

Ferryhill Parish News

December 2012/January 2013

Maxi Edition for delivery to each home in the parish by 2nd December

We are now almost six months into the vacancy at Ferryhill, and although we have confidence that the Nominating Committee is working away on our behalf to seek out the right minister for us, it can be a testing time for all the congregation, who have to be patient, relying on hope and trust, whilst maintaining the unity we need to fulfil our mission to church and community. The Worship Task Group recognises this, and would like to create an opportunity for everyone to feel involved in the process of finding our new minister, by making time to "**Pause for Prayer**" during the first week in Advent. The church will be open from 6.00 - 6.30pm from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th December (inclusive) so that anyone who wishes can come to the church for a time of quiet prayer and contemplation. At 6.00pm there will be a short prayer of Approach to God, followed by a quiet, contemplative time of about twenty minutes, enabling a pause in the busy round of life, when those present can pray for the future of our church and congregation.

During the service of words and music on 23rd December, members of the congregation will be invited to make paper chains to decorate our Christmas tree. The beautifully decorated paper links are handmade by a cooperative in Nepal, which is one of the world's poorest countries, where girls and women are particularly disadvantaged. Traidcraft's partner agency in Nepal (GPI), has started a programme for teenage girls and women who have been or are at risk of being trafficked and are providing training and an alternative employment to prostitution. Our paper chains will be more than just paper chains: they will be a reminder of the links between us and these Nepalese women and will help to transform lives by breaking the chains of injustice.

The offerings from the **Christmas Services** will be donated to two charities: **Traidcraft**, for the project in Nepal, and **Instant Neighbour**. Recently the Guild had a talk on the very important work which Instant Neighbour does for vulnerable and disadvantaged families in our city. We are aware from Aberdeen Presbytery and from the media of the need for more assistance at a time when many families are experiencing real financial difficulties. Our generosity can make a real difference to those for whom Christmas might otherwise be a struggle.



SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sunday 2nd (1st in Advent)

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club and crèche.

Sunday 9th (2nd in Advent)

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club and crèche.

Sunday 16th (3rd in Advent)

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club presentation.
Crèche.

Tuesday 18th

12.10 p.m. Mid-week service

Sunday 23rd (4th in Advent)

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Words and Music for Christmas
with the Ferryhill Singers.
Sunday Club Party. Crèche.

Friday 21st

10.30 a.m. Ferryhill School Service

Christmas Eve (Monday 24th)

10 a.m. Make Christingles
with coffee and mince pies.

6.30 p.m.

Christingle Service for all ages.

11 p.m. Carols by candlelight

11.30 p.m. Watchnight service

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th)

10 a.m. Worship for all ages

(Lasting approx. 35 minutes)

Please bring a Christmas present
you have received.

Sunday 30th

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Creche.

Services in Care Homes:

Mayfield East : 6 p.m. **Sunday**
23rd December and Sunday 27th
January

Cowdray Club : 11 a.m.

Wednesday 5th December and
Wednesday 2nd January

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2012

Sunday 6th

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club. Crèche.

Sunday 13th

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday Club and crèche.

Tuesday 15th

12.10 p.m. Mid-week service

Sunday 20th

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club and crèche.

6. p.m. Informal service with
Holy Communion

Sunday 27th January

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club and crèche.

Congregational Board:

Wed 12th December at 7.15 p.m.

Co-ordinating Committee:

Thursday 10th January 2013.

Kirk Session:

January 17th 2013 at 7.15 p.m.



Message for the Month

Adventure is scary and exciting,
a journey into the unknown.
What dangers, what discoveries await us,
wrapped in folds of the future,
we do not know.

This advent adventure is different.
Something comes towards us
through the darkness;
our candles are tokens
of unimaginable light.

Frances Copsey

Advent is an incredible season, often overlooked in the rush to Christmas. Advent is a gift – a time to prepare, and a time to wait in anticipation of the arrival of the Christ child. Of course, Advent is multi-layered. We prepare and wait not simply for the celebration of ancient history, but we look forward in the present for the arrival among us of God, in our community of Ferryhill, and in the streets of our city.

Christmas is an annual reminder of the light that is Jesus Christ, and the difference his way of living can make in the darkness of the world. And still Christ comes today to us his people, whoever we are, whatever our life circumstances.

And so we wait, we hope, we anticipate a different reality that can become possible in our communities if only we would welcome the Christ child, his message, his ways in our midst. Moreover at your parish church in Ferryhill, this is also a time of waiting – waiting to see who God will call as the next parish minister for our community. That next ministry will bring a renewal of thinking, a broadening of relationships, and a new focus to community life. However, we are presently in that waiting time. It may last a while – the average waiting time for a new minister is presently around the two year mark. I know that waiting can be frustrating but it is also a creative opportunity to reflect on what we have rather than what we lack and it can teach us patience.

When Christmas comes, as it surely will, the adventure far from over will only be beginning. The adventure only begins with the advent of the Christ child, the remainder is about learning to love and to live, as we have never been able to before.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and Peace in the New Year,

Rev Scott M Rennie (Interim Moderator – Ferryhill Parish Church)

Guild

- 5th December Talk on mountaineering
16th December Christmas meal at the Inn at the Park
16th January An evening with Gwen Haggart

Monday Fellowship

- 10th December Christmas tea – Yvonne Morton
7th January Susie Gentle - Age Concern
21st January Mary Fraser – Gentle Exercise

Aberdeen's Winter Festival Christmas Carol Concert

Saturday 22nd December 2012

Enjoy singing all your favourite carols to the musical accompaniment of the Bon Accord Silver Band at the **David Welch Winter Gardens, Duthie Park**. Due to the popularity of this event, there will be two performances during the day (11.00am, 2.00pm). The performances will be piped around the Winter Gardens, so you can join in when you are walking around the gardens.

The **Coffee Shop** will be closed from Monday 17th December and will reopen on Monday 14th January.

Our former minister, Ian Dick, sends everyone at Ferryhill warmest greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.



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