



From the Manse

God rest you merry gentlemen
 Let nothing you dismay
 Remember, Christ, our Saviour
 Was born on Christmas day
 To save us all from Satan's power
 When we were gone astray
 O tidings of comfort and joy,
 Comfort and joy
 O tidings of comfort and joy

I heard it said the other day that children don't sing the old carols any longer and apart from an occasional rendition in the supermarket in the rush before Christmas or on some chocolate ad or other around this time of year... the kids seldom hear the old carols.

And that's rather a pity because the words of the old carols carry in them the gift of so much joy to us. The message... Christ is born on Christmas day to close the distance between heaven and earth between humanity and God and bring love and joy to our hearts.

The precious gift of God – the Christ-child – brings us God's grace. Christmas is a poignant time full of memories of people and moments from our past while making memories for the future. It's a time when we feel happy or that we should be happy even if in our hearts we can't honestly be bothered – not when we are missing someone or some place that was our own.

But that's it; the gift of God is not the commercialised fairy tale of Hollywood Christmases. The gift of God is better than any fairy tale; it is the gift of the Christ child born in a stable for the lowly and least, he is accessible to young and old, rich and poor, the Child who brings love, peace and joy to the hearts of all the world.

Luke 2:10-11 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Christ, our Saviour is born on Christmas day.
 Glad tidings of comfort and joy
 Merry Christmas
 Wilma

Out of the Life

Brian W Aim 5/11/18

Also Remembered

Victor Thomas 30/09/18

Marriages

Claire Foubister and Michael MacLellan 21/7/18

Inez Ward and Brett Dickinson 7/9/18

Fundraising

The total collected for the Presbytery Malawi Appeal was £332.39 and the Sponsored Walk total was £712.41 .

Flower Quiz and Word Search

Winner of the flower quiz was Isobel Brown from Shetland, Sonia Eunson from Kirkwall won the wordsearch and Mabel Eunson won the anagrams.

The answers to the quiz are on the kirk website.



St Andrews School News: Mr Taylor

What a fantastic and busy term we have just had. The October holidays were a welcomed rest! Writing this newsletter gives me a good chance to share a few of last term’s highlights.

Orkney Science Festival

We were very lucky to have a busy week packed with educational activities as part of the Orkney Science Festival in September. There were ‘Bodyvision’ workshops from the Glasgow Science Centre where children learned about fitness, body composition and lifestyle choices; astronomy talks by Eric Walker; computing workshops and a show, ‘Operation Earth’ by Dynamic Earth exploring the science of the environment. The bubble workshop was a highlight for Primary 1 – 3 children. They learned about reflection, refraction, humidity and air currents – while having lots of fun with enormous bubbles!



Author Visit

Author, Andy Stanton, visited the school and enthused our children with ideas for writing, stories of his childhood and how he became an author, and excerpts from his book ‘Mr Gum’. He was very entertaining and spent a lot of time answering children’s questions.



Martha

At the beginning of October the Catherine Wheels Theatre Company visited with a performance of ‘Martha’. The show explored the importance of having a good friend, and of being a good friend and our P1-3 children thoroughly enjoyed it.

Harvest Assembly

We were joined by Reverend Wilma, parents and friends at our harvest assembly where this year, we celebrated the harvest from the sea. Roy Norquoy represented the Fisherman’s Mission and he told us about the work of fisherman at sea and the role of the Fisherman’s Mission in supporting them in difficult times. We raised £100 each for the Fisherman’s Mission and the Indonesia Earthquake and Tsunami Appeal.





Looking Ahead

Still to come this term, we have parents' evenings where teachers will have a chance to chat to parents about how the children have settled in to their new classes; the Christmas show (always a highlight!) the East Mainland Church Guild Carol Service on the 2nd December. Our Christmas Service will be on the 20th of Dec at 10.00am all are welcome.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the 10 differences between these 2 pictures of Mary & Joseph going to Bethlehem?





Guild News

The Guild met on July 4th for a talk by Tom Rendall on the subject of 'Orkney Voices.'

Mr Rendall gave a fascinating talk on his research into dialect and interest in the language. He is the man behind the Radio Orkney 'Whassigo' programme.

He gave handouts; we had lively discussions on nouns, verbs etc., and a challenging mini version of 'Whassigo'. Altogether it was a fascinating evening.

Our next get-together was on August 22nd, when 10 members enjoyed our Annual Outing, which, this year, was lunch at Sheila Fleet's Café, in the former St Andrews Church.

August 26th was Guild Rededication, during Morning Worship when members took part in drama, reading and prayer.

On 5th September, Val Kitchen gave us a very insightful view into aspects of her life as a teacher and Schools' Inspector. It was very revealing of the hard work and challenges faced by those in the front line of Education services.

September 19th was the day of the Autumn Rally – now, the Autumn Gathering, when Muriel Drever was speaking of the Mission Aviation Fellowship, a remarkable organisation working in remote, and often, inhospitable places.

October 3rd brought us a really enjoyable, convivial visit from members of the East Kirk Guild. We were royally entertained with a wide variety of items, including a challenging quiz, amusing poems and stories, song – etc. and then we enjoyed tea, with everyone intermingling.

We are now looking forward to what will surely be a thought-provoking evening on 7th November, when the subject is a 'Matter of Opinion' and then the Carol Concert, along with the young people of St Andrews School, in the Holm Community Centre, on December 2nd at 7pm.

Our Guild year ends for the winter break after our Festive Evening, on December 5th.

We have great times. Come and join us!

Margaret Sparkes



Some Pictures from the Harvest Thanksgiving Service





Month	Date	Time	Event
December	2 nd	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	2 nd	7:00pm	Guild Carol Service in Holm Community Centre with Pupils from St Andrews School taking part.
	5 th	7:30pm	Guild Festive Evening in the Session Room
	9 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	16 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	20 th	10:00am	St Andrews School End of Term Christmas Service in the East Mainland Church
	23 rd	11:00am	Worship with Sunday School Christmas Play in the East Mainland Church
	24 th	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service in the East Mainland Church
	30 th	11:00am	Worship and Remembering in the East Mainland Church
January	6 th	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	13 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	20 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	27 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
February	3 rd	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	10 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	17 th	11:00am	Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the East Mainland Church
	24 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
March	1st	TBA	World Day of Prayer in the East Mainland Church
	6 th	7:30pm	Guild AGM in the session Room

Editorial Team:

Sheila Eunson, Joy Tait, Laurence Tait and layout compiled by Russell Manson

Please email articles, preferably using **Times New Roman size 12**, for the next newsletter to

eastmainlandchurch@gmail.com by 8th February

Church of Scotland

Congregation No. 452360, Scottish Charity No. SCO019770