

# REIDON...

## REID MEMORIAL CHURCH MAGAZINE

i. 25.] MATTHEWE. 19

fra the transmigratioun of Babelon to Crist ar xiiii generatiouns. ✠ 18 Bot the generatioun of Crist was thus: Quhen Marie the moder of Jesu was spousit to Joseph, before thai com togiddir, scho was fundin hauyng of the Haligast in wambe. 19 And Josephe hir husband, for he was richtuise, and wald nocht publice hir, he wald priuelie haue left hir. 20 Bot quhile he thouchte thir thingis, ✠ lo, the angel of the Lord apperit to him in slepe, and said, Josephe, the sonn of Daud, wil thou nocht drede to tak Marie thin wif; for that that is borne of hir is of the Haligast. 21 And scho sal bere a sonn, and thou sal cal his name Jesus; for he sal mak his pepile saif fra thar synnis. ✠ 22 Forsuthe al this was done, that it suld be fulfillit that was said of the Lorde be a prophet, sayand, 23 Lo, a virgine sal haue in wambe, and scho sal bere a sonn, and thai sal cal his name Emanuel, that is to say, God with vs. ✠ 24 And Joseph raise fra slepe and did as the angel of the Lord comandit him, and tuke Marie his spous, the which knew hir nocht til scho had born hir first begettin sonn: and he callit his name Jesus.

DECEMBER 2023,  
JANUARY 2024

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# DEAR FRIENDS...

## ***The Return of the King***

Those words may seem an odd choice of title on the approach to Christmas. After all, aren't we celebrating the coming of the

King some two thousand years ago? We are, yet Christmas is a time for more than just looking back. It is fairly easy to reflect on the birth of Jesus as seen in so many nativity-plays, or scenes, across our land. What we see in those images, though, bears little resemblance to what is portrayed in the Gospels. The visitors to the crib did not all arrive at the same time. Indeed, the family of Jesus were described as living in a house by the time the wise men arrive. Finally, if you have ever been in a byre full of livestock then you will know it is not the sanitised sight that we are familiar with at this time of year. Those detractions considered, the scene with which we are familiar does serve a purpose.

Christmas stands at the change of the year in our calendar. It stands at a time of transition. It is a time when, in many places, thoughts drift between memories of people and events past to hopes and fears for times to come. It is a time between times. In the church it is a time to look back on the wonder of the birth some two thousand years ago yet, it is also a time to look forward to the return of that same king. From the beginning it has been a central tenet of the Christian faith that Jesus will return. His return will be not as a helpless child in a trough but as King of King, and Lord of Lords. That is a far cry from the more manageable, controllable, image >

> that we usually associate with Christmas.

Our title comes from the final book of that famous trilogy by Tolkien. In it, the long-lost king returns to claim his crown and to bring justice to bear; in so doing he will free the people and vanquish evil. Tolkien wrote that book out of his own conviction that there is a King who will return, set the people free, and restore justice. For the author it was no figment of the imagination nor fantasy, rather it was faith in the return of Christ. This year, as we consider the birth, and the wonders around it, may we also consider the coming again of Jesus. May we await and look forward to the return of our own King.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR A FULL LIST OF DECEMBER SERVICES...



## CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTIONS...

The total amount raised was £700 (£500 from the October café, and £200 from the retiring collections in church). This is a great total and thank you to everyone who donated. This money will go to help Christian Aid's humanitarian work in Israel and Palestine at this very difficult time.

**LINDSAY WOOD** CONVENER, WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE



*[Look out for Christian Aid's catalogue of Christmas gifts, online or available to view at the rear of the church. - Editor]*

# **HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

## **FROM REID MEMORIAL CHURCH**



### **December Services:**

**Sunday 3rd at 11:15am - Communion**

**Outside Christmas Tree Lighting at 6pm with refreshments**

**Sunday 10th at 11:15am**

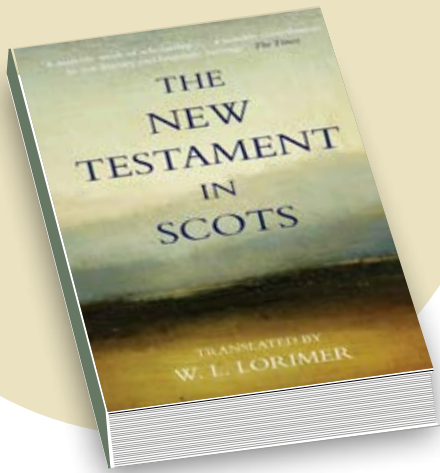
**Sunday 17th at 11:15am with mince pies afterwards**

**Sunday 24th at 11:15am - Carol Service**

**Sunday 24th at 4pm - Family Service**

**Monday 25th at 10:30am - Christmas Celebration**

**Sunday 31st at 11:15am**



# 'MITHER TONGUE'...

*When Billy Kay addressed the Scottish Parliament last April, delivering its weekly Time for Reflection address, he spoke in Scots - the first time the language had been used in the chamber in modern times. The actor and broadcaster issued a plea to MSPs to work to re-incorporate Scots back into this country's public life and discourse. Such is the polarisation of current political discourse, and the febrile tenor of social media, that Kay subsequently received much ill-informed opprobrium - some of it abusive - for his speech.*

In recent years there has been a re-awakening of interest in Scots, not only in the preservation of the familiar words we use in everyday speech, like *wee* and *bairn*, but in preserving the language as a whole, which until the gradual adoption of English in the 18th and 19th centuries, was the main language of lowland Scotland (alongside Gaelic in the Highlands and Isles). This revival in interest has grown since the early 2000's when it was granted minority-language status by the European Commission and the Scottish and British governments, acknowledging it as a language as opposed to a dialect - the largest minority language in Europe, which, according to last year's census, is at least partially spoken by a quarter of >

> people in this country.

This issue's cover shows a page from *The New Testament* in Scots, dating from 1513-39, translated from the English Bible translation of John Purvey by Murdoch Nesbit, later published in 1901-5 by the Scottish Text Society, and available in the National Library.

Until this year, no complete text of the Bible in Scots has been published, but the first translation of *The New Testament* into Scots from the original Greek was produced by William Lorimer, who died 16 years before its 1983 publication; it represents ten years' work by the Ancient Greek scholar, and a monumental achievement, which was completed posthumously by his son Robin. Each Gospel is translated into a different form of Scots, to match the different forms of local Greek used by the various apostles and scribes.

However, no less an achievement is the translation of the entire Bible into the Doric dialect, which was published in June this year, after seventeen years of work, by retired Aberdeenshire solicitor Gordon Hay - making this the first time the entire Bible has been published in a dialect of Scots. Comedian Des Clarke remarked on BBC Radio Scotland's *Breaking The News* panel show: 'It's the first time that anyone has reacted to Jesus' miracles by saying 'Michty me...!'

Did you know - the Church of Scotland's website has a page of year-round resources in Scots, including Communion, Baptism, and a weekly reading of the Lorimer translation by the late actor, poet and broadcaster Tom Fleming, which is also available on the Scots Language Centre's website and Facebook page. Other Kirk online resources pertinent to this time of year mark St Andrews Day, Advent and Christmas.



## **NIMROD - AN INTEGRAL PART OF REMEMBRANCE...**

*Each year on Remembrance Sunday I play Nimrod during the Offering. This has become a tradition, not just at Reid Memorial, but in many other churches as well.*

After the Second World War the piece became enduringly associated with occasions of national mourning, and it is always played at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, at the National Service of Remembrance. For the previous generation it had been Arthur Sullivan's overture *In Memoriam*. In America it is Barber's *Adagio for Strings* which occupies a similar position.

This short, affecting piece comes from a larger work, the *Enigma Variations* Op 36 by Edward Elgar (pictured above). The subtitle of the piece, *My Friends Pictured Within* had its origin in an >



> incident when Elgar was improvising at the piano one evening and his wife remarked, 'You know, that sounds just like the way so-and-so leaves a room'. Elgar saw the possibilities and the work became his most successful composition to date. The 'Enigma' to which Elgar refers is his assertion that there is a hidden theme running through all 14 movements, a statement which has provoked an enormous amount of speculation. One contender was *Auld Lang Syne*, but it has never been established as to what the composer actually meant.

'Nimrod' is a biblical figure mentioned in the Book of Genesis 10: 8-12 and Chronicles 1:10 - the son of Cush and therefore a great-grandson of Noah. The Bible states that he was 'a mighty hunter before the Lord [and]... began to be mighty in the earth.' So, what is the connection with Elgar's friend? Augustus J Jaeger (pictured) was employed as an editor by Novello & Co., Elgar's

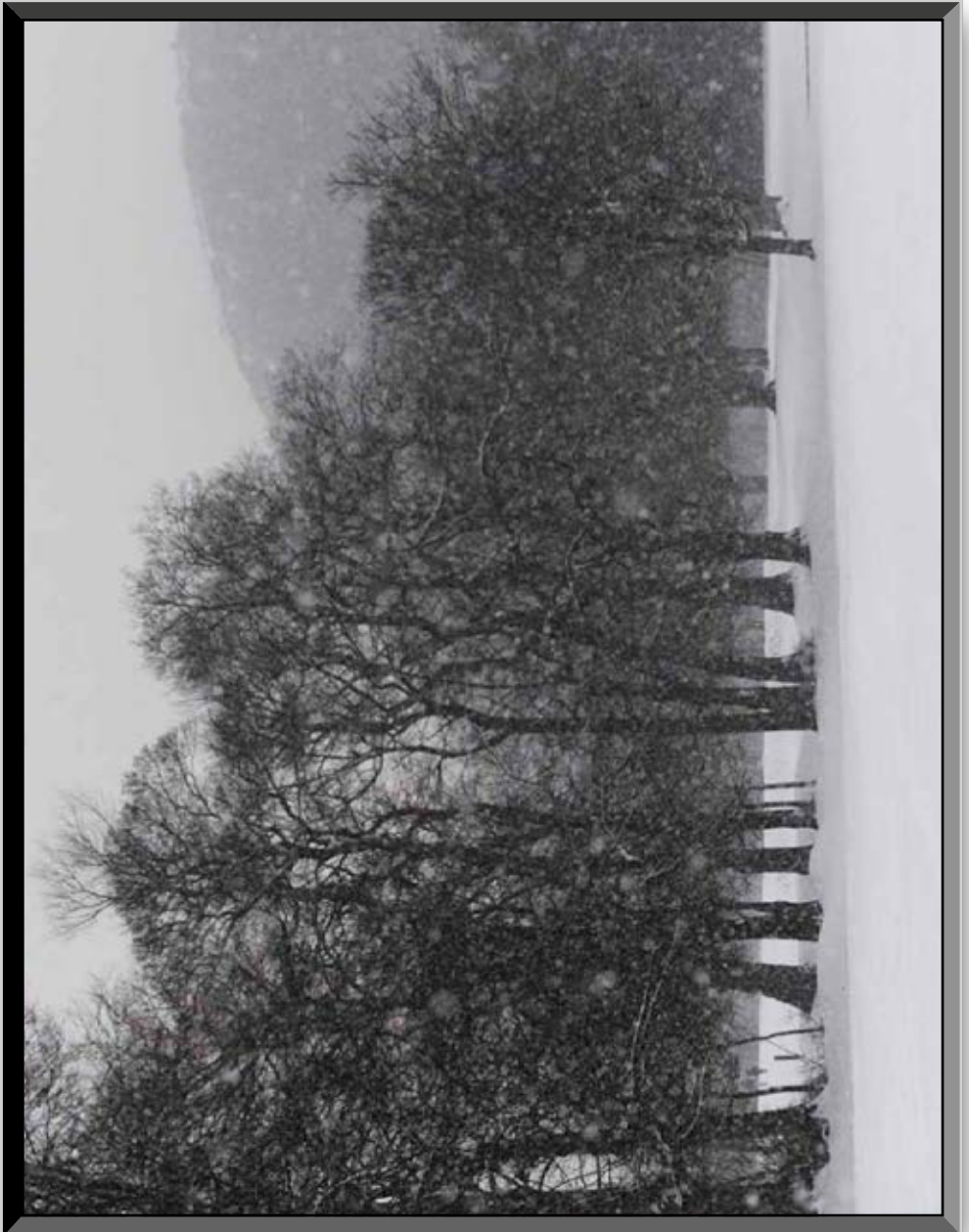
publishers. A close friend, he gave Elgar useful advice but also severe criticism, which the composer greatly appreciated. Elgar related how Jaeger had encouraged him and stimulated him to continue composing, despite setbacks. Of German origin, the name was originally spelt Jäger, but was anglicised to Jaeger - in German the word means 'hunter'.

**MARTYN STRACHAN**



## IN THE FRAME...

The first of ReidOn... 's series of pictures by local art galleries: until 17th December, **Art & Craft Collective** on Causewayside is showing James Carter's photographs, taken on walks from his Edinburgh home. [Rotate clockwise!]



*The Reid's flower arrangements often make for a splash of colour on ReidOn... 's covers.*



## CHANGING CHURCH FLOWERS...

*From a team of six ladies who individually arranged fresh flowers for each Sunday worship, we are now down to one, Dr Fiona Paxton.*

Previously the congregation gave generously to the flower calendar, choosing a particular date that was especially important to them, but since Covid, and the Church's reopening, we have a smaller congregation, and the flower calendar has not been restarted. Therefore, Fiona has not only arranged the displays, but has created the silk flowers and foliage from scratch!

We feel Fiona's solo efforts to keep our Church welcoming every Sunday deserve a wealth of gratitude; thank you for her sterling work from everyone.

MARY MARRS AND **THE EX-FLOWER TEAM**

# DOOR DUTIES...

## **SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER**

Lesley Beckett, Richard Black  
*In charge: Ian Beckett*

## **SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER**

Gillian Brown, Elizabeth Clark  
*In charge: Stephen Thomson*

## **SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER**

Sheena Richardson,  
Douglas Mathieson  
*In charge: Stevie Douglas*

## **SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER (am)**

Siobhan Gilliland, Sheila Capewell  
*In charge: Susan Mackay*

## **SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER (pm)**

Lesley Beckett, Geeta Mackay  
*In charge: Ian Beckett*

## **MONDAY 25th DECEMBER**

Stevie Douglas, Gillian Brown  
*In charge: Linda Farrer*

## **SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER**

Alison MacLeod, Richard Black  
*In charge: Stephen Thomson*

## **SUNDAY 7th JANUARY 2024**

Douglas Mathieson, Julie Wylie  
*In charge: Lindsay Wood*

## **SUNDAY 14th JANUARY**

Elizabeth Clark, Siobhan Gilliland  
*In charge: Stevie Douglas*

## **SUNDAY 21st JANUARY**

Richard Black, Sheena Richardson  
*In charge: Linda Farrer*

## **SUNDAY 28th JANUARY**

Lesley Beckett, Joyce Rosie  
*In charge: Ian Beckett*

## **SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY**

Gillian Brown, Geeta Mackay  
*In charge: Susan Mackay*

## **SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY**

Alison MacLeod, Sheila Capewell  
*In charge: Lindsay Wood*

## **SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY**

Douglas Mathieson,  
Sheena Richardson  
*In charge: Stephen Thomson*

## **SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY**

Elizabeth Clark, Siobhan Gilliland  
*In charge: Stevie Douglas*

*Please remember to arrange  
a swap if you can't attend*



# FINANCE REPORT...



*Looking at our finances to 31st October 2023:*

The Congregation will know that **Betty Patterson** was kind enough to leave us a very generous legacy. This has now been received and amounts to £73,000.

We have enjoyed 3 years of having a modest surplus, mostly because during Covid, while our givings and fund-raising were down, our outlays were down even more. We are now catching up with outstanding building and roof repairs and I expect that this year, had it not been for the legacy, we will probably record a small loss on our activities. The foreseeable costs for the remainder of the year amount to approximately £12,000. This includes an additional £3,000 over budget for insurance as well as significant and essential roof repairs. To date, most areas of income are up on the previous year. We have raised £4,000 for other charities during the year - a commendable performance.

**ALASDAIR SEALE**

## NEWINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER (NCT) FOODBANK + ...

UPDATE

Last Thursday (23rd Nov) we had 18/20 guests coming along and quite a few were receiving advice/updates from the previous week. The items we are short of at the moment are: **toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo), tinned meat, fruit and custard, and some nice things for Christmas** (which we usually keep aside to hand out just before). If you are able to give one or two of these items, it would be greatly appreciated. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation I can accept this (in a sealed envelope) at the church, or online through Edinburgh City Mission - ref. *Newington Foodbank* +. Many thanks for all your support. Please continue to pray for the service users and helpers at this time.

**ALISON MACLEOD**



**SUNDAY**

**3rd DECEMBER**



**6 pm**

**CHRISTMAS TREE**

**LIGHTING**

**CEREMONY**

**MUSIC, REFRESHMENTS  
EVERYONE**

**WELCOME**



# FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT...

*This is a busy time of the year for the Fabric team where we carry out all our regular maintenance and safety checks on our buildings, to get them safely through another winter.*

Recent heavy downpours in October have accelerated the need to fix leaks and maintain our roofs, gutters and downpipes. That work will cost us £5,627.

Our three gas boilers (one for the church, one for the kitchen/small hall and one for the large hall) are working well and get their regular maintenance and safety checks in November. Unfortunately, more of our bronze church cast iron radiators are failing, they are now 10+ years old and we need to refurbish all 10 radiators at an estimated cost of £2,178 plus removal and installation cost. We can't have all the radiators away over the winter so that work is scheduled for the summer of 2024.

Our new gardeners (Robert and Samantha McGill) have done a good job since June. They are reliable, efficient and good value.

We need to renew our property insurance at the end of November and our new premium is in. Like all insurance premiums, it has increased from last year (up 10% to £10,550) which is probably the first increase in premiums in the last 5 years. Our building insurance is provided via Church of Scotland, as this scheme is specifically designed and meet the demands and needs of a typical CoS congregation. It covers our church buildings (£21.2million), our organ (£660k) our manse (£1.3m) Church officer house (£787k) plus contents and liabilities.

Our Organ has been sounding lovely, but we experienced a >

> power problem which meant Martyn playing the piano at our 19th November Service. Let's hope we can get to the bottom of that problem quickly.

A Fire Evacuation Test was successfully completed at our service on 5th November 2023. Thank you to our on-duty team and congregation for their co-operation. We were all out of the buildings in less than 5 minutes.

Thank you to everyone who looks after our buildings and grounds, and in particular our Fabric Committee, who are Hazel Melrose, Linda Farrer and Ian Beckett.

**STEVIE DOUGLAS**

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## AN UPDATE ON OUR MISSION PARTNERS...

*'Our Mission Partners Rev Stewart Gillan and Rev Muriel Pearson are home in Scotland and beginning to plan for the immediate future. We hope to arrange opportunities for them to share with congregations and presbyteries in the weeks ahead. A new web page has been added to the Church of Scotland site which offers more information and links to news from useful sites based in the region.'*



*- from the Church of Scotland's Faith Impact Forum newsletter, November.*

The next issue of **REIDON**... will be February 2024. Please send David any articles or notices by *26th January* please. See page 2 for contact details.

***Season's greetings!***



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