

# Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



*The BB joined with the Guild at a successful Christmas Cracker fund-raiser and provided musical entertainment during their annual march past*



## Contacts

Eaglesham Church Office  
Carswell Hall, Montgomery  
Street Eaglesham G76 0AS  
tel/fax 01355 302087  
office@eagleshamparishchurch.  
co.uk

### Notices

### Baptisms

Nov 17. Rory James Alexander Edgar

Dec 1st. Molly Anne Dykes

### Deaths

Oct 17. Ellen Young, formerly of 46 Alexander Ave

Oct 28. William Melville, 75 Eglinton Dr

### Team Convenors

Outreach - Giles Blair

Admin - Maureen Hunter

Pastoral Care - Sandy Robertson

Youth Strategy - Tom Mann

Faith Development - Gillian Norval

### Keep in touch with church activities

- Website.....[www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk)
- Facebook.....Eaglesham Parish Church  
@Heartofvillage

Parish news is published by Eaglesham Parish Church

Scottish Charity Number SC006377

Comments, articles, suggestions for future issues to [macintyre74@btinternet.com](mailto:macintyre74@btinternet.com)



## From the Manse

Dear friends

I have to confess that the Christmas season is something that I look forward to each year. I look forward to all the excitement that Christmas brings. I look forward to the coming together of the family, to the joy of the children opening their gifts, to the sound of carols and familiar Christmas songs, to the coloured lights that brighten our streets, to the Christmas trees that sparkle at the windows of the houses. It is truly a season to be jolly.

Although the birth of Jesus is an essential foundation of the Christmas festival it is also a very important family time and has also developed many elements which make Christmas an excellent time for children. The excitement of looking forward to receiving presents from Santa, The many sights and sounds that mark this happy time and which emphasise the joy of Christmas.

The first Sunday of December this year was also the first Sunday of the Advent Season. The four Sundays that precede Christmas Day are set apart as signs of the coming of the celebration of the incarnation. Each Sunday focuses on various aspects of God's plan to send Jesus into the world.

From the Scriptures which reveal promises of God that Jesus would come, the great prophecy of Isaiah and the other prophets who foretold Jesus' coming, the call for preparation for his coming by John the Baptist, and the obedience of the Virgin Mary who proclaimed that God's will must be done.

I have had the privilege of sharing in the Christmas celebrations in churches in Australia and here in Scotland and the worship during Advent and Christmas has been among the most inspiring in my ministry. The familiar Christmas hymns, the scenes of the nativity, the laughter of the children, the Christmas tree in the church,

Now I am especially looking forward to experiencing the Christmas scene here in

Eaglesham. The worship during Advent and Christmas is so important and for me it is undoubtedly the highlight of all that happens at this very special time of the year. I hope many of you will share in the joy of Christmas here in Eaglesham.

I hope that you all have a blessed Christmas.

Your friend in Christ

John Lloyd

## Love Actually

*...a contribution from Mission & Discipleship Church Without Walls Team*

Every Boxing Day people across the land resolve that next Christmas will be different. In January, when the bills arrive, they promise that next Christmas will be simpler, less indulgent and cheaper. According to Money Supermarket, almost 10% of people will still be paying for Christmas well into next year. Perhaps next year, by refusing to conform to every tradition and everyone's expectations, we will recapture the wonder, the magic and the awe of Christmas and 'remember what it's all about'.

November magazines include articles on how to approach Christmas – 'Twenty Six Ways to Simplify Christmas'; or 'Five Reasons Why I'm Not Simplifying Christmas'. There are some radical work-saving, stress-busting, money-saving strategies out there. One woman recommends leaving the Christmas tree fully decorated all year. Hers has been in the corner of the sitting room, festooned in tinsel, baubles, lights and all, for *sixteen* years. It's true. For most of the year it is wrapped in sheets with the reminder, 'Do not open until December'.

Perhaps, after all, even on Christmas Day, reflecting on how simple or how lavish it has been is to miss the point. Maybe, as we approach Christmas, we do not need a to-do-list and a credit card so much as a Grinch-like revelation:

'Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!

What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?

What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!

(Dr Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*)

*....continued on page 10*

## Session Notes

I am delighted that we now have both an Interim Moderator and a Locum Minister in place. Our Interim Moderator is the Rev Dr John McPake. John, in addition to being our interim Moderator, is the Ecumenical Officer of the Church of Scotland. John has preached for us and will be supporting us throughout our vacancy. In one of his first support roles, John helped with identifying and appointing Rev John Lloyd as Locum Minister. John has had a fascinating and wide reaching career in ministry, most recently in working as a locum for churches during periods of vacancy. John will be preaching for us on a regular basis and also providing pastoral care two days per week.

Glasgow Presbytery have asked our Kirk Session to consider having conversations with Carmunnock Parish Church regarding a sharing of ministry. This would involve sharing the post Eaglesham is entitled to call and the half post Carmunnock is authorised to appoint. The detail of how this would work would be for discussion between the two parishes. The Kirk Session have agreed to have conversations with Carmunnock to explore whether this is feasible and in the best interests of both parishes and the building of God's Kingdom over both. If you have any questions, concerns or points of view regarding this please speak to your elder who will be happy to gather your views to inform our decisions. I would also ask you to pray for God's guidance for the Kirk Session and our congregation as we consider such important decisions about the future of our church.

Members of the Kirk Session have also been researching how best to conserve our organ and more information on this is to be found within this edition. When final decisions are made regarding this we will share this as soon as possible.

When this edition of Parish News reaches you, we will have entered the season of Advent. We have many exciting activities during this period the details of which you can find on the Church website as well as

the Church Christmas Card. These include a Nine Lessons and Carols evening service, a Christmas themed Kairos service, our Christmas Day family service and our now traditional Nativity Walk on Christmas Eve.

May I on behalf of the Kirk Session wish each one of you and your families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and joyous 2020.

Sheila Lamont, Session Clerk

*and from St Bridget's.....*

Fr Macmillan's retiral has been a severe blow to the St Bridget's in as much that the Diocese has no replacement. This problem is not unique to St Bridget's as other Churches have had similar fates.

St Bridget's Parish now comes under the auspices of St Joseph's Clarkston, a situation which has occurred previously. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that St Joseph's Parish Priest has a large congregation in Clarkston and has a high profile in the administration of the Diocese of Paisley. We are grateful that despite his commitments he provides a vigil service for St Bridget's parishioners on a Saturday evening but no service on a Sunday.

As you may guess this has not met with enthusiasm but it is all we can expect under the circumstances. We have drafted a number of scenarios which might ease the burden on Fr Baillie and these are with Bishop Keenan. In the meantime both Fr. Baillie and I are sifting through the administrative and practical aspects of maintaining a functioning St Bridget's Parish which I am sure can continue.

It is a difficult time and we take comfort from our close association with Eaglesham Parish Church. I have been notified of your future social events which will be highlighted to our parishioners

All we can do at present is to pray for a shining knight in a cassock!

Michael Morris

## TIME TO GET RADICAL?

An unusual thing happened at the 2018 General Assembly. The Report from the Ministries Council setting out their ideas for handling the projected shortage of ministers was completely rejected and the Church was asked to go away and come up with a more “radical” solution - one which addressed the wider picture of the Church’s problems. This reflected a significant change of mood within the Church. Several far-reaching schemes for reform had been rejected by previous General Assemblies but it was sensed in 2018 that the time had come for something more fundamental than trying to re-jig the current set-up.

The Church’s response was to set up two working groups. The first tasked with formulating proposals for slimming down the central structures at 121 George Street in Edinburgh, and the other instructed to produce a “Radical Action Plan” (RAP) for the Church as a whole. Both had to come up with reports for the 2019 Assembly and both sets of proposals were to be capable of speedy implementation. This was achieved. The continuing perception of a need for change sooner rather than later was reflected in the fact that both reports were accepted in full at the 2019 General Assembly. Implementation has now begun.

So what does that mean for Eaglesham? The answer is not yet clear but this article begins to explore the intentions of the RAP as far as it impacts on individual congregations. Things will become clearer as detail of the changes emerges. The key aim is not to react to decline but to encourage a more outgoing, mission-minded church striving to create new disciples and to revive the Church. It is recognised that the main impetus for mission has to occur at congregational level and the RAP is intended to facilitate mission, including the founding of new churches where there are opportunities to do so. It is intended to be fully implemented within three years.

On the wider front, the number of central committees is being reduced and some functions will be devolved to Presbyteries. These reshaped central committees are due to be formed on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. The number of Presbyteries in Scotland is to be reduced to around 12 with conversations already taking place to achieve that end. It is unlikely that Glasgow Presbytery will be greatly affected by this as it is already around the size envisaged for the new bodies. Presbyteries are likely to be given more discretion to take decisions which now require referral to Edinburgh for ratification, thus taking up time and increasing local frustration.

The RAP has a number of key objectives with associated proposals aimed at achieving these objectives. Some proposals are aimed at achieving more than one objective so tabulating these is not easy but the following list attempts to summarise the most important as far as local churches are directly concerned:

- **OBJECTIVES:** To free funds for Mission Work; to promote purposeful engagement within community and society.
- **PROPOSAL:** To set up a £20 - £25 million Growth Fund over a 7 year period to which Presbyteries and Congregations can apply to support new mission-based projects; it is hoped that this Fund will be set up in 2020 with the first grants awarded next year.
- **AIM:** To free funds for Mission Work.
- **PROPOSALS:** To reform the system for central Ministry and Mission contributions from congregations (in the first instance freezing contributions from 2020 onwards till a new system is agreed); to reassess vacancy allowances (money used to cover a congregation’s costs during vacancy) and devolve any savings to Presbyteries for their use in supporting congregations; to allow Presbyteries to allocate the proceeds from the sale of redundant buildings to any congregation (not necessarily to the congregation associated with the building).
- **AIM:** To grow participation within the Church and an ability to continue sharing ministry throughout Scotland.
- **PROPOSAL:** To develop a focus on engaging with and supporting those aged 40 and under.
- **AIM:** To have sufficient resources in the correct places which support ministry and work.
- **PROPOSAL:** To review the size and responsibilities of Kirk Sessions with the aim to reduce them to a maximum number and investigate forms of rotational eldership.

Instructions to put these and other proposals into action were approved at the 2019 Assembly and further developments can be expected in 2020. In addition, the Church has committed itself to planting 100 new churches throughout Scotland, implying a total of around 20 within Glasgow Presbytery. The implications of that are actively being considered in Glasgow Presbytery.

Significant changes are afoot and frankly, little will be achieved if local Congregations do not rise to the challenge the central Church has now accepted. I said earlier that mission starts locally. The drive of the RAP is to better equip local Churches to engage in mission through increased resourcing but the local Church must respond with ideas for utilising these resources to grow the church into a healthier organisation, living, breathing and sharing the gospel message. The model for the RAP is that of the disciple, growing his or her own faith whilst sharing it with others to bring them to their own discipleship which is then shared with more people and so on. The central Church and Presbytery can only help and encourage this process but the key decisions are ours. That is Radical.



### Assorted BB activities

- Anchor boys enjoying Hallowe'en
- Another Arran trip taking in Glenashdale Falls
- What the older boys get up to??"

## **BB Updates**

### **From Martin Fraser, 205th Boys Brigade....**

Our annual Christmas Fayre took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> November and I am delighted to report that we raised over £1600. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support at this event. It's a huge fundraiser for us and allows the Parents and Friends Association to keep the mini bus running and support events the company has throughout the session.

I would also like to thank the PFA committee for all their hard work organising the Fayre. The planning now starts for the jumble Sale in March!

### **Anchor Boys**

We have been having a great time at Anchor Boys since the summer, with some lovely new recruits joining us in all year groups. Out-with our normal Tuesday night programme we have been kept very busy.

Spider-Man, Pikachu, Where's Wally and a bunch of their spooky friends had a great time at our Halloween Party! The boys played lots of games and even took part in a Bush Tucker Trial, feeling their way around buckets of worms in search of eyeballs. (Please note: no real worms or humans were harmed in the making of this game...)

The 205th Company Dedication Service on 3rd November was well attended and the boys seemed to really enjoy taking part in the parade and following the Company's Band, despite the occasional rain shower.

In the lead up to St Andrews Day we did some hand painting to make thistles on cards, learnt a little bit about who St Andrew was and had some shortbread & Irn Bru to celebrate.

With only a few weeks left of this session, Christmas celebrations are nearly upon us. We are having a Christmas Movie Night on the 10th and our Christmas Party on the 17th, an enjoyable time for both boys and staff!

We can't quite believe that we are almost halfway through this year of Anchor Boys already. How time flies...! We wish you all a Merry Christmas when it comes and a very Happy 2020.

Elaine & Alistair, Officers in Charge, Anchor Boys

### **Company Section**

"The second half of the first half (yes, that sounds right) of the year has been as action packed as any other. Our Friday night programme continues to challenge and entertain the boys with a varied programme of activities and trips (basketball was a treat!). We have been recognised by the Battalion as having a total of 253 years of volunteer service. Our Christmas Fayre was a massive success raising over £1600.00. Thanks to all that attended and especially the Parents and Friends Group. We were proud to be able to help the Guild with their coffee morning. The year ends with the Christmas Quiz and Chippy on Friday 20th December and back Friday 10th January 2020. I, personally am not much one for Christmas, but if you are then I hope you and your family have a lovely one. Greg Cunningham O/C."

Thanks,

Greg, Co. Section.

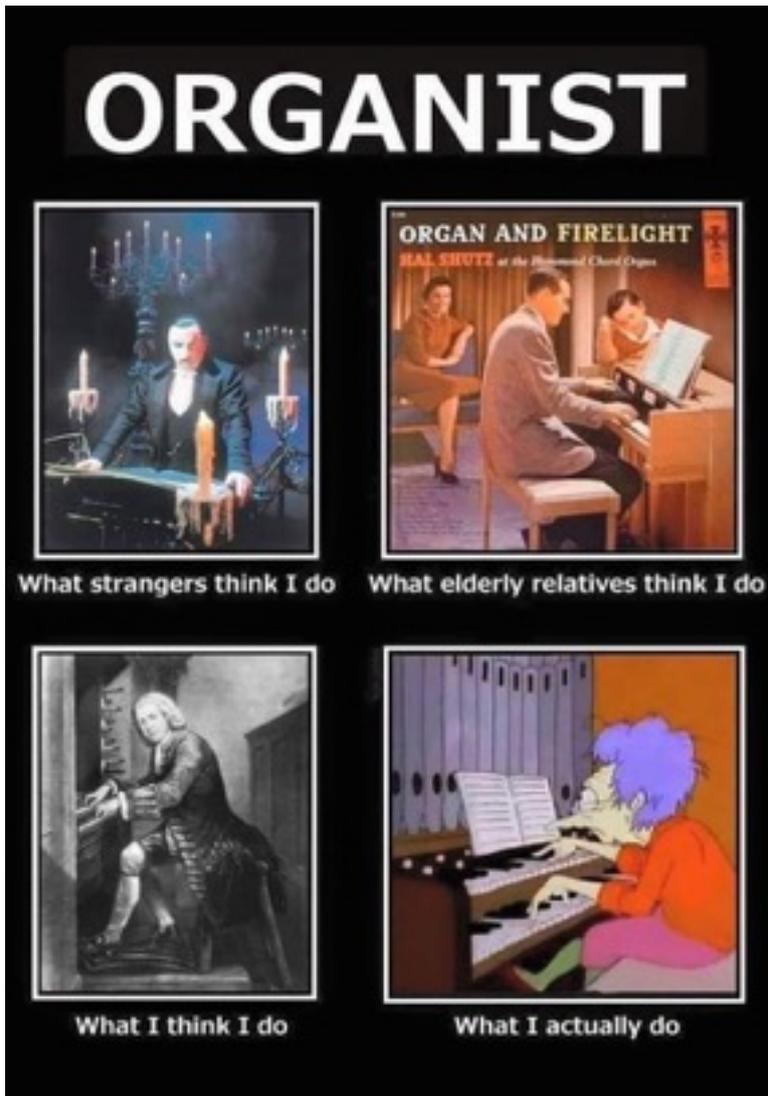
### **Organisational Audit**

*a note from Margaret Milligan*

I would like to remind the organisers and treasurers of all Church organisations that they are required to prepare annual accounts up to the 31st December.

These should be submitted to me for auditing as early as possible in the new year - hopefully once we are all refreshed by a festive family break!

## A Contribution from our organist



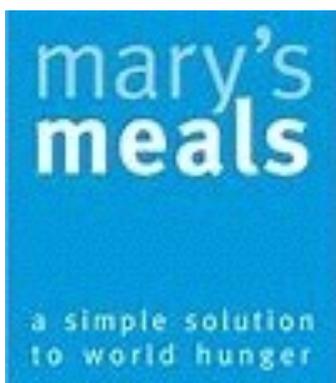
## And a Note about Eaglesham Church Organ

Organs are complex instruments with an air source kept under pressure in a reservoir, and ranks of pipes giving different notes into which air is admitted by 'pallets', manual or pedal keys. Stops on the organ console allow the organist to choose ranks offering different sounds. Eaglesham organ has a total of 646 pipes.

Our organ was built by Willis, Britain's premier organ manufacturers, to a high specification for a private owner in the 1880s. This origin, though not unique, is unusual and means it is of particular musical interest. It then spent 54 years at Queen's Cross church in Glasgow before being installed in Eaglesham in 1979. At that time to correct a fault one of the 'stops' which allows a particular sound - a flute stop - was replaced by a different 'mixture stop'; and one additional set of 32 'Claribel' pipes were not fitted - these are currently lying in the organ loft.

Recent discussion of the organ originated with the twin questions of what maintenance might be required some 40 years later; and whether the flute stop and Claribel should be restored. During this discussion the organ has been reviewed by Willis and by a second organ company, and we have had expert advice from the Church of Scotland advisor on organs. A number of specific faults meriting attention have been identified and the possible need for cleaning some of the pipes has been raised.

This is where things become a little complicated. The case for restoring it to its original state with replacement of the initially removed flute stop and Claribel pipes rests more on the unusual nature of the organ and its potential attraction for visiting organists than on the sound we will hear during our regular Sunday worship. However if work is to be done on the organ involving some degree of dismantling it makes sense for all that is intended to be done at the same time. Activity in the organ world moves slowly - work schedules are year by year rather than monthly! At the time of writing this we are awaiting quotes from Willis on repair work alone and on repair plus restoration. The church's organ fund is relatively healthy. The current intention is to meet the repair bill from the fund but to apply to external sources for restoration. If that is all done we would then look at the concept of visiting or invited organists giving performances in our church.



Come for a Wednesday morning lunch with homemade produce and good company at noon in the Carswell Centre.....

January 15th  
February 19th  
March 18th

Where am I?  
1. Burntisland - football team Burntisland  
2. Shipyard Alexander III

# THE GUILD

*from Fiona Hamilton, Guild secretary*

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the first half of our session and looking forward to our **Christmas Celebration** on Dec 18th. We have enjoyed many evenings of friendship and fellowship, information and entertainment. We have been delighted to welcome new members - including more men joining us on a regular basis.

The annual Christmas cracker fundraiser was on Nov 23rd. This was a huge success. Thanks to all who helped, especially the officers and boys of the BB. £1,230 was raised for the work of the church and for two Guild projects. **Join the Dots** is a Crossreach project which aims to tackle problems of loneliness and isolation in Scotland - elderly folk who may not have a proper conversation in weeks and carers who can feel isolated in looking after a loved one. The project aims to address this with counselling services and meeting centres. **Journeying Together** in collaboration with World Mission Council seeks to support teenage mothers in Zambia where girls can be vulnerable, becoming pregnant at an early age and having no parenting skills. Poverty and poor sanitation increase the risk of disease in babies and children. The project provides support by teaching parenting skills and encouraging the young mothers to complete their education or take up vocational training. Thanks to all who have supported us in these two excellent projects.

On **Saturday Feb 15th** we will be holding our annual **Charity Coffee Morning**. This year we are supporting RNLI - saving lives around our coasts since 1824 - and Your Wee Red Bus - East Renfrewshires's volunteer community transport service for ferrying people to hospital appointments and events. A date for your diary.

Following the success of the last two years of collecting underwear for women in Africa and socks for the homeless in Glasgow we are now collecting toiletry, stationery and clothing items for the **Mary's Meals Backpacks** projects, providing children in the poorest areas of our world with essentials they need to benefit from their education. Thanks to all who have already donated.

This session is a special one for us as it is 90 years since the Guild was started here in Eaglesham. To mark the occasion we will be holding a **90th celebration** evening at our final meeting in March.

From all of us at the Guild we wish you peace, joy and love this Christmas.

## Where am I?

My starting point is a small historic coastal town. It has one of the oldest stone castles in Scotland, but largely abandoned following a fire in 1725. Adjacent is a much better preserved 13th century church. The history of the town is shown in the Heritage Centre, housed in the railway station. The railway arrived in 1890, shortly after the opening of a renowned bridge nearby.

My second town lies a few miles east. My first recollection here was of a covering of red dust, a raw material imported en route to processing many miles to the north west. The name of the town's football team reflects another of the town's industries. A more attractive feature of the town is its 16th century church. James VI attended the General Assembly here - a gathering at which a new translation of the Bible was approved.

A few miles east lies my goal - a tall roadside monument which commemorates a fatal accident one 19th of March. The accident plunged the line of succession in Scotland into disarray, an issue not resolved for another 30 years.

1 Name the second town.

2 Who died in the fatal accident.?

The **Wednesday Walkers** enjoying Port Dundas and refreshments at Maryhill Burgh Hall. Join them on alternate Wednesdays leaving from Mid Rd at 10.30am



## Who cares about the Environment?

Caring for the environment is a hot issue, and it has been the focus for our recent DNA groups.

Many issues seem to cause division these days, but care for the environment is something which Christians can whole-heartedly support. We know that God has concern for every aspect of our world, which he designed so beautifully and gave us as a gift to cherish.

DNA groups aim to practise what they preach - to put thinking and praying into action. So one group decided that it would be good to form a list of local resources and ideas which help in reducing harmful waste, recycling, and repairing items rather than sending them to landfill.

Examples of this are: The Repair Cafe; an organisation which re-homes toys; ideas to cut down on plastic; and cycle clinics.

We plan to publicise the information as widely as possible and hope that people will add to the list so that as a church and community we will all make a difference in protecting the world's natural resources and endangered communities.

In this as in all things, we need God's perspective, because "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain" Psalm 127:1 . To truly get hold of God's view and his transforming power we need to pray more. So as well as encouraging the outwardly practical things, the Faith Development team want to promote different forms of prayer. Paul encouraged us to "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" Ephesians 6:18

So who cares about the environment? God does.

Gillian Norval.

## Love Actually

*continued from Page 3*

A German proverb goes: 'The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing'. That seems a pretty good definition of simplicity to me: recognising the extraneous and superfluous for what it is and focusing on 'the main thing'. Authentic simplicity has to be an inward reality before it bears the fruit of an outward lifestyle. Attempts to create the outer beauty without the inner actuality are doomed to legalism and frustration.

'The main thing' is to recognise the significance of that first Christmas, the Nativity. The birth of Jesus Christ was marked by astonishing simplicity. The highpoint of history, the climax of eternity, was not marked with grandeur, pomp and pageant. Rather, a pregnant teenager had no option but to deliver her child in the stark and smelly surroundings of a stable, the only warmth provided by the body heat of sheltering animals. The first visitors were shepherds, who were considered the lowest of the low. Jesus, the Bible tells us, did not come with majesty and opulence, but 'full of grace and truth', to reveal God – a God who is love – and to bridge the gap between us and that lavishly loving God.

Christmas is ultimately about love ... actually. As Christina Rossetti's carol puts it, 'Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas.' Perhaps, as we make our plans, we should be less concerned with how simple or extravagant our Christmas will be. Perhaps the touchstone of all that we do should be love: and how we respond to the extravagant love of God and how we love those around us.

## Health and Safety Update



I'm taking this opportunity to update you all on new developments.

The Church of Scotland advises all congregations to appoint a Health and Safety Administrator to coordinate plans to make sure that Buildings are safe for all users and employees. I have been recently appointed as the H&S Administrator for Eaglesham Parish Church. Together with a number of other Elders and members of the Congregation we have been looking at the four areas identified in the Church of Scotland's Toolkit - **Risk Assessments** of the Church, the Laird Halls and the Carswell Centre, **Fire Safety** in these buildings, safety of **Utilities** (water, electricity etc) and **Food Safety**. A lot of work has already been done, and you can expect to see evidence of this in our Buildings in due course - e.g. display of H and S Policy. I've also consulted with our employees and other users of our Buildings. I'm glad to say that the reports back are overwhelmingly positive, which is good news.

I know that Health and Safety is often seen as a rather dull and (dare I say it) nit-picking topic! However, it is very clearly the responsibility of the kirk session to make sure that we provide a safe building for the growing numbers of groups and individuals who use our Buildings, and I would like to reassure you that we take this very seriously.

If anyone has any comments to make on general H&S, please feel free to contact me - details at the front of the Parish News.

Wendy Armstrong, Health and Safety Administrator

**Advent e-Calendar.** 'Joy to the World' is the theme of the Church of Scotland's 2019 Advent calendar. "Throughout the season, we'll bring you stories that highlight how church members around the country are celebrating the birth of Jesus and sharing their faith joy and love". You can sign up for a daily message at [thechurchofscotland.adventcalendar.com](http://thechurchofscotland.adventcalendar.com)

### Sharing - a camel story

A father left his three sons 17 camels with the instruction that half should go to the eldest son, a third to the next, and a ninth to the youngest. This resulted in an argument with the sons unable to resolve their dilemma. They asked a wise man for help. He said ' I am not sure I can answer this for you but I will give you my camel as well to help'. The problem was sorted, the three sons were happy, and the wise man's camel was returned to him.

### Positive News

Much of the media is full of doom and gloom. Positive News is the first media organisation dedicated to quality, independent reporting about what's going right. It is a co-operative owned by readers and journalists worldwide. The magazine is published quarterly in print with a circulation of around 10,000 copies. It is part of a concept of Constructive Journalism based around reporting solution-focused news and giving more context and background instead of revolving around negative and conflict-based stories.

Included in the current issue are reports on the concept of lending libraries for equipment from power tools to kitchenware, countering food waste, community programmes to help migrants and progress internationally in outlawing child marriage. Detailed articles explore approaches education which encourage confidence and artistic and social skills; the relative prominence of selfishness and altruism in human nature; ideas to improve relationships between police and public in various countries; how and where sport breaks down social barriers.

For more information visit [www.positive.news](http://www.positive.news)



A happy Rory James Alexander Edgar with parents James and Cat after his baptism  
*and below...two local wildlife images from Ronald MacLean*

