

Kaleidoscope 159

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church Magazine

Winter 2023 December, January, February

*Lord Jesus Christ,
may we never cease
to wonder at your birth,
when heaven touched the earth
and you came
to be among us;
our Saviour and our God.*



A Message from Neil

Jesus was not born on December 25. Sorry if that's come as a shock to you. Some people think it happened in September. That's because mild nights would mean shepherds would spend the night on the hillside. Around Bethlehem, December nights can be very cold. Shepherds would spend nights indoors. Since the Bible doesn't tell us the date, there's no way of knowing for sure.

December 25 falls around the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. As December moves into January, not only is there little light, the really cold weather is just beginning. For many people it's a grim time of year.

The grimness of winter symbolises the grimness of life. The darkness and the cold express what life is like. Most of us have the essentials. We have food and water, shelter and an income. We have people around us. And we still haven't found what we're looking for. We look for more. We want something else.

That's why the church decided to mark Jesus' birth on December 25.

At the darkest point of the year a candle is lit. A baby is born and placed in the manger. This baby is the light of the world. He comes to dispel the darkness. The darkness hates him and tries to snuff him out. Against impossible odds, the little baby survives. The flickering light he brings burns brighter. It is never quenched. It never runs out of fuel.

In 2023 as the nights lengthen and the cold of winter arrives, the light of Jesus still shines. Jesus shines in our darkness. Jesus offers hope. To people who yearn for something more, he offers meaning. To people who are discovering that material things will never satisfy, he offers transcendence. To people who are surrounded by others and yet still feel alone, he offers eternal love.

Are you searching and longing for something more? Do you feel something fundamental is missing from your life but don't know what it is?

Maybe it is Jesus. Why not come to church this Christmas and see if the light of Jesus gives you what you are searching for.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it
(John 1:5)

*Like a candle flame,
flick'ring small in our darkness,
uncreated light shines through infant eyes.*

God is with us, alleluia.

Come to save us, alleluia!

(Graham Kendrick)

Prayer

Lord Jesus

I'm searching for something more
and I'm not sure what that more is
or where I can find it.

Could you be the one
who can satisfy my hunger and quench my thirst?

Give me courage this Christmas to open my heart to your light,

Give me determination to follow where your light leads.

AMEN

Neil

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421

Our Prayer Diary

Did you pick up a copy of the Prayer Diary this month? Don't miss out! It's a good way of keeping up-to-date with what's happening in our busy church, and together we can pray for these events. Different folk have said how much they appreciate the Prayer Diary. We are grateful to Ian Gordon for his time and work putting the Diary together month by month. No easy task. Thank you Ian!

You ask us, Ian, to get in touch with you if there's a church event we would like included in the Diary. That makes good sense, and it makes a difference when we know that others in our church are praying with us.

It must also be a big help to you when we respond and tell you what's happening in our busy church life.

So thank you, Ian, for our church Prayer Diary month by month.

The Lord bless you and this special task.

F MacLean

Mother in a Storm

One cold winter night, during a violent storm, a mother was tucking her small, frightened little boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he said with a tremor in his voice: "Mummy, will you stay with me tonight?"

Mummy smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said, "I have to sleep with Daddy." A long silence – and then came his shaky reply: "The big coward!"

Communicating about Sustainability

The six Action Groups have hatched some solid plans, and are currently turning these into action. We now need to think about how best to share what is happening, and invite everyone's input.

With the increasing amount of relevant information, we need a highly flexible, large-capacity solution, and the St AB website seems to fit the bill: www.standrewblackadder.org.uk.

For most people, it is easily and widely available, and can handle large numbers of posts. From now on, we will post an update every month, while archiving and indexing previous posts. Updates will contain a General segment covering various topics, and an Action segment with "What's New" in the six groups.

To encourage as many people as possible to look at these updates, reminders will be seeded in our other Communications channels – our Weekly Update email, the Kaleidoscope, and service sheets and announcements. For really important news, these other Communications channels could also include appropriate extracts from monthly website updates.

This may be helpful for those who have difficulties in accessing the website. We can also use social media. Ken Reid, our Communications Coordinator, has set up a WhatsApp group, and also reports that our Facebook page now has over 300 followers. So, reminders can be sent out when monthly updates appear, and selected segments can also be selectively re-posted, reaching an even wider audience.

Robert Galbraith

Macmillan Cancer Support - Coffee Morning

Saturday 30th September 2023

Katie King, Joan Mackenzie and Elaine Martin held a Coffee Morning in St Andrew Blackadder Church to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. A total of £1,135 was raised.



Pictures and Montage by Derek Braid



St Andrew Blackadder
Parish Church

Coffee Morning for Beacon Volunteers

6th October 2023



Pictures and Montage by Derek Braid

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Joan, Katie & Elaine would like to thank everyone who supported the Coffee Morning on 30th September. It was a really enjoyable morning, and great to see so many people having an opportunity to chat to others – there was a real buzz in the Hall. The event raised the fantastic sum of £1,155 which has been sent on to Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Beacon Volunteers Coffee Morning

On Friday 6th October the Beacon Committee welcomed the volunteers and contributors to the Hall to enjoy coffee, cake and fellowship. This was an opportunity to thank the volunteers for all that they do week by week to make the Beacon run smoothly. It also provided an opportunity for folk to catch up with people from other teams in a relaxed environment. During the morning, Gertrude, Helen and Marion unveiled a beautiful new wall hanging of the Beacon symbol that they've been working on for some time. It is an amazing piece of work which will soon be displayed in the Hall.

Food Hygiene Course

The Beacon Committee have organised for a professional trainer to run a Food Hygiene course in the Hall on Friday 26th January 2024. This event is open to all and is an excellent opportunity for anyone who is involved in any ministry that serves food within the church building to gain a recognised qualification or to refresh their knowledge of food safety. Please give your name to Elaine Martin or Julie Scanlon.

Elaine Martin

Guild

We have now adjusted to our meetings starting at **2pm**.

An indirect theme of our meetings so far has been change.

We learned from Michaela Foster Marsh that Starchild Uganda will be transforming children's education in that country by building the first classroom and associated facilities for special needs children.

Robert Alexander from the Vine Trust told us of their work in Kazunzu Village by providing homes for orphan children (with Guardian Parents) and also a community hub, a primary school, health post and vocational training centre.

Alan Nisbet regaled us with his adventures as part of a convoy of pick-up trucks, heavily laden with essential supplies, travelling through the Netherlands, Germany, and Poland to arrive in Ukraine and leave the trucks with the Territorial Army there.

Our latest speaker was Karen Gillon, General Secretary of the Guild, who encouraged us to embrace change by advising us that change is an acknowledgement of the present, an acceptance of the past, and anticipation of the future.

If you wish to join us on our journey, our programme for the first few months of 2024 is set out below:-

9 January	Mary Duncan (Mary's Wheels: a Trip to Tanzania)
23 January	Tommy Nelson (Every Contact Leaves a Trace)
6 February	Norman Lazonby (Leprosy Mission)
20 February	Isla Martin (Poppy Scotland)
5 March	Andrew Duncan (Our Youth Leader)
19 March	Piping entertainment with Lyle Crawford Followed by Guild AGM

Other dates for your diary are set out below:-

Fri 1 March (3pm)	World Day of Prayer (Abbey Church)
Sat 23 March (10am to 12 noon)	Easter Coffee Morning

Please join us at our meetings but remember that they will all commence at 2pm.

Helen Dennison



HOME

> CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREES & WINTER
TRAIL

Charity Christmas Trees & Winter Trail

When: Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th
December

Where: Leuchie House, North
Berwick, EH39 5NT

For more information head to www.leuchiehouse.org.uk



Cold blows the wind upon the Bass
All round the prophet's head
The sailors cry of a bonnie lass
Who sleeps on the ocean bed



It is a story of a Scottish sailor
A young lassie's love
The captain's crew of a merchant ship
Who sail the ocean deep
The sailor's cry of a bonnie lass
Who sleeps on the ocean bed
The sailor's cry of a bonnie lass
Who sleeps on the ocean bed
The sailor's cry of a bonnie lass
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www.tamall.com.au

Cold Blows The Wind

esther cohen visual art.co.uk

"Cold Blows the Wind" was inspired by a song by Klein, Dietz & Friends, a local folk band from Dunbar. The title of the work drew its inspiration not only from the song but also from the dark history of the Bass Rock.



Designed at Tantallon Studios near North Berwick, where Esther grew up and attended school, the work is in the form of a triptych which consists of three panels, often used historically to convey religious stories. Using collaged digital images and composed of scanned images, each panel is a combination of photographs taken during a boat trip around the Bass Rock. Along with images from tiles, cards created by Esther, and medieval manuscript illustrations, the resulting digital collage was then printed on canvas sheets, creating a large-scale work that incorporates many of the recurring themes found in Esther's artwork. Expansive skies over the Forth, the Bass Rock, and its resident gannets.

By drawing from both local history and her own personal experiences, Esther has created a piece that is deeply connected to the cultural and natural setting of the region.

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421

Signs found outside Churches

Church carpark sign...FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised.

No God – No Peace. Know God – Know Peace.

Free Trip to Heaven. Details Inside!

Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

Outside one Church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: "For fast relief, take two tablets."

When the restaurant next to a Church put out a big sign with red letters that said, "Open Sundays", the Church reciprocated with its own message: "We are open on Sundays, too."

Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421

Christmas Services

Sunday 17th December

(in addition to 9.30am & 10.30am)

7pm Carol Service

Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve

No 9.30am service

10.30am Nine Lessons and Carols

7.00pm Worship for all ages

Christmas Day

10.30am Worship for all ages

Sunday 31st December

One service at 10.30am

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421

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 Junior Church. There is a crèche available from 10.30 for babies and toddlers. There is a multimedia presentation and CH4 songs.

Sunday Activities

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
Every Sunday	An opportunity to pray about anything with members of the Prayer Team	Church at Pulpit	Badged Team Members
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

Regular Activities

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
Mondays 7.30 to 10.00pm	Table Tennis Club	Hall	northberwicktt@gmail.com
Tuesdays 1.30 to 2.30pm	Seniors' Table Tennis Club	Hall	Patricia Hay
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
Thursdays 11.00am to 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
Thursdays 1.00 to 1.30pm	THE BEACON SERVICE This short service is relaxed and intimate	Chapel	Ann Cubitt
Tuesdays 2.00pm (dates on pages 8-9)	The Guild We have a speaker and enjoy worship, fellowship and coffee.	Chapel and Front Vestibule	Ann Cubitt
Tuesdays (term time) 3.30 to 6.00pm	Warhammer Club	Room 1	Andrew Duncan
2nd Sunday of the month 12 noon	Hunger Lunch	Hall	Jane Murdoch
Every second Friday (term time) 9.00 to 11.00am	Parent Space A place to connect for parents, crèche provided	Room 2 & Chapel	Helen Nelson & Sally Anderson

Special Events December, January and February

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Sat 2 Dec	Day of Prayer—drop in event 8.30am—3pm	Sanctuary
Sat 2 Dec	Sustainability North Berwick Climate Café 10am—11.30am	Hall
Sun 3 Dec, Sun 4 Feb	Messy Church 4pm—6pm	Hall & Sanctuary
Fri 8 Dec	Parent Space 9am—11am	Chapel, Front Entrance & Creche
Sun 10, Mon 11 Dec	Gospel Choir Concerts 7pm	Sanctuary
Mon 18 Dec	Sister Sister Concert 7pm	Sanctuary
Restarting in Jan. Dates to be confirmed	Friday Night Youth Night 7.00pm—9.00pm	Hall
Sat 20 Jan	Malawi Coffee Morning 10am—12 noon	Hall
Sun 21 Jan	Joint Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 6pm	Sanctuary

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church

St Andrew Street, North Berwick, EH39 4NU

Minister

Rev. Dr. Neil Dougall

Email: ndougall@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Office Administrator, and Roll Keeper

Julie Scanlon

Tel. 01620 895233

Email: admin@standrewblackadder.org.uk

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

Website: www.standrewblackadder.org.uk

Messy Church

Alison Singleton

Email: messychurch@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.

****Monday 12th 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

One of St AB's Overseas Links

Martin Memorial Church, Gangtok, Sikkim, India

In principle, the Church of Scotland encourages all its churches to have a link with a church in another country. Our St AB chance to forge such a link began in 2000AD, when Lothian Presbytery set up a twinning with the East Himalaya Diocese of the Church of North India (CNI). (This is an area where CofS missionaries first preached the gospel in the late 19th century.) Individual churches of the Presbytery were encouraged to make a link with a church in the Indian diocese. St AB was the third church in the Presbytery to ask for such a twinning, and the CNI church in Gangtok (called Martin Memorial Church, MMC) was the one chosen for us.

We were very fortunate. Gangtok is a city of 100,000 people set at a height of 4,500ft in an area of outstanding beauty to which energetic tourists flock, with, among other attractions, a wonderful view of Kangchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world. Our twinning began in June 2004.

At that time MMC was quite small, as, not long before, in 1993, there had been a big split in the CNI in that area, with the majority of the churches, (the one in Gangtok included) opting to join another denomination, taking their church buildings with them! The CNI remnant had to search for a new meeting place and found a small two-floor, newly-constructed, office block to buy.

Even if this sounds depressing, spiritually things were booming. With the Rev. Jenus Lepcha as pastor and a very evangelism-minded group of elders to help, the gospel was preached not just in the church building, but in homes around the area. Such was the response that within 10 years, they had six daughter churches, all with their own Sunday services. These were hived off into two new pastorates (parishes). Other daughter churches are developing in their place.

Three aspects of their work could be challenging lessons for us. First, is that people dedicate a room in their house for Christian meetings, and invite the church to send a speaker, first on a weekday and later on a Sunday as well, and in time this becomes a daughter church and later part of a new pastorate. Second, is that they make use of a Christian radio broadcaster to get a supply of memory chips of short, evangelistic messages and music – chips which they can give or lend to people as they visit, for folk to listen to at home on their phones, or play to others so extending the Christian outreach. Third, is their willingness to give. The Bible tells of giving “tithes and offerings” (a tithe being a tenth) and the Christians of North India do both – sometimes bringing a bag of rice as well as their normal offering.

As MMC grew, they extended their meeting place – upwards, as that was the only direction available! Two more storeys have been added to their building, with the top level, in particular, being made into a most elaborate sanctuary with a balcony – able to hold 320 people. Pastor Lepcha is only in MMC once a month, as he is away other Sundays preaching in the daughter churches; so men and women members of the main church take part in running the services. In addition to the Sunday services, the women and youth of the church, and the men, each have their own active programme of meetings. One part of the YP activity is to sing at the front of the church for 30 minutes before the beginning of the Sunday services.

A social problem of Gangtok is that there are not enough local work opportunities. Posts in government work are the safest and best, but there is enormous competition (2,500 applications for 100 jobs). Half of all YP leave the town to find work elsewhere.

Our St AB links with MMC have been strengthened by gifts we have made in 2004, 2007 and 2008, and by visits. A party of 6 from St AB went in 2008 and another party of 6 in 2018, and in 2005, a party of 10 (including 3 children) from MMC came to North Berwick for a week, staying in a house in Tantallon Terrace.

We in St AB have also enjoyed visits to our church by Dr M S Foning, the Indian Coordinator of the twinning, who has brought us news of MMC on his visits to the Presbytery. We have heard that MMC are planning another visit to us, but so far there have been no details. We try to keep everyone in touch through our Overseas Links Notice Board. Tricia Wilson is our present twinning correspondent. Dr. Panu of MCC is their correspondent, but that may change soon.

Though not directly linked with MMC, a Rehabilitation Centre in Gangtok for drug-using men is managed by members of MMC, to which St AB made a donation in 2007, and whose work and personnel are very dear to some of our St AB members.

If one asks why the response to the Christian gospel has been so encouraging in Gangtok, when in other parts of the world, and in our own country, things are quite difficult, one possible reason is that Sikkim (of which Gangtok is the capital) was previously not part of India (whose main religion is Hinduism), but an independent country whose main religion is Buddhism. Followers of Hinduism are getting increasingly nationalistic, whereas Buddhists are not. However, we hear that the youth of India are not so responsive as they were 20 years ago when our twinning was formed, nor is the evangelistic drive of most of their churches so dynamic, and that probably includes MMC. So they need our prayers, as we need theirs.

Hugh Trevor



Martin Memorial Church



Martin Memorial Church: Rev. Jenus Lepcha



Gangtok from Tashi Viewpoint



Serenity Home



Martin Memorial Church Youth Praise



Dr. Panu Paljor Namgyal Girls School

The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at table – and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND
CHIPS.

(Author unknown)