

A Christmas Message from Scott



As we near another Christmas, I have been struck by the seeming fears that seem so present within our world for good reasons at this time. What with the recent very cold weather and the concern for people being able to heat their homes, the ongoing concern with the war in Ukraine, the cost of living crisis, political turmoil and strikes, can we genuinely look forward to Christmas seems a fair question.

With all these other factors, it seems we are approaching one of the worst times in recent memory. The darkness seems more than just the shortness of days within our culture at the present time, it seems much more menacing.

As I was thinking about this, I remembered some words that I read the other day in a little book of readings from the great theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer writes:

There is a joy which knows nothing of sorrow, need, anxiety of the heart; ... The joy of God has been through the poverty of the crib and the distress of the cross; therefore it is insuperable, irrefutable. It does not deny the distress where it is, but finds God in the midst of it, indeed precisely there; it does not contest the most grievous sin but finds forgiveness in just this way; it looks death in the face, yet finds life in death itself. We are concerned with this joy which has overcome. It alone is worth believing; it alone helps and heals.

When I thought more about these words, I was drawn to think about the meaning of Advent and Christmas. For me the wonder of Advent and Christmas is how the church has used the darkest time of the year to welcome the Christ to the world. For after all it is Christ's light that we need in these difficult days.

At Christmas, so often belittled as 'a time for the children', we are brought home to God's unceasing love for humanity.

At Christmas, through no other motive than grace and love, God comes close to this most difficult world at times.

God comes, not to condemn, but rather to transform. God comes to reveal the true light we all know and seek within our being.

So, as we move closer to Christmas and its blessing, let us try and focus our seeing on the light that is present amidst the darkness of these days. For it is the present light that will redeem and transform the world around us.

May God bless you all this Christmas!

Scott

Worship during Advent

Sunday 18 December - Advent 4: 10:30 am Nativity Service

Sunday 18 December – Nine Lessons and Carol Service: 6:30 pm

Saturday 24 December - Christingle Service: 5:00 pm

Saturday 24 December - Watchnight Waiting Service: 11:45 pm

Sunday 25 December - Christmas Morning Service: 10:30

This year the Watchnight Service is going to be one that meets in low light and hears the Christmas Story from the voices of those involved. During the service we will focus on the Nativity Scene and populate the Nativity Scene.

Please note that the work on the roof is in progress. For the duration of the work, our contractors will maintain access to the sanctuary by way of the rear ramp access, by way of the Welcome Hall and by way of the main door. However, members of the congregation are encouraged to make increased use of the ramp access and the Welcome Hall to avoid the combination of steps, stairs and scaffold poles at the main door.

Life and Work

From January, subscribers must uplift their copy of Life and Work from the church.

News from Starchild

Starchild would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the Rock Choir concert such a wonderful success. We raised the roof and raised £3014! Our deepest thanks to Barbara Cochrane and her team of angels behind the scenes in the kitchen. It was a fantastic day with such a beautiful atmosphere in memory of Rony.

Thank you all for your continued support of Starchild. This will help us build a roof on the Sunflower Sanctuary in Uganda. It will be a holistic centre for people with autism and disabilities

The Forum – Audrey Flanagan, Glasgow S.E. Food Bank

On Monday 21 November, the Forum audience were presented with a good and stimulating report from the local South East Glasgow Foodbank. The speaker was Audrey Flanagan who is the Manager of the Foodbank.

Audrey was engaging and fun in her interaction with people. She came and was honest from the very beginning. She made it clear that she has been at the foodbank for eight years now. She herself is somewhat perplexed by this reality as she says she started in the foodbank as an emergency procedure during the 'Austerity' years. She honestly believed that she would not be working there for so long. She also found large, murmured response when she made the point that assisting people in today's society with providing food seemed to her just wrong.

However, she says the foodbank covers areas such as Govanhill, Gorbals, Castlemilk and Toryglen. She says that prior to Covid there was only one full time employee within the Foodbank - now there are six employees totalling 4 full-time equivalents. The posts are funded through grants from mainly the Trussell Trust. The foodbank is responding to the needs of these community's in 'food poverty', 'period poverty' and wider 'poverty related issues'.

The foodbank works on a referral basis and under some very strict restrictions. People who show up without referral are allowed access to food once and then directed to agencies to refer them for further access. Even those who are referred are only able to visit 8 times over a six month period. Increasingly, the foodbank is being supported by some large Trust agencies and some commercial companies. They have never been out of food, and they generally only ever really store food that has safe shelf life for up to two weeks.

Despite this reality, Audrey shared some fun stories, one notably how a woman visited one time with what Audrey thought was a false parrot sitting on her shoulder. Eventually, the bird squawked and they realised it as real. It just so happened that they had some bird food and the parrot got fed as well as its owner.

Audrey made the point that in Govanhill there are as many as 83 languages and dialects spoken. She also told stories how communities such as the Romany Community, won't accept tinned soup as they pride themselves upon not being poor and therefore they should be eating meat. Coping with these immense range of challenges leads to a job that Audrey states changes from day to day.

She made the point that managing the sharing of food donations was an important part of their work. They need tinned foods, rice, tinned fruit, meat, fish, beans as well as fresh vegetables.

Audrey also welcomed prayer on behalf of the whole operation as they valued all the support that they can get.

Audrey also made the point that so many volunteers help with the whole process. If any of you have been interested by this report and think that you might want to help out, I am sure you could make contact with Foodbank and hopefully before long you could be sharing your own stories with the wider church community.

The Guild

We continue to enjoy having some unscheduled afternoons without invited speakers when we have quizzes or puzzles as on 10th November.

The following week Niall Illingworth spoke about the Lunch Club started after a conversation with Tom Nelson. He brought slides showing the volunteers with guests taking part in the different activities plus the all important lunch. It was obvious the folk enjoyed coming. Having restarted after covid , just a few guests are coming at present. This, however, will probably increase to previous levels so new volunteers would be welcome. I am pleased to say his plea was answered as one lady is now helping on a Monday.

On the 24th Anna Magnusson and Joyce Deans (herself an evacuee from Laurel Bank School) described life at Auchterarder House. Joyce stayed there throughout the second world war along with most of the senior school and the staff. She was full of praise for them and the House staff.it was not a holiday as they were kept busy with extra- curricular activities as well as school work. Anna very nicely brought out Joyce's memories, delivered with humour, making it a most enjoyable afternoon.

We began December learning more about the Glasgow South Foodbank. Audrey Flannigan explained that handing out food parcels is only a small part of what they do. They work with several groups such as Citizens' Advice Bureau and Local Authority Agencies. They give advice and assistance in accessing correct agency to people in need of help or language interpretation.

The week later the committee, led us in a series of reflections on Christmas. We had three passages based on the Crib, the Shepherds and the Magi. All three slightly different from the standard text. These were read in between singing corresponding hymns. It was an enjoyable afternoon complimented by the constant buzz of conversation round the room over tea. Music to my ears!

Our final meeting for the year will be our Christmas Party on 15th December -- Mince pies, cake and a lot of laughter.

May I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Guid and Healthy New Year.

Margaret Fear

Daily Readings for Advent

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/advent?fbclid=IwAR2D3bv2mfkUfq-2DeIvKp7EEg8TnGd5tB5PhrtL84iAOiJrbywpBpY16S8>

Sunday Club



At Sunday Club it has been time to start thinking about Christmas. We have been considering what advent means for the children and making our own advent wreathes complete with working candles (well battery -operated ones at least!). Having started the process of creating a tree for the festival last year, we dusted off our work and completed a full set of angels, wise men, shepherds and sheep and created Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus for our 'Nativitytree'. We are now excitedly preparing for our 'congregation participation' nativity service on 18th December and are hoping you enjoy sharing it with us. Wishing you and all the children in your lives a joyous Christmas from the Sunday Club.

Karen McQueen

Cranhill Development Trust

The nearly new shop at Cranhill Development Trust has now closed until the new year. Could you therefore please retain any donations meantime until mid- January 2023.

From that time any future donations for the shop of nearly new clothes and bric-a-brac should be bagged and clearly labelled for Cranhill and left in the cupboard in the Welcome Hall.

If any further information or clarification is required, please contact Gordon Lang.

In the meantime, a big thanks for all your continued support. Hope you and all your friends and family have a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Gordon Lang

SE Foodbank

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all who have contributed to the Glasgow South East foodbank over the year whether it be goods, special appeals eg; Christmas or Easter or financial All these donations have made a huge difference to the people living in the south of Glasgow who unfortunately for whatever reason have to rely on the foodbank Thanks in part to your donations families and single people who rely on the foodbank will have a slightly cheerier Christmas.

Bible Readings and Welcomes

If anyone would like to be included in the list for welcomes and readers until end of May ,please contact Marjorie Lang .Please don't be shy it is lovely to see different faces on a Sunday morning.

If you would like to continue or cancel your daily bible reading notes ,please contact Marjorie Lang before Sunday. If you would like to start receiving daily bible reading notes, please also contact Marjorie as soon as you can.

Marjorie Lang

Save the Date

We're planning an evening of silly games for fun-lovers of all ages, on Saturday 28th January. It should be the perfect antidote to the January blues, so get the date in your new diary.

More details to follow soon.

Helen Illingworth

Poppyscotland News.

Following the busy and successful 2022 Poppy campaign, there is now a period of calm. I do not yet have the final total raised in Netherlee. I shall let you know when I find out.

Here are some dates for your diary:

The next event is the ever popular Beetle Drive, which will be held on Saturday 18th February 2023 at 7pm in the Large Hall. The cost is £3 for adults and £2 for children. This event is fun for all the family. If you have never tried it, please come along and join in the fun. There will be a raffle on the night and the Poppy box will be in the Welcome Hall to receive donations from the middle of January. As always, thank you in advance. The Spring Coffee Afternoon will now be held on Saturday 3rd June 2023.

Thanking you all for your continued support for this important charity.

Anne Mann

Christmas Tree Festival

Many thanks to all who supported this festive event. All the entries were wonderful, but the people spoke, and the Choir and the Rainbows were worthy winners.

Generous donations for the refreshments, home baking, tombola and guess the birthday and the number of books in the Book Group Tree raised over £400 to be shared between Glasgow SE Foodbank and the Budding Minds gardening group at Netherlee Primary.

Esmee Bell was the lucky winner of the cuddly puppy, but I'm afraid you'll have to wait until the Book Group Tree is dismantled for the results of that competition. We didn't have the genius idea of making it a money-spinner until after the tree was built!

Helen Illingworth



The winning tree from the Rainbows.



The winning tree from the choir.

GIVE400.scot

Stephen Pearson, chair of Financial Inclusion for Scotland and son of Forbes and Jean Pearson who are members of our congregation has sent us this link for the GIVE400. Scot initiative. This is an initiative that encourages those who may not need the government one-off fuel allowance to donate theirs to folks who do need it. More information can be found by following this link.

<https://www.give400.scot/>

SALE OF OUR STAMPERLAND BUILDINGS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR CONTENTS

Following the final service in Stamperland Church on Sunday, 26th June the accommodation was prepared for sale. Everything that was not firmly fixed to the floor had to be removed from the sanctuary, the halls, offices, cupboards, cellars, and assorted nooks and crannies. Various items were transferred from Stamperland church to Netherlee church including communion silver, items of brass ware, the baptismal font, banners, pulpit falls, cradle rolls and the Book of Remembrance. The communion table and some chairs originally used in the Church of Scotland Church at the 1938 Empire Exhibition were transferred from Stamperland to Netherlee.

Some members of the congregation took pew bibles and hymn books as mementos of Stamperland. Some large bibles were gifted to Williamwood and Mearns Kirk Churches but the majority of pew bibles were donated to Blythswood Care who will redistribute them to various projects in Africa. Most CH4 hymnbooks were donated to Oakshaw Trinity Church, Paisley. Local churches, including Williamwood Parish Church and Cartsbridge Church, accepted some chairs and tables. A few items were sold via Gumtree but many more were taken by church members, some of whom gave monetary donations. Items including almost 300 stacking chairs, more than a dozen folding tables and assorted filing cabinets found new homes with local charitable organisations.

Huge numbers of non-CH4 hymnbooks along with large amounts of equipment used by the organisations and many items of furniture including bookcases, tables, desks, pew cushions and curtains had to be scrapped.

The Stained Glass window in the sanctuary was removed by the family of the stained glass artist, Gordon Webster. The Lewis pipe organ was dismantled by the Irish organ builder, Pdraig O'Donovan. The organ will be refurbished and installed in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Clonakilty, Cork. The large oak communion table had to be left in the sanctuary as no one expressed any interest in acquiring that particular piece of furniture.

Donations for all items amounted to £1,831. The sale of the digital organ raised £5,000, resulting in a total of £6,831 for the entire contents of the buildings. This money has been donated to assist in the establishment of Glasgow Presbytery's Autism Church which will be known as "St. Thorlak's Community".

The sale of Stamperland Church buildings and grounds was handled by the Church of Scotland General Trustees. Their estimated valuation of the church buildings and site was £250k if another denomination or a community-based organisation were to purchase the building and £400k if a property developer were to purchase the building. In the event some 14 offers were made. The offer which was accepted for the church, halls and grounds was £603,000 and came from a person who operates children's nurseries. Work to convert the interior is expected to commence in Spring 2023 and it is understood that, once the building is refurbished, the hall accommodation will be available for hire in the evenings by local organisations.

The disposal of the Stamperland Manse at 109 Ormonde Avenue was initially handled by the General Trustees. An offer was accepted but, unfortunately, the sale did not complete as anticipated, in late summer. The property was re-advertised for sale by local estate agent Corum and, with the house no longer being advertised, it appears that the sale is imminent. The finance raised from the sale of Stamperland Church and Stamperland Manse will be held by the General Trustees and will be accessed by our congregation for fabric repairs including the re-roofing of our Netherlee sanctuary.

Norrie Bolton

STAMPERLAND'S PIPE ORGAN

The pipe organ in Stamperland Church was built in 1897 by Lewis and Company, an organ-builder based in Brixton, London. Initially installed in Regent Place Church, Dennistoun, it was transferred to Stamperland in 1962 by James Mackenzie and commissioned in time for the opening of the new sanctuary in October 1964. The instrument was awarded a Historic Organ Certificate Grade Two Star by the British Institute of Organ Studies to recognise its importance as a significant, surviving example of Lewis & Co's late 19th century output to a design of Alfred Hollins which retained the original patent combination key-touches and pneumatic action throughout.

The cost of the organ and its installation at Stamperland was a little over £1,000 in 1964. The price for an organ of equivalent quality today would be in excess of three quarters of a million pounds. We were delighted when Pdraig O'Donovan of O'Donovan Organs offered to remove the instrument from Stamperland Church with a view to refurbishing it and subsequently installing it in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Clonakilty, Cork. This is a large church of rather splendid Gothic design and it is considered that the Lewis organ should sound magnificent in its new location.

It took a week to dismantle and pack the organ. Photographs show the work in progress with the dismantling of the console and the removal of over 1,300 pipes.



