

Boghall Manse

The world appears to be a little more vulnerable this year. The vulnerable of the world appear to be a little more vulnerable than they were last year. Violence seems to be stalking every news report. As we approach Advent, that *preparing time* for Christmas, we return to the old story of violence and vulnerability. God comes into the world as a vulnerable baby and into a world where oppression, revolt and violence proliferate. From the manger to the cross we hear the story of a vulnerable Jesus in a violent world.

The season of Advent, the waiting and preparing time, has been squeezed out of our culture and our churches. We go straight into Christmas after Halloween. Christmas now feeds the capitalist system of consumption. No waiting and no preparing, just spending. What would spending time, waiting and preparing do for us today? How we use our time is as important as how we spend our money. But time is not a commodity to be wasted, saved, or spent, but it is a gift from God so that we might pursue the kingdom of heaven. In the wonderful little book, *Living Gently in a Violent World*, Jean Vanier, who has dedicated his life to the work of L'Arche, writes that he is becoming less comfortable with so called normal people. He says, "I don't know what to talk about. I can fool around at the dinner table with people with disabilities, but I can see that I am becoming marginalised... It is not always easy when you discover you are living in two different worlds."

L'Arche, which has houses across the world, has a fundamental ethos where people with disabilities and those without labelled disabilities live together. It is not about one set of people doing for another but each living and struggling together. Because of this, time is viewed differently. They are friends of time rather than slaves of time.

Let us become friends of time this Advent. Let us become odd and marginalised. Let us feel that we are living in two separate worlds, and let us be uncomfortable about it. Before the nativity plays, the

Christmas trees and the turkeys, let us use the season of Advent to reflect on how we use our time. Let us think about where and when we can be the Christ-light to others, the light in the darkness which the darkness could not overcome.

Be a light this Christmas.

With the blessing of the vulnerable God,

Chris

FUNERALS

Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

2 November: Cathie Fleming, late of 1 Starlaw Avenue

3 November: Loretta Kennedy, 43 Boghall Drive

EVENTS TO NOTE:-

Fri. 1 December: **Christmas Fair at 6.30pm**

Mon. 4 December: **Memory Café Christmas Lunch**

Wed. 6 December: **PVG Training** at 7pm in Boghall Church

Fri. 15 December: **Nativity** at 11am in Boghall Primary School

Sun. 17 December: **Carols in the Park** at 5pm at the Bandstand
in Kirkton Park

Fri. 22 December: Boghall Primary School **Christmas Service**
at 9.15am in Boghall Church

Mon. 25 December: **Christmas Day Lunch** from 12.30pm-3.30pm
in Boghall Church Hall

If you are interested in attending, please see Chris or Cath at the Community Wing.

ALL ARTICLES for the February edition of the church magazine to be in the editor's hands by Wednesday 17 January.

Mrs K. Dunleavy 4 Starlaw Gardens Tel. 630763

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

- 3 Dec 10.30am: Morning Worship – Toy Service
Donations of toys for River Kids will be gratefully received at this service
6.30pm: Service of Remembrance and Reflection
- 10 Dec 10.30am: Morning Worship
6.30pm: Christmas Celebration
- 11 Dec 5.45pm- 7.30pm *Messy Church*
- 17 Dec 10.30am: All Age Worship– Nativity
5pm: *Carols in the Park*
- 24 Dec 10.30am: Worship – ‘Nine Lessons & Carols’
11.30pm: Watchnight on Christmas Eve
- 25 Dec 10.30am: Worship on Christmas Morning
- 31 Dec 10.30am: Morning Worship
- 7 Jan 10.30am: Morning Worship
- 14 Jan 10.30am: Morning Worship
6.30pm: United Service for Week of Prayer
in St Mary’s & St Columba’s Church, Livery Street
- 21 Jan 10.30am: Morning Worship – Pulpit Exchange
- 28 Jan 10.30am: Morning Worship

SAVE YOUR STAMPS!

Please keep the stamps from your Christmas cards for WORLD MISSION and put them in the box in the Hall of Fellowship. Trim the paper round each stamp, leaving 5mm or ¼ inch of paper.

Scottish Charity No. 001881

CHRISTMAS POST BOX

THE BOYS’ BRIGADE will again be delivering Christmas cards in the parish to raise funds for B.B. Please put cards in the Post Box in the Hall of Fellowship before the morning services on **Sunday 3 and Sunday 10 December** for delivery on those dates. **The cost is 25p. per card.** Please make sure that the name and address on the envelope is clear for a successful first class post! Many thanks.

Thank you

Thank you for the flowers we received from the church.

Ena and Bill Inglis

Thank you for the lovely church flowers. They did brighten my day. Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated.

Agnes Smith

Thank you for the flowers from the church which I received on my birthday.

Maureen Young

Thank you to all who donated to the collection for Poppy Scotland following the Remembrance service when the total collected was £235.00.

67 Blythswood Care Shoeboxes are now on their way. Thank you to everybody who filled a shoebox, knitted clothes and blankets, donated money or relevant goods or helped in any other way. Thanks again to Matt Purdie and Sons for donating packing cases.

WEEK OF PRAYER for Christian Unity January 21 – 28 2018

The Week of Prayer begins on Sunday 21 January at 6.30pm with a united service at St Mary’s & St Columba’s, Livery Street.

Daily services as follows:- **Mon. 22 Jan:** 11am at St Columba’s ,

Tues. 23 Jan: 11am at High Church, **Wed. 24 Jan:** 7pm at Boghall Parish, **Thurs. 25 Jan:** 11am at E.U. Church, **Fri. 26 Jan:** 11am at St

John’s Church, **Sat. 27 Jan:** 11am at Torphichen Church.

JOURNALING

We are very blessed in Boghall Church to have so many people offering to give their time and talents for the benefit of others.

On Saturday 11 November, Jackie Craig co-organised an afternoon of Journaling with Claire Starr.

I must admit I was very sceptical, the reason being that I didn't really know what it was all about. At one point on Saturday morning, thought, do you know I cannot be bothered. But I made myself bothered and went along with four other members of the congregation and our minister, Chris.

We were introduced to Journaling and what materials were available. The afternoon included a stilling time, a reading from Matthew 11: 28-30 and a poem, all of which led into a time of individual journaling. We also enjoyed fellowship together over freshly brewed coffee and home baking. I thought that Journaling was about writing, but there were several other materials available. There was clay, felt, balloons, glue, tissue paper, feathers, coloured pencils, reading materials, old magazines and, of course, our very own church gardens.

Thank you to Jackie and Claire for taking the time to organise and share their experiences of journaling and what it meant to them. The afternoon was a comfortable space, allowing us to explore how we were feeling and how we respond to those feelings. It is amazing how a little gift of 2 1/2 hours can be so rewarding.

Lynn Galbraith

FINANCE

Income and Expenditure as follows:-

Income from offerings:

October £6,090

Regular Expenditure:

£6,500

Janice Welsh, Treasurer

CLERK TO THE BOARD

We're still looking for someone to take on this position. If you think this is for you, please speak to Chris or any of the elders.

Christmas traditions – which ones do you keep?

One survey has found the following:-

Putting a penny in the Christmas pudding? Only 3% of us still put them in.

Tangerines in Christmas stockings? 69% of us have not heard of this custom.

Setting alight the brandy on the Christmas pud? 29% still like to do this.

Christmas cake? 46% of us still enjoy this. 25% of us prefer German stollen.

Chocolates? 64% of us will indulge.

Champagne for Christmas breakfast? 65% of us now think this is a great idea.

Watch the Queen's speech? 26% of us still do this.

Sing carols? Amazingly, only 16% will bother.

Church News Service

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