighted to receive the donations from the Harvest Thanksgiving Services at both Biggar and Black Mount Churches and wishes to sincerely thank both congregations for their generosity.



A total of £350.00 was raised at the Harvest Lunch which was donated to the 'Christian Aid Harvest Appeal'. A massive 'thank you' to everyone who contributed in any way to making the Lunch so successful - a great time was had by all.

### What is the Advent Wreath?

The Advent wreath is a \_\_\_\_\_ garland of evergreen branches – representing 'eternity'.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ candles on an Advent wreath.

\_\_\_\_\_ purple and one pink on the wreath branches.

\_\_\_\_\_ white candle sits in the centre of the wreath. The candles are to help us think about the 'light' of Christ coming into the world.

The first \_\_\_\_\_ candle is lit on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent. It is called the 'prophecy' or 'hope' candle for Isaiah the prophet who foretold the birth of Christ.

The \_\_\_\_\_ purple candle is lit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent. It is called the '\_\_\_\_\_ ' or 'Bethlehem' candle for the 'manger'.

The \_\_\_\_\_ candle is lit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent. It is called the 'shepherds' candle for '\_\_\_\_\_ '.

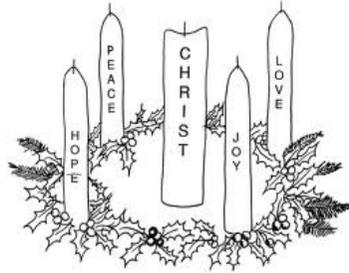
The \_\_\_\_\_ purple candle is lit on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent. It is called the '\_\_\_\_\_ ' candle for 'peace'.

The white candle in the centre is lit on Christmas Eve. It is called the '\_\_\_\_\_ ' Candle for the life of Christ that has come into the world.

The colour white is for '\_\_\_\_\_ '.

Using the words from the list below complete the story of the Advent Wreath. Then colour in the picture of the Advent Wreath above.

- |          |        |        |       |        |
|----------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| one      | angels | love   | peace | purple |
| circular | fourth | purity | pink  | Christ |
| second   | five   | three  |       |        |



Colour me in



S  
U  
D  
U  
K  
O

1	7		8				9
		6		1			7
					7		5
		4	9		5		8
	8			6			9
9			4		3	5	
	5		7				
7				9		6	
8					6		2
							1

### Adult's Christmas Quiz!

- 1) What baby was born to a relative of Mary's, about six months before the birth of Jesus?
- 2) What Old Testament prophet predicted the miraculous virgin birth of Christ?
- 3) Which two of the four Gospels make no mention of the birth of Christ?
- 4) Which Christmas carol has been voted the most popular one of all?
- 5) What carol began in the ancient church as *one single word*? And what was that word?
- 6) Was the Lord Jesus born in a stable?
- 7) What sign did the angel give the shepherds that would enable them to identify the baby Jesus?
- 8) When the wise men arrived in the Holy Land, where did they go first?
- 9) Who told Herod about an Old Testament prophecy that Israel's Messiah-King would be born in Bethlehem?
- 10) Where did Joseph take Mary and the Baby to protect them from Herod?
- 11) What is the meaning of the word "Noel"?
- 12) As well as being a gift from the wise men, at what other time was "myrrh" associated with Christ?

### Brain Teaser 1:

Given these equations, what does 4500 equal?  
 $8898=7$ ;  $4566=2$ ;  $1203=1$ ;  
 $2313=0$ ;  $4566=2$ ;  $5464=1$ ;  
 $7774=0$ ;  $1003=2$ ;  $9856=4$ ;  
 $9955=2$ ;  $1886=5$ ;  $1231=0$ ;  
 $8764=3$ ;  $4500=$

### Brain Teaser 2:

I come in different shapes and sizes. Parts of me are curved, other parts are straight. You can put me anywhere you like, but there is only one right place for me. What am I?

### SUDUKO PUZZLE (Medium)

				4				
		2	9		3	6		
		9	6			2		8
7	6				5	8		
			8		9			
		8	4				1	2
2		1			4	5		
		7	2		8	3		
				9				