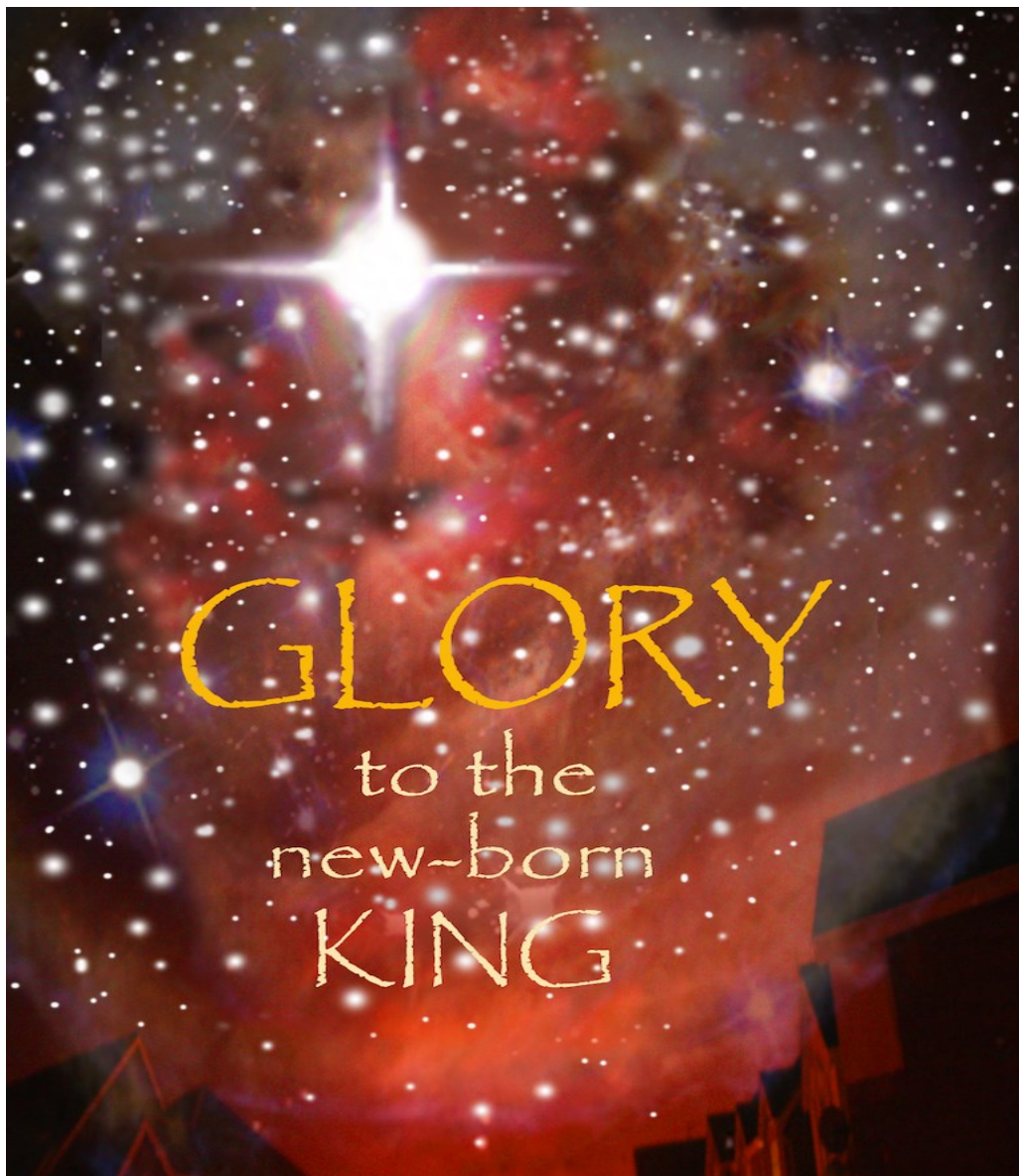


Kaleidoscope 155

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church Magazine

Winter 2022 December January February



A Message from Neil

A few years ago a California company produced a Hipster Nativity Set. It features Mary and Joseph crouching down by the manger. Mary has a cup of take-out coffee in her hand. Joseph is holding up his phone and taking a selfie of his little family. The stable has solar panels on the roof. Outside three wise men have turned up on Segways. Their gifts are carried in Amazon Prime boxes. If you want to see for yourself, google 'Hipster Nativity'.

You could say that the Hipster Nativity makes a mockery of Christmas. It is disrespectful because it makes a joke out of something sacred. Worse still, it's little more than a cynical attempt to make money. It is designed to appeal to people who identify with a hipster lifestyle. It's not at all surprising that many people were offended by it.

You could also say that the Hipster Nativity offers a devastatingly accurate portrayal of what Christmas has become. Mary and Joseph glamping rather than roughing it? For many people in North Berwick, Christmas is a time for luxury not sacrifice. Mary and Joseph wrapped up in themselves and paying no attention to Jesus? Nowadays, Jesus is incidental rather than the focus of Christmas. And the blatant commercialisation expressed in those Amazon boxes? Christmas today is a time when we worship material things rather than the Son of God.

Instead of being offended by the Hipster Nativity, we might hear God speaking to us. The angels came and told the shepherds where to find the saviour of the world. Perhaps the Hipster Nativity is like an angel that tells us where we can find life this Christmas.

Life is found through sacrifice. Jesus left the glory of heaven and was born in poverty on earth. How might sacrifice become an aspect of our Christmas?

Life is found by focusing on Jesus rather than on ourselves. In classical paintings of the nativity, Mary and Joseph gaze in wonder at Jesus. Rather than being wrapped up in 'my, myself, I am', how might I pay attention to Jesus?

Life is found by worshipping Jesus, not in parties, presents and feasts. How might worshipping Jesus become the centre point of Christmas this year?

'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.'

(2 Corinthians 8:9)

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

you have come to us as a small child,

but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts,

the gift of eternal love.

Caress us with your tiny hands,

embrace us with your tiny arms,

and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries.

AMEN

(Bernard of Clairvaux 1090-1153)

Neil

The Holy Family

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, 'What was Jesus' mother's name?' One child answered, 'Mary.'

The teacher then asked, 'Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?'

Another child ventured: 'Verge?'

Confused, the teacher asked, 'Where did you get that?'

He replied hesitantly: 'Well, you know they are always talking about Verge 'n' Mary.'

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421

Gloria in Excelsis

Little Baby Jesus born
In a stable all forlorn.
Mother Mary soothes His head,
Father Joseph makes His bed.
Not a cradle, just a trough –
comfortless and cold and rough.

Angel voices pierce the night.
Shepherds get a dreadful fright.
“Peace on Earth” the angels cry,
But the shepherds wonder why.
This the reason for the fuss -
God has come as one of us!

Wise men travel from afar
Following the guiding star.
Searching for the new-born king,
Bringing Him an offering.
Frankincense and myrrh and gold.
Prophet, Priest and King foretold.

Oh what wondrous child is this?
On His brow a mother’s kiss,
Yet to come a thorny crown,
A wooden cross to weigh Him down,
A Judas-kiss to give Him up
and leave Him with a bitter cup.

Friends renege, afraid to wait.
Leave Him to His gruesome fate,
Pain and death and certain doom
The absent friends are deep in
gloom.
Prophet, Priest and King foretold.
Lying there – now dead and cold.

It does not end. It now begins!
Dying pays for all our sins.
Rising offers me and you
Light and Love and Life anew.

Gloria in Excelsis sing,
Let the Alleluias ring.

*Written by Margaret Lightoller
Christmas 2011*

The Guild

We meet in St Andrew Blackadder Chapel for worship and fellowship. This Session, we are in two fundraising partnerships: with BEAT, the UK eating disorders charity; and with Starchild Uganda, which helps disabled children and young people.

In September, we gift-wrapped shoeboxes for Blythswood Care, which sends Christmas gifts to people in Eastern Europe. In October, we hosted a live-streaming of the National Guild Annual Gathering. We have had some inspirational speakers. Barbara Reid told us about climbing North Berwick Law for Tree Aid. Joan MacKenzie demonstrated Floral Art. Mary Miller spoke about the life of Jane Haining, Scotland's Holocaust heroine. On Guild Sunday, we served a Soup & Pudding Lunch to the congregation, raising over £600 for our Guild Projects.

Please come and join us! There is free membership for the first year – or you could just drop in occasionally.

2022 PROGRAMME

Tuesday 29 November 2.30pm: Rev Janice Andrews – Empathy International: Anti Child Trafficking.

Monday 5 December 2.00pm: Lothian East Guilds Together Christmas Carol Service in Chalmers Memorial Church, Port Seton EH32 0HG. East Lothian Foodbank will receive the Offering plus Jingle Bag Donations.

2023 PROGRAMME

Tuesday 17 January 2.30pm: Jenny Kellock and Ann Braid – Exploring the Theme.

Tuesday 31 January 2.30pm: Janice Macleod – My Nursing Career, as Seen in a Museum.

Tuesday 14 February 2.30pm: Alastair MacNeill and Martin Wilson – Places we Love: Photos and Music around Scotland.

Tuesday 21 February 2.00pm: Joint Meeting in Abbey Church Hall: Teapot Trust – Mental health charity.

Tuesday 28 February 2.30pm: Rev Dr Neil Dougall speaking on the Guild theme “Wee Seeds, Big Trees”.

Friday 3 March 3.00pm: World Day of Prayer at Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Tuesday 7 March 2.30pm: Joint Meeting in St Andrew Blackadder: Michaela Foster Marsh – Starchild Uganda: Finding the Light in Every Child.

Tuesday 21 March 2.30pm: Guild AGM.

Wednesday 22 March 2.00pm: Lothian East Guilds Together Daffodil Tea at Pencaitland Parish Church, Pencaitland EH34 5DL.

Saturday 1 April 10.00am-12.00 noon: Easter Coffee Morning, in aid of the Guild Projects.

Sundays at St Andrew Blackadder

Morning Worship 9.30am – 10.10am

This is a traditional and reflective service. It was created to meet the needs of those who find the bustle and background noise of the all-age worship a trial rather than a delight. Tea and coffee are available afterwards.

Worship for all ages 10.30am – 11.40am

This is our main service including Christian teaching for both adults and children. All meet at the beginning then the children go off to KLASH. There is a crèche available from 10.30 for babies and toddlers. There is a multimedia presentation and CH4 songs. Tea and coffee, juice and biscuits are available afterwards

Sunday Activities

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
Every Sunday	Junior Church Ages 3 to 12 Faith with fun	Chapel	Stacy Cathcart
Every Sunday	YF Ages 13 to 18	Room 2	Paul Cathcart and Mary Leckie

Deaths

Christine Machray, Gillian Bird & Pamela Swanston

New Members

Welcome to David Hardie, Aileen Hardie, Nicola Smith and Margaret Lang

Regular Activities

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
Mondays 7.30 to 10.00pm	Table Tennis Club	Hall	northberwicktt@gmail.com
Tuesdays 1.30 to 2.30 pm	Seniors' Table Tennis Club	Hall	Patricia Hay 893437
Tuesdays 9.30 to 11.30am	Little Angels Kids gather for fun while their carers enjoy a cup of tea or coffee & a chat	Chapel	Geraldine Woolley 01875 871219
Thursdays 11.00 — 1.00pm (soup from 11.30am)	THE BEACON Come and enjoy a bowl of soup, home baking, a chat and good company	Hall	Elaine Martin 892859 07790121742
Thursdays 1.00—1.20pm	THE BEACON SERVICE This short service is relaxed and intimate	Chapel	Ann Cubitt 894859
Tuesdays 2.30 — 3.50pm (29th Nov, 17th & 31st Jan, 14th & 28th Feb)	The Guild We gather to hear a speaker and support charities while enjoying worship, fellowship and coffee	Chapel and Front Vestibule	Ann Cubitt 894859
Monday 5th December 2.00pm	Christmas Carol Service	Chalmers Memorial, Port Seton	
Tuesday 21st February 2.00pm	JOINT Guild Meeting	Abbey Church Hall	

Special Events During December 2022 - February 2023

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Sunday 4th Dec 4 - 6pm	Messy Church	Hall & Sanctuary
Friday 9th Dec 7.15 - 9pm	Youth Night	Hall
11th & 12th December 7pm	NB Gospel Choir Concert	Sanctuary
<p>Sunday 18th</p> <p>Saturday 24th</p> <p>Sunday 25th</p> <p>Sunday 1st January</p>	<p><u>CHRISTMAS SERVICES</u></p> <p>9.30am - Morning Worship</p> <p>10.30am - Nativity Service</p> <p>7.00pm - Carol Service</p> <p>7.00pm - All Age</p> <p>11.30pm - Watchnight</p> <p>10.30am - All Age</p> <p>10.30am - All Age</p>	
6th & 20th Jan. 3rd, 10th, 24th Feb, 7.15 –9pm	Youth Night	Hall
Sunday 4th Feb 4pm - 6pm	Messy Church	Hall
26th February	Communion	Sanctuary

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church

St Andrew Street, North Berwick, EH39 4NU

Minister

Rev. Dr. Neil Dougall

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Julie Scanlon

Tel. 01620 895233

Email: admin@standrewblackadder.org.uk

Office open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 12 noon.

Church Web Administrator

Ewan Bell

Tel: 01620 861296

Email: webmaster@standrewblackadder.org.uk

Communion Services

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church usually celebrates Communion as follows:

The last Sunday of February, May, August, and November, at 9.30am and 10.30am.

Beacon Communion Service is on a Thursday near to the Sunday.

Tuesday 14th February is the Spring Edition - DEADLINE.

Please send articles for consideration by
email to: kaleidoscope@standrewblackadder.org.uk

Or write to the Editor at the church office address or phone
Kirstin Entwistle tel. 01620 894933



“We Plough The Fields and Scatter”

Walking past the Heugh one day, this scene caught my eye. The contrast between the ploughed soil and the residue of the summer’s harvest is stark. No one would consider scattering seeds on top of that ground where the existing tangle of roots and stalks would really hamper any chance of them sprouting.

But what about the equivalent sowing of the Word of God? Week by week we scatter the seeds of God’s word in services, conversations, meetings and online. Much of it falls on deaf ears, on busy lives, on hurt and tangled hearts.

Maybe this is a time for a renewed focus on prayer. As we bless and pray for people, countries and situations, I believe God softens, prepares and gently ploughs hearts so that when the seed falls, it can grow well.

Prayer can happen any time, any place, anywhere. But in this country, at this time, we are also allowed to meet and join together in prayer. What a privilege. Let’s use it!

Lesli Lawrie

The Return of the Lord

...**17**After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. **18**Therefore encourage one another with these words.

I was listening recently to a “call in” programme on BBC Radio and was touched by a few cancer victims talking deeply about the difficulties they face in life with surgery and subsequent treatments. A few had been told they only have a short time left on this earth to live, and then they would be no more!

None of us know how long we have to live! More than a few people nowadays do not find life at all satisfying, and far too many find life sad, despairing and heavy. How we want those people to know that in their acute despair there is a heaven-bound hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ that reminds us that “This world is not our home!”

Among the wonders of our heaven-bound hope we have in God is the promise of new bodies. If we peer through the windows of the Gospel stories of the risen Jesus, we catch a glimpse of the bodies we also shall have — able to eat and breathe, unhindered by miles, doors, and gravity, and able to shine like the sun.

The body that is sown is perishable. It is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. (1 Cor. 15:42-44)

“Raised imperishable,” — incorruptible. Not only will our bodies never deteriorate but neither will any sin seep into our hearts to taint our purity and holiness. In heaven we can never be ruined. “Raised in glory”— beauty, splendour, radiance. Our bodies will be bright and beautiful to see, they will have extraordinary dignity and grace, ready and willing to do anything our Christ-filled minds can conceive.

“Raised in power,” — is a stunning contrast to the dead body which is sown, the epitome of weakness. We will be mighty, vigorous, capable of doing all that heaven makes possible; with bodies unhindered, minds quick, curious, and knowing, hearts energetic with holy love and zeal.

“Raised a spiritual body.” — Not ghostly like some kind of floaty phantom, but drawing our breath and life, our thoughts and strength, from the Spirit of God. The first body has all the limitations of our earthiness; the second body has all the capacity of God’s Spirit.

How often have we heard said, “Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust” — over all those believers, once sown in cemeteries, seas, and battlefields, to be raised as bodies perfectly suited to the ecosystem of the new creation.

The Beacon Coffee Morning

Friday 7th October 2022

The Committee of the Beacon invited all Volunteers and Contributors to a Coffee Morning, to say Thank You!



It is now just over a year since the Beacon re-opened its doors following the Covid Pandemic. Since then, donations have been made to a variety of charities, as listed below.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme: £278.10

UNICEF Ukraine Appeal: £730.32

Dunbar Food Bank: £500.00

East Lothian Young Carers: Proceeds from Beacon Lunch and refreshments served during their Art Show from 11th – 13th Aug amounted to almost £1,000.00

Christian Aid: £500.00

St Andrew Blackadder Malawi Project: £1,000.00

None of the above would have been possible without the generosity of our regular contributors and customers. Thank you all.

Elaine Martin