

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

Visit us at www.newwellwynd.org.uk



Message from the Vestry

Dear Church Family,

As we approach the end of the year and step into the Advent season, it's hard to believe that I've nearly been here for a year already! Time has truly flown, and it's been such a privilege to share in this journey with all of you. Over the past months, I've witnessed so much faith, compassion, and growth within our community, and I'm deeply grateful for how we continue to support one another, walk alongside each other, and live out our faith together.

Advent is a season that invites us to reflect and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ—the Prince of Peace. In the midst of the busyness, it can sometimes feel like peace is something we're striving for but can never quite grasp. The world around us seems broken, torn by conflict, division, and uncertainty, and peace can feel like a distant hope. Yet, this season reminds us that true peace doesn't come from circumstances, but from Christ himself. Jesus, born into a world much like ours—one that longs for peace—came to bring a peace that surpasses understanding. It's a peace that heals, restores, and brings comfort to our hearts.

In a world that can often feel overwhelming, Advent is a time to pause and allow the peace of Christ to settle deeply within us. It's not just a peace we experience personally, but a peace we are called to share with others—whether in the way we love, serve, or simply offer a kind word or a listening ear. Christ's peace is both a gift and a calling, and as we prepare to celebrate his birth, let's reflect on how we can carry that peace into the broken places of our lives and communities.

Looking ahead to the New Year, I'm filled with hope. There's always so much to be done, but I trust that God will continue to guide us in the work we are called to do together. As we step into 2025, let's take with us the peace of Christ, letting it shape how we live, how we love, and how we serve those around us.

This Christmas, I pray that you and your loved ones experience the deep peace that only Christ can offer, and that as we enter the New Year, we continue to be a community marked by that peace. May it be a time of joy, of rest, and of renewed hope for all of us?

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, blessed New Year!

Yours in Christ

Eleanor

The peace that guides us

In a world that's filled with noise and strife,
We wait for peace, the gift of life.
A child is born, the Prince of Peace,
To calm our hearts, our fears release.

Amid the chaos, His light shines bright,
A beacon of hope, a guide through night.
As we prepare, our hearts are still,
To welcome Christ, with peace, we fill.

In quiet moments, in love we share,
God's peace will guide us everywhere.
As the old year ends and new begins,
We look ahead with peace within.

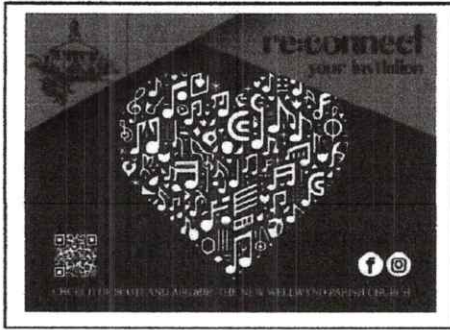
A year of hope, of love, of grace,
Guided by God's shining face.
Though the world may turn and times may change,
His peace remains, constant and strange.

It stills our hearts, and heals our soul,
It makes us whole, it makes us whole.
So as we step into the year ahead,
May peace be our companion, as we're led.

By Christ's own peace, which will not fade,
A promise of love, in which we're made.



Lessons and Carols by Candlelight



As part of our re: connect series, you will have received or will shortly receive your invitation to our next event, which will take the form of a Lessons and Carols by Candlelight. This will be held in the Church on Sunday, 1st December at 4pm. As we start the season of Advent, it is hoped, that this service will give each of us an opportunity to pause and take time to think about what the real meaning of Advent and Christmas is, as we sing carols and listen to the message in the various lessons being read.

The candles will be placed around the windows with the advent crown lit on the chancel and the subdued lighting within the sanctuary will hopefully create a relaxing and meditative atmosphere.

Prior to the service, hot drinks, mincemeat pies and shortbread will be available in the large hall from 3pm after which we will move into the sanctuary for worship.

Please take this opportunity to come along and enjoy fellowship and friendship one with another - we look forward to seeing you there.

David Walker

Flower Calendar

On Sunday 8th December, the Flower Calendar for 2025 will be ready in the Church. The Calendar is located on the wall on the right hand side of the door as you leave the Church to go into the hall. If you wish to choose a specific Sunday to put flowers in the Church, please write your name against that date. If you are happy for the flower committee to organise and arrange your flowers just give your donation (about £25) to one of the Flower Conveners. Flowers will then be collected from the florist and arranged on your behalf. You may, however, wish to buy and arrange your own choice of flowers. You are very welcome to do so, but please let the Flower Conveners know in advance.

The flower service is very much appreciated – thank you.

Flower Conveners: Avril Cockburn (769134), Margaret Jack (767898)

Senior Circle

I can't quite believe that we are nearly halfway through the 2024/25 session of the Senior Circle. Since the last newsletter we had a very quick but very informative visit from the Fire Brigade. The crew got a call out on their way to our meeting and then got another call out while two of the crew were talking to us. Their professionalism was definitely on show that day. On the 22nd October we had a great talk on scams and how to deal with them from Denis O'Keefe from Voice of Experience. We all learned a lot from this talk. On the 5th November we welcomed Thomas McNally from Albert Bartlett. We were surprised by the number of products they have in their different ranges. We all left with a 'goodie bag' which included a delicious bag of crisps. We finish the year on the 3rd December with our Christmas celebrations.

Our meetings for the start of 2025 include:

14th January Our Favourite Things

28th January George Randall (Burns Afternoon)

11th February Alex Cunningham

Wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas

Anne Learmonth

The Cryptic Christmas Card

A man sent his friend a cryptic Christmas card. It said: A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z. The recipient puzzled over it for weeks. Finally he gave up and wrote asking for an explanation. In July he received the explanation on a postcard: "No L!"

It's a Fact!

You don't realise how old you are until you sit on the floor to wrap Christmas gifts then try and get up!

Wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all the very best for the year that lies ahead.

The Editor

An Angel Comes Down To Earth

An eye-witness account from Glasgow city centre, on a cold day in December, some years ago. A little boy, about 10 years old, was standing outside a shoe shop in a tattered pair of shoes, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the young boy and said, "My but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!" "I was asking God if he could give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply. The lady took him by the hand, went into the shop, and asked the sales assistant to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, you will be more comfortable now." As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her. "Are you God's wife?"



Home Comforts - New Wellwynd Christmas Appeal

This year our focus is on a local charity 'Home Comforts' which we have regularly supported over the past ten years. Home Comforts NL has greatly increased their output of packs particularly in the last 2 years, such is the demand! We drop off about 100 Cleaning Packs and 140 Hygiene Packs every 3 months, all in North Lanarkshire. We are dependent on grants and donations to buy the items and once the packs are ready, they are dropped off at Social Work, Homeless Units, and Women's Aid, Health Visitors, Barnardo's and more.

The appeal will run for the 4 Sundays in Advent and the items you donate will be distributed in 2025. If you would prefer to place an envelope in the collection plate - addressed to Home Comforts all donations will be gratefully received.

(£2.00 can buy - soap 30p, shower gel 35p, facecloth 25p, toothbrush 25p, toothpaste 50p, sponge 35p)

Starting next Sunday, the items we need are:

1st December – Toothpaste and Washing up Liquid

8th December - Roll on Deodorant and Cream Cleaner

15th December - Bath Sponge and Tea Towels

22nd December - Shower Gel and Toilet Rolls

All of these items can be purchased at Home Bargains, Aldi and Lidl here in the town.

Please put any items in the large box that will be situated at the front door. Thank you so much.

Maggie Weir

Prayer Points

- Pray for all who will be taking part in services over Advent and Christmas: that they might do so in a way that not only is a blessing to them but also many others.
- Pray for all visitors who come and join us that all of us will find a way to welcome them and share something of our faith for them that as they come they might keep on coming.
- Pray for all who find this time of year difficult – those ill at home or in hospital, those recently bereaved and those still finding it hard to pick up the pieces after bereavement.
- Pray for those facing the stark choice between eating and heating and for those supporting them through such agencies as food banks.
- Pray for those who will not get a break at this time of year – those in our armed forces, those in caring professions including the NHS, those many folk working to keep necessary services going.
- Pray for those in troubled lands where war and conflict rages.



Thank You

Joyce and Bert Hamilton wish to convey their sincere thanks for the lovely flowers received during Bert's extended illness which necessitated hospitalisation on several occasions. The flowers with kind thoughts and best wishes were very much appreciated.

Irene Bremner would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers received following her recent accident. Also appreciated were the phone calls and kind messages from members of her Church family.

Deanna Arthur would like to thank our Probationer Minister Eleanor Hamilton and the congregation of The New Wellwynd Parish Church for the words of comfort and support, sympathy cards and beautiful flowers received following the death of her nephew Scott.

Isabel and Edwin Craig would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received on the passing of their niece Sandra.

Aileen Allsop would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received. An unexpected surprise and greatly appreciated.

George Thomson would like to thank the congregation of New Wellwynd Parish Church for the beautiful flowers received at Harvest.

Bill Clark sends his thanks for the flowers sent by the church. They brightened up his window sill beautifully.

Susan and Richard Forrester would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received. Very much appreciated.

Church Manse

The Church Manse has been vacant since last November. As spring arrived with no prospect of anyone living in the property to care for the garden, a request was made for people to volunteer to look after the garden. The Manse Property Convener would like to express his thanks to Jan Watt, David Stewart, Leslie and Colin McPherson who have cut the grass, weeded and tidied the shrub beds and put out the gardening bin all spring, summer and autumn.



Some thoughts to take into a New Year!

"If you concentrate on finding whatever is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul."

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

"Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

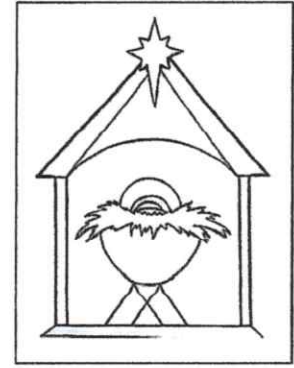
"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that an aeroplane takes off against the wind, not with it."

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined."

The First Christmas

It never snows at Christmas in that dry and dusty land
Instead of freezing blizzards, there are palms and drifting sand
And years ago a stable and a most unusual star
And three wise men who followed it, by camel, not by car
While, sleepy on the quiet hills, a shepherd gave a cry
He'd seen a crowd of angels in the silent starlit sky
In the stable an ox and ass stood very still and calm
And gazed upon the baby, safe and snug in Mary's arm
And Joseph, lost in shadows, face lit by an oil lamp's glow
Stood wondering, that first Christmas Day, over two thousand years ago.

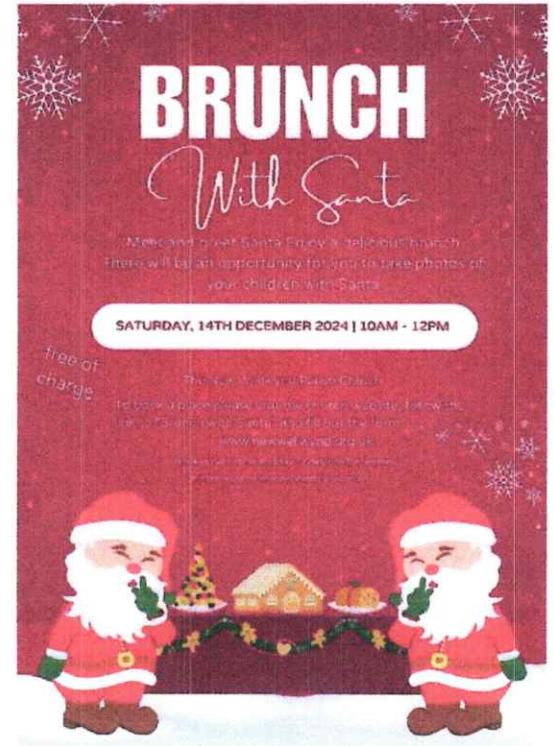
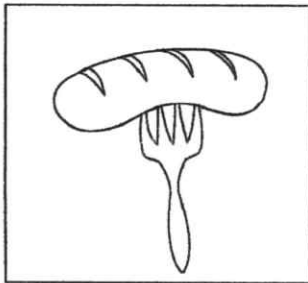


Marian Swinger

A morning not to be missed!

**Get your place booked and come along and
have Brunch with Santa!**

**Full details can be found on the Church
website!**



Christian Aid Charity Gifts

Don't know what to buy someone for Christmas? Why not purchase them a charity gift from Christian Aid! There are lots to choose from! Great for stocking fillers, Secret Santa, or a meaningful Christmas gift. When you buy a virtual gift from Christian Aid Charity Gifts, you or your lucky recipient(s) don't get an actual goat or a pair of chickens (although we know it would be pretty cool if you did). What you do get for each gift is a physical card. Each card explains a bit more about the gift, and tells a story about someone – a real person – who benefited from a similar contribution.

How does buying a gift work?

1. Choose and buy gift(s) for your loved one(s).
2. Your money acts as a donation; it goes into a fund for each area of [Christian Aid's work](#). So if you buy the gift of a goat, your money goes into our Agriculture & Livestock fund, and so on.
3. Every gift is represented by a card. You can write a personal message inside it. Then you can arrange to either have it sent to you, or to whoever you've bought the gift for.
4. The gift delights them and everybody feels good.
5. Our local partner uses the money you've donated to work on a particular programme or project – like supplying goats to families in Ethiopia.

Where does Gift Aid fit in? Because your purchase of a virtual gift is actually a donation, you can opt in for Gift Aid (if you're a UK taxpayer). There's no VAT due.

Further Information can be found at charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk

The Whinha' Bible - Oan the road wae the Magi! (A Christmas Tale)

"Cum oan Melchior, ye've read an re-read that scroll a thoosan times. Why dae ye need tae read it again? We need tae get shifted. The star is movin," shouted an exasperated Balthazar as he climbed ontae his camel.

"Patience, ma young frien. Ye're right, a hiv read this a thoosan times an probably mair. It never ceases tae amaze me. A worry though, that we micht hiv misunderstood it in some wae. So, a read it again an again tae re-assure masel. Am ready noo, let me jist pack this awa fur safe keepin. Then a'll be ready tae go."

"Awright, am gone tae double check the watter bags. A'll be richt back."

Melchior carefully rolled up the scroll an shued it intae a leather case, then pit intae a bag oan his camel. A voice came fae behind him, "Awright ma brithers, we've many days o' travel ahead o' us, an the star disnae hing about!. We need tae keep up." "Thank you Caspar, a've been tryin tae urge this auld yin oan but he insisted oan readin the scroll again." sighed Balthazar. Caspar slid doon fae his camel an walked ower tae where Melchior wis beginnin tae climb ontae his. "Let me help ye ma frien." "Thank you, Caspar. These auld bones dinnae travel like they wance did. Am thankful that am able tae make this wan last trip. A yearn tae see the Holy One." "As do a ma frien. Whit scroll wir ye readin? A'll wager that a know." "Ye'll probably be spot oan. A wis again readin wan o' the scrolls left tae us by Belteshazzar. Whit wis his Hebrew name again?" "It wis Daniel. Wis it the scroll o' Isaiah?" "Yip, how dis it go again? Ah yes! 'The people who walk in darkness will see a great licht. Fur those who stey in a land o' deep darkness, a licht will shine.' We are followin wan licht so that we can see the dawn o' anither. The star leads us tae the birth o' the Hebrew Messiah. Whit a great event that'll be."

Balthazar returned wae watter bags fou tae the brim, an said, "Noo baith o' ye ir wastin time! C'mon ma brithers we must get a move oan tae keep up." The twa auld yins laughed. Caspar helped Melchior up oantae his seat an then climbed oantae his ain camel. "Let's move oan ma brithers. If we're tae view this miraculous wean, we must press oan." With that, the three men oan their camels heided aff wance again, wae these words ringin through their herts, 'Fur a wee wean is born tae us, a Son is gied tae us. The government will rest oan His shooders. An He will be caud: Wonderful Coonsellor, Michty God, Everlastin Faither an Prince o' Peace."

George Randall

Church Notices

Morning worship every Sunday at 11.00am.

Afternoon Advent Service - Sunday, 1st December (4pm)

Sacrament of Holy Communion – Sunday, 8th December

Brunch with Santa – Saturday, 14th December (10am)

Nativity Service – Sunday, 22nd December

Christingle Service – Tuesday, 24th December (6.30pm)

Watchnight Service – Tuesday, 24th December (11.30pm)

Christmas Day Service – Wednesday, 25th December (11am)

Tea and coffee will be served in the Church Hall after morning worship.

Delve in at Twelve - Wednesday Services at 12 noon

Our midweek service on a Wednesday at 12 noon will continue during the winter months.

The service is followed by tea and coffee. Sacrament of Holy Communion on the 11th December.

Funerals

Margaret Hamilton, John Robertson, Robert Stewart and Scott Arthur

Baptisms

Ellis Llewellyn Hewitt and Hallie Jean Youngson



Useful Contacts

Probationer Minister: Eleanor Hamilton 07594163051

Session Clerk: David Walker 01236 747075

Treasurer: David Watt 01698 853921

Roll Keeper: Moira Gartshore 01236 761001

Organist: David Walker 01236 747075

Hall Convener: John Clydesdale 07512912016

Gift Aid: David Walker 01236 747075

Magazine Editor: George Randall 01236 763102 or 07738089762

Christmas is coming!

It's nearly December and the build up to Christmas is well underway! It will soon be Advent and the big countdown will begin!

Do you have an Advent Calendar ready to start opening on the 1st December? Perhaps you will have one with a picture behind each window, there might even be a sweet or some chocolate!

But Advent is far more than just ripping open tiny cardboard doors to get a sneaky mini chocolate before you go off to school.

Advent is an important part of the Christian calendar. It means 'coming' and it's the period before Christmas which celebrates the birth of Jesus. It is all about preparing for Christmas Day.

Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth - so the Advent period reminds Christians to remember and prepare for those celebrations. Services will take place in Church, carols will be sung and Nativity plays and Christmas shows will be performed in schools.

Many Advent customs involve counting down the days until Christmas begins. Some Churches have an advent wreath or crown with five candles, one for each of the four Sunday's leading up to Christmas Day and one for Christmas Day itself.



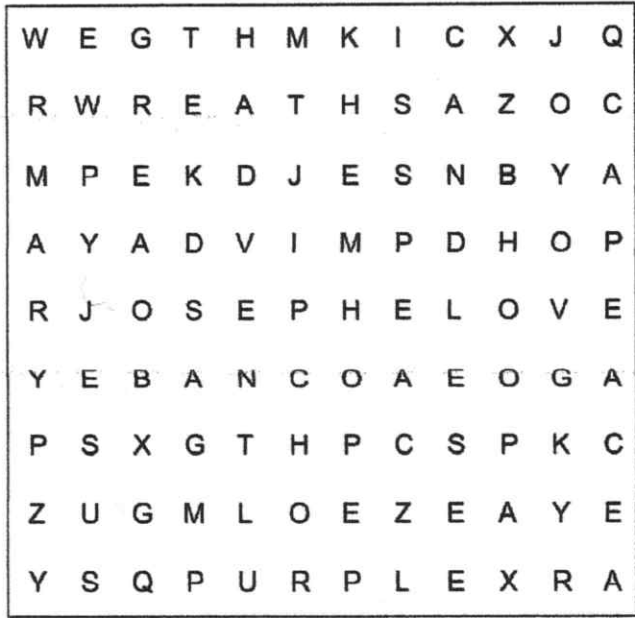
Sometimes Christians will have their own Advent candle which they'll burn at home. This burns down gradually as each day passes toward the big day itself.

Do you have an Advent candle at home?

There is a special Advent event being held in the Church Hall on Saturday, 14th December and it is a 'Brunch with Santa!' Ask Mum and Dad or your Granny or Grandad or a big sister or big brother to book you place. Santa will look forward to meeting you! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Advent Word Search

M
E
R
R
Y
C
H
R
I
S
T
M
A
S



Words to Find

Words can be found left to right and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus



Countdown Time!

Colour in the stars one by one until Christmas!

