

KNIGHTSWOOD
ST. Margaret's
CONTACT MAGAZINE



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Silent Night Oh Holy Night.

Hi Everyone, Christmas Greetings!

What a year it has been for the Knightswood/Anniesland churches! Negotiating major church reorganisation and change, amidst a pandemic where we often have not been able to gather in person and communicate fully, the way we would normally expect to meet.

In a funny kind of way these challenges have provided us with the opportunity to exercise our faith. I am full of admiration and affection for the congregation of St Margaret's who have proved that they are incredibly adaptable, flexible, and resilient.

Honestly, I have loved being part of your journey for these past months. Meeting such lovely people who form the backbone of a hardworking congregation, has been an inspiration. To your credit, St Margaret's has people who have faithfully adjusted to whatever challenges have arisen.

However, I understand it is difficult to be positive when we feel uneasy with disruption and change; but Christmas reminds us of something critical to keep in our minds, "***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it***" (John 1:5). So, there are many more reasons to be grateful and filled with hope because of our faith. God has and will continue to see us through all of this turmoil.

Jesus came to the world as a vulnerable little baby, representing possibility, new life and hope. A new birth is magical and holds so much joy, excitement, and expectation. As the time of a birth approaches there is a lot to consider and a new mindset to establish. We hear in the story of Mary that she reflected on the amazing things she had heard and seen. 'And Mary pondered these things in her heart.' This advent is a time for pondering, forming new dreams and hopes.

In 2022 a new church will be birthed, called Knightswood, Anniesland Trinity. With every new birth there are struggles but also wonderful life changing joys! God bless you all this Christmas!!

Rev. Audrey Jamieson
Interim Moderator

An Advent Prayer

Loving God as we begin this Advent season, help us to use our time of waiting wisely. Let it be a time of preparation. As we wait to catch a glimpse of the Holy Child lying in the manger, in a cold, draughty stable let us focus on your goodness to us. This helpless little child will grow up to become the Saviour of the world. During His short life He will teach, preach, heal and be a friend to many.

Remind us of how Jesus teaches us today when we reflect on His perfect example. Remind us of how Jesus heals us when we are in pain, be it physical, mental or spiritual as He knows our every need. And remind us that Jesus is our friend and our Redeemer. Jesus is always there to help us, guide us and carry us when we are weary.

Heavenly Father you sent Your Son to a troubled world, much like the one we live in today, to bring hope, love and salvation to the people. As we sing carols old and new and read once more the very familiar words from Scripture, let us be aware of the true significance of Jesus' birth to us. We are shown grace because of the sacrifice Christ will make on the Cross bringing life, true life to each of us. Our sins will be washed away by His blood.

So while we exchange gifts, enjoy food with others and enjoy the brightness of the decorations, let us remember why we are celebrating. Let us remember WHO we are celebrating.

Merciful Father, you have given us the greatest gift we will ever receive.....Your Son who will redeem us allowing us to have life eternal. We thank You and praise your holy name.



Amen

Love Came Down at Christmas

Dear Friends,

In these days of challenge and difficult news, it feels like a hard season. There is so much news which is disturbing, and so much worry and illness. We are not quite sure what will happen next.

Sometimes we see the Christmas story through a sentimental haze, angels and shepherds and stars. They were indeed present, and wonder is part of the Christmas story.

However that first Christmas was also a challenging time. For Mary, she had to place her trust in God, even when she did not fully understand this news about the baby that was to be born. Joseph had to be reassured by an angel in a dream, to be willing to believe that this was all part of God's plan. And then they had to leave Nazareth and go to Bethlehem because of a government census, when Mary was almost ready to give birth, and then the birth itself - round the back of an inn amongst the animals. This was a time of bewilderment and questioning and discomfort, to say the least.

Yet somehow, as they continued to trust God, He took away their fears and doubts, and so in Bethlehem Jesus Christ was born, just as it had been prophesised in Micah 5: 2;

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*“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”*

And so though the obedience and trust of Mary and Joseph, God was able to fulfil His plan, and the Saviour of the world was born.

In these uncertain days, we pray for the strength to trust and not to be afraid, even to rejoice that *“Love came down into the world”* and that this Love is the Light of God. The Christmas story reminds us that God is at work, even when we can't always see His hand, and helps us to trust Him.

It the last two years, it has been a joy to get to know the steering group from the three churches, as we have prayed and discussed out readjustment possibilities. Then to be able to come to your Session and Board meeting, to lead worship, and to visit your Tuesday Café has been a privilege. We know that the union is taking place in the new year.

In some ways this seems very soon, but in other ways it feels that there is little to be gained by putting it off. There is still uncertainty over how it is all going to work, and still decisions to be made over which buildings or building will be kept from the three churches involved.

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There is so much work to do, but with everyone praying and supporting each other as we journey forward, so much can be accomplished, if we continue to trust our God, the God who moves mountains, and reminds us of the power and beauty of His love, to transform and inspire.

May God grant us peace and hope this Christmas, and into the new year, as we begin this new stage of our journey at Knightswood Anniesland Trinity church.

With love and prayers,

Fiona

[Rev. Fiona Gardner](#)

ps: My contact number at the manse is 0141 959 5647 if anyone wants to get in touch with me directly.

[Prayer for this Christmas and beyond](#)

Eternal and Gracious God, we thank you that Love came down at Christmas, and that in the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God was born. We thank you that in Him we find hope, for in that baby in Bethlehem, the Saviour of the world has come.

May Your light shine in our darkness, bringing us hope and meaning. Take away our fears and worries, and help us to trust. Holy spirit breathe your life into us, and help us to rejoice in the birth of our Emmanuel, God with us, this Christmas, and to trust you in this new season, and through the changes and challenges of the future. May God bless us and our families.

[Amen](#)

Finance

The Congregational Board would like to thank members of the Congregation for their generous financial support during 2021.



Congregational Board

WAYS & MEANS

We are holding a Christmas Sale on Saturday 11th December 10.30am to 12.30pm.

STALLS :

Home baking – Christmas- Candle – Jewellery – Cards.
Tea/Coffee will also be supplied.

The Ways & Means Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported our fundraisers over the last couple of years by giving so generously, it has been much appreciated.

Janet Hall
Convener



Friendship Café

The Friendship Café started back on Tuesday 14th September at 10am and it has been so good to welcome our friends after almost eighteen months. It's lovely too, to be joined by friends from Temple Anniesland and St. David's churches. At first there was no toast, only wrapped biscuits, but for the past few weeks we have added toast to the menu which has gone down well.

So far we have celebrated Hallowe'en and are about to remember St. Andrew's Day and hope to have fun at our Christmas Party.

In the meantime stay safe, take care of one another and try to remain positive. Let us give thanks too, to all those who have allowed us to reach this safer place.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy 2022.



Christine Furnish

Glasgow Doors Open Days

Many thanks to all those who supported our opening of the church for Glasgow Doors Open Day. We had fifty eight people visiting our building and all were complimentary and said they had enjoyed their time with us.



Christine Furnish

Congregational Roll

In preparation for uniting with Temple Anniesland, the Roll has had to be brought up to date. Six names of members with whom we've lost contact have been placed on the Supplementary Roll. One member has asked for her name to be removed from the Roll and, as many of you will know, Catherine (Katie) Morrison has moved to Rutherglen Old by Certificate of Transfer.

If she were a fitba' player we could have asked for a sizeable transfer fee, as it is, we got hee-haw. We can't complain, really, because we got many years of devoted service to St Margaret's and in the Parish, so we wish Katie well and I'm sure we've not seen the last of her. Come to think of it, I've seen her more times since she transferred than when she was ours.

For the record, the Roll stands at 124.

David Adams
Roll Keeper

Check out our website at:

<https://knightswoodstmargarets.org.uk>

Find us on Facebook



‘Advent’ure! (to infinity and beyond)

“Surely you know that if a man can’t be cured of churchgoing, the next best thing is to send him all over the neighbourhood looking for the church that ‘suits’ him until he becomes a taster or connoisseur of churches.” These are the words of the demon Screwtape as penned by C.S. Lewis in his book “Screwtape Letters.” As I write this article we are in the final throes of uniting with our sister church of Temple Anniesland. We are soon to be known as Knightswood Anniesland Trinity with Rev. Fiona Gardiner at the helm. I have been asked what my opinion of this process is and will I be attending the united church – wherever that final place is determined. My answer is yes of course. I do have the privilege of being a peripatetic ‘preacher’ (my children have adapted that to a very pathetic preacher! – what can I say - the respect of the younger generation is hard won these days!) In the years that I have been a Reader, I have had the opportunity to lead worship in no less than thirty eight different congregations of varying sizes. It has always been anxiety provoking when I have no idea what the congregation is like. What are the people looking for from their speaker? Are there intellectual giants in the congregation? Am I being overly complicated in my services? Any and all of these questions arise from an ignorance of the congregation. That is why I am happy to stick with the people of St. Margaret’s and look forward to getting to know more of the people of Temple Anniesland. I had a pulpit exchange with Fiona recently and at the end of the service I was greeted by a face from my historic past in the form of an Elder from Old Partick Parish Church. That was where my Reader career began, ably supported by Rev. John Jolly, and aided and abetted by my friend Alex McEwan, who conducted the services for me during the summer.

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What I have learnt in my past church connections (St. Margaret's will be the eighth church with which I have been associated) is the people are the important ingredient to a welcoming church. The person conducting worship has some impact, but as I have often asked, "Do you remember any of my sermons or prayers?" The answer is invariably "not really." I am convinced that there is work done by the Holy Spirit in every service of worship whether recognised or not. What seeds are sown from the pulpit must be watered and nourished by the love of God through that Holy Spirit with our Saviour interceding on our behalf when we mess things up. I have been privileged this past year in being your locum. You have all been very generous and supportive of my efforts, which I never forget comes from God, through me, and when it's messy, then that is me interfering with said message, like white noise in an audio recording! I apologise for that and I want to thank you all for your support, it has meant a lot to me and has kept me striving to elevate the Good News of Jesus, Saviour of the world, to an appropriate level in all of our daily lives. A big thank you to you all. I will close with those wonderful words that remind us all of our individual part in the building of a church community, "*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.*" (Psalm 127:1) We are all working for God and he is in control not any of us, thankfully! I also take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and peaceful (COVID free) New Year.

May God bless you all in the future.

[Robert McFarlane \(Reader: Locum\)](#)



Kirk Session

I hope this finds you well and possibly getting out a bit more. There has been a difference in the last few months actually, attending church and singing, albeit behind masks, and having a wee blether before and after has been a fair improvement on our times of isolation.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the Session and Board members have continued in their meetings, so much so, it reminded me of a former colleague at Ravenscraig, Walter, who was anxious to have a chat with the department manager, but he was always fobbed off by the response "The manager is in a meeting." Walter finally blew up and yelled down the phone, "That yin has mair meetins than Billy Graham!"

Well, we're not quite there yet but the meetings are coming thick and fast as we try to agree a way forward that that will lead us to the point where we come together with Temple Anniesland as one congregation with many of the questions closer to being answered. It has to be said that some questions, far from being answered, haven't yet been asked.

Usually at this time of the year I'm getting ready to fill up all the gaps in the Kirk Session Minute Book and the Congregational Roll and, along with Janet Hall (Clerk to the Board) get all the other books ready for examination by members of Presbytery, whose task it is to assure the high heid yins at Edinburgh that St Margaret's is in capable hands. So far, amazingly, they have not found enough to convince themselves that it is not.

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This year it's very different, because, come the 31st of December, this could be the last reports bearing the name of Knightswood St Margaret's as we move to unite with Temple Anniesland and then St David's in the future. It's a wee bit of history but not one that fills any of us with a sense of overwhelming joy.

We have reached this stage because of many factors, not least declining membership. The nation has changed, society has changed and the Church as a whole has suffered as people put their faith in their politicians, their football teams (not me on that one) and themselves to the extent that attendance at worship and church membership have plummeted.

The pandemic hasn't helped but sometimes we have struggled even to get the maximum of 50 allowed during the restrictions and that's not all down to fear of the virus and yet, as you'll see elsewhere in this magazine, we have had terrific support from the congregation, small though it is.

These are difficult times we know, but I would ask you to stay with us, and when the time comes get involved, because while it's a new situation for us at St Margaret's, it's just the same for those at Temple Anniesland and, for that matter, St David's. The hope is we'll emerge bigger and stronger.



[David Adams,](#)
[Session Clerk.](#)

Church Choir



The last time I wrote to you no one was allowed to sing in church but now things have moved on and we can sing if we are wearing face masks. Praise be!! The choir has still not resumed practices as we are only permitted to sing well separated from each other and the congregation. Hopefully, however, we will gradually start to lead the musical worship in the sanctuary.

Life has many uncertainties at present but in 2022 we hope to join with the choir of Temple Anniesland Church in our church and in the Temple Anniesland sanctuary wherever church Services are taking place.

A note for your diary: We are joining with St. Ninian's congregation in St. Ninian's Church for an advent service on Sunday 19th December at 6.30pm. and it would be so good to see you there. In the meantime we wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and every good wish for 2022.

Christine Furnish



The Parish Family

"The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God and no torment shall ever touch them. They are at peace."

Joseph Wither 11th April

Hannah Brydon* 6th July

Jean Cheyne* 10th July

Cathy Cairns* 24th July

Tommy Muir* 29th August

Duncan Inglis 23rd September

Jim Renton 3rd October

Joan Graham* 3rd November

*Denotes Member.



*Join us for
Sunday Worship
each week
at
11:00am.**

All Welcome



***Face coverings must be worn at all times in church unless medically exempt.**