

Logie Kirk News

Issue 3, 2023

LOGIE KIRK
**CAROL
CONCERT**

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER,
4PM AT THE KIRK

ALL WELCOME

REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS

OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE TO
START-UP STIRLING



Logie Kirk Stirling (Church of Scotland)

A Letter from the Minister



Christmas is coming....

***'Christmas is coming'
The Church is glad to sing
And let the Advent Candles
Brightly burn in a ring.***

In less than a month these words will sound – not only in Logie but most probably in almost every church in the Presbyterian world. One feels it could not be a year since we decorated the church with stars and hosted the Christmas Tree Festival in the church. Now we are almost there again: we buy and send Christmas cards, we hear Christmas tunes in the shops, people are buying presents (or is it too late?) and plan their Christmas meals.

All this very personal planning and activities happen in a bigger world and within a global context. I want to reflect on these two very distinct aspects within the Season of Christmas.

Christmas traditions and habits are very personal and sometimes even private. Each family and home has its own way of celebrating. For a vast number of people the Christian base of Christmas is long gone. Yet they celebrate it as a time of well-wishing and of peace. Some use it as a threat! “Santa will not visit you if you behave like this!” But mostly it is a

time of grace, joy, and good wishes. And the annual return to this time, this Story and its message might do something good for all of us. My wish is that this might be a time of love, care, and peace for you.

But, then, on the other extreme, we live in a world which does not have peace. I have been in Logie for almost two years now. The date of my induction coincided with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This was the beginning of a war that still continues, although we have now almost grown accustomed to the idea that there is a war somewhere. The mere thought that we could have become used to this, is even shocking for me. And then, soon after the outbreak of the war, the implementation of a new Presbytery plan followed. This certainly did not contribute a peace of mind for many. Many churches are still struggling to come to grips with this “plan”. And the, more recently, the terrible events of the 7th of October on the Palestine-Israeli border brought world-wide unrest amongst many. We see protests on a weekly if not daily base. For most of us these events are in our circle of concern but not in our circle of influence. But it is still a case of much unease, unrest, and concern. All this happens in a time when “Peace on earth” sounds in our shops and through our malls.

I’m not naïve (or try not to be) about all of this. Many benefit from the fighting and have financial interest in the selling of weapons and ammunition. For them, peace is a threatening idea. How do we reconcile all these events with the Peace

for the World message of Christmas? Do we lose hope? Do we just close our eyes and focus on our little world?

For me, the word “community” lies at the centre of a valid response. As we lose and if we lose community – including communities of faith – then we lose the momentum in the right direction. Each one of us – me, you as you are reading this – has a role to play in this community. Wherever we are, whatever we do, our actions count. Let us then make sure we contribute towards this “coming of Christmas”.

For us as a family, this is a time of expectation. By the time you read this, we would have welcomed a new baby – grandchild number 5. So, although this is a repeat or return of a festive season, there is the awareness of a time of change.

Rev. Jan Steyn

Emeritus Elders

Congratulations to two of our elders, **Margaret Ogilvie** and **Brian Jamieson** who in September were presented with Emeritus Elder Certificates by Reverend Jan Steyn.

Margaret was ordained in 2001 while Brian goes way back to 1984. Both have served Logie and in particular their districts very well and I am assured they will continue to do as much as they can in the future.

Congratulations and thank you.

Brenda Smith

STAMP COLLECTION FOR RNIB

Our latest collection for the Royal National Institute for Blind People is awaiting uplift. Over the past year we have amassed approximately 30,000 stamps which is quite something.



Many thanks to those who answered my appeal for help in trimming the stamps. There is still truth in the old adage that many hands make light work.

A special shout out to Janette and Flora Taylor who are our best collectors by far.

With Christmas fast approaching please keep the collection in mind as well as throughout the year.

Our collection boxes are in the vestibule of the Kirk and in the kitchen at the Halls. Brenda Smith



CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING 2023

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 10am CAUSEWAYHEAD
CO-OP

IN AID OF START-UP STIRLING

Many of you will remember the fun we had last year, despite the awful weather, singing carols outside the Co-op. We raised nearly £400 for Start-Up Stirling. Let's see if we can beat that amount this year because the need is even greater! For more info, speak to Jan Gillies

You don't have to be a great singer, just an enthusiastic one!

A note from Kat

A while back, Jan asked what season of the church we like best and without hesitation I noted Advent. There are a number of reasons for this beyond the widely held appreciation of Christmas in the German tradition. In my experience of the Lutheran tradition that I grew up in, the focus on repentance was strong. And evidently not in the sense of saying confession and being offered absolution as a method of accounting for grace. However, there was an inwardness and a sorrow that appeared at all times to practice grieving in light of the crucifixion with Easter forever a step removed from grasp. The "purple" seasons hold sorrowful tunes. But also much comforting.

The preposition in advent, ad-venire, coming to... emphasises the movement towards, rather than the distance apart. And so, rather than focussing on the guilt and shame that may hinder us from approaching God's kingdom in our own turn, we are invited to rejoice that God is coming to meet us, is preparing to be fully present with us. Advent is a time of hope: It will happen! Children in Germany have lots to look forward to in the advent season, that make the wait for Christmas great fun and heighten the sense of anticipation, lantern walks for St Martin, polishing boots for St Nikolas, making advent wreaths and gingerbread houses



with little marzipan scenes of Hansel and Gretel, and lots and lots of singing (there is a reason I am so fond of the choir).

Since my diagnosis, I have been anticipating a sense of arrival; of being told that I have completed treatment, of being in remission, of not anticipating yet more letters of invitation to present to this department or that at FVRH. And much of this year, you have supported me through my cancer journey and my own quiet grief. From diagnosis through to surgeries and chemo, with practical help such as preparing meals, selecting clothes to fit, gifts of flowers and cards that often times became a meditation point in my days. You let me chat away about my worries and hopes and gave me space to be myself. And you prayed. With me and for me. What more could anybody ask of fellowship than

this? My diagnosis, for all its quirks, is still a positive one, even though the cancer treatment plan has been an elusive game of matching symptoms to medication with no end to treatment in sight. The “back to normal”, the “all clear” is not as definitive as with other illnesses. And still, I am “back”, and I am “clear”. I rejoice in having been discharged from the Oncology. There is now NED – no evidence of disease. Now all that is left is to walk that road and say thank you – to the fellowship at Logie, and to God – and sing some more.

Kat Neumann



VERY EARLY NOTICE!

Having seen several stunning and beautifully simple poppy displays leading up to Remembrance Sunday, I would like us to do something next November.

What is promising is the first folk I approached on Sunday agreed. Some even volunteered after overhearing what I was

asking.

Confession time...I neither knit nor crochet. The idea is that

those who are much more skilled than myself produce poppies as and when. We haven't as yet decided if there should be a stated size, opinions welcome.

If you happen to have spare red wool then I will put a box in the vestibule. Any questions and I'll ask one of our experts!

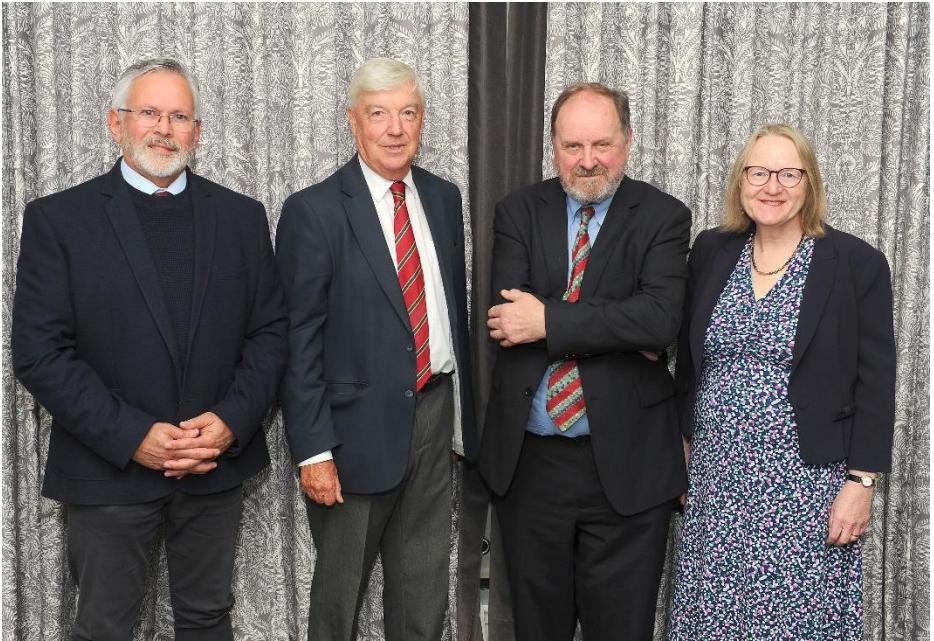
Brenda Smith

FRIENDS OF LOGIE KIRK – JOINT LECTURE WITH THE UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday 25 October the award winning author and broadcaster James Naughtie gave a lecture at Stirling University entitled “Is Democracy Dead?” The lecture was the latest in the series co-sponsored by the University and the Friends of Logie Kirk. He gave an excellent and thought provoking lecture to a large audience giving insights into the US political situation. He was clear that democracy was not as yet dead, but it is subject to threat, and it is important to keep asking the question in the light of attacks to it such as the January 2021 storming of the Capitol building. He pointed out that a democratic vote only works if both sides are prepared to lose and accept the result.

This was the fifth in a series of biennial lectures organised by the University and the Friends of Logie Kirk. University Deputy Principal Professor Judith Phillips chaired the event and recalled the close links between the University and Logie Kirk begun when Logie Kirk presented the University with its ceremonial mace on its formation and reiterated that the link with its close neighbour Logie Kirk was very important to

the University. Rev Jan Steyn gave a vote of thanks and said this was a great example of Logie Kirk working in the wider community.



The picture shows from left to right Rev Jan Steyn, Ian Lumsden (Chairman of the Trustees of the Friends of Logie Kirk), James Naughtie and Professor Judith Phillips.

Logie Doors – An apology.

Referring to the article in the last edition, we should have made it clear that the families of D and J Ogilvie funded the doors and apologise to any members of Jack Ogilvie's family if it caused any upset.

Brenda Smith

Logie Future and Development Proposals

Since the finalisation and approval of the new Presbytery Mission Plan and the formation of the new Presbytery of Perth – which Logie Kirk is part of – intensive discussions and work has been going on. In this article I hope to give you some feedback on the process.

During the last year quite a significant amount of work has been done on the Logie Kirk building. Thanks to Gordon Smith and many others involved, this work and maintenance ensures keeping the church building in as good condition as possible. This, of course, is part of the bigger plan and picture for the Church and its Mission Plan.

A report to the Presbytery about the building and the plans for Logie, led to a meeting between a delegation from the Presbytery and a representative of the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland about the proposed future and funding of changes to the building. The main insight from this meeting was that the Presbytery as well as organisations providing grants for churches, must be convinced about the feasibility and sustainability of any plans.

Leading from this a small group from Logie has been working very hard on exploring ways Logie as a church can engage with the community and the community needs. The focus is reaching out and support as well as providing imaginative

ways and space for this outreach, mission and support to happen.

It boils down to the question of who we are, where we are and how we can reach out.

One of the most exciting possibilities taking form through these conversations and meetings is the use of the proposed new social area under the gallery as a space supporting various aspect of work with Dementia, mental and community wellbeing groups and organisations. This would allow the building to be used during the week, attracting new groups of people.

Although these conversations are ongoing, it surely is an inspiring and hopeful way ahead. There are some challenges. One is to fund changes in the church building and then how to convince groups of the vision for the space while nothing is in place yet.

I hope this gives you an idea of what lies ahead and what is possible. This is, of course, also an invitation to become part of the future of Logie. Please do not hesitate to contact the Session Clerks, the minister or an Elder if you want to contribute and be part of this.

At the end of January 2024 we also have scheduled an open planning evening, inviting anyone to attend and be part of forming this vision. The date for this event is 30 January 2024 at 7pm at the Kirk Hall.

Rev Jan Steyn

Changes to Logie Roll 2023

Since the beginning of January 2023, we have lost nine members and gained four members.

New Members are:

Margaret Hall

Ashley Kenton

Jessica Kenton

Sheila Redpath

Eight members have passed away and one member has moved away:

Alison Young has moved away from the area.

The members who have passed away are:

Marilyn Miller

Ken Brown

Agnes (Nancy) Swanston

Stewart Hamilton

William (Bill) Marshall

Robert (Bob) McAlpine

Hilda Rutherford

William Miller



In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

Bob McAlpine 1931 – 2023



Robert McAlpine was born 22nd January 1931 in George Street, Doune.

Son of Ludovic and Christine, he was one of 13 children.

He joked about the fact that he had never actually slept in a bed by himself, until he did his National Service.

He had an interesting National Service in very different ways. Initially, he was

stationed at Fort George, then spent time in Berlin, including having the job of guarding Rudolf Hess at Spandau Prison.

He spoke really fondly of his time in the Royal Guard at Balmoral where the Queen Mother would request that Bob accompanied them on their Royal activities.

He met Jean on his 21st Birthday and they married 4 years later. They were inseparable through 65 years of marriage, until Jean sadly passed away in October 2020.

Bob and Jean loved their friends and neighbours. They lived in Causewayhead for over 50 years and were part of the community

They were a very social couple and loved having friends, family and neighbours round for a blether, a drink and even a dance around the living room.

Bob was a regular at Logie coffee mornings and could also often be seen in Corrieri's.

Bob spent his last few days receiving wonderful care in Strathcarron Hospice and now he and Jean are reunited in their next adventure.

Quick Christmas quiz

1. Name one of the Old Testament prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem?
2. Who visited Mary to inform her that she would give birth to Jesus?
3. Where was Jesus born?
4. In which gospel can the account of the birth of Jesus be found?
5. What did the angels announce to the shepherds?
6. What is the significance of the star in the nativity story?
7. What gifts did the wise men bring to Jesus?
8. What is the significance of the gifts brought by the wise men?
9. What does the name "Emmanuel" mean
10. What name do we give to 6th January

New Vision!

We have been exploring the possibilities of a new projector and screen in the Kirk. We recognise that the current set up, whilst economic does not produce the quality of image required. We never complain when the sun shines on Logie, however regrettably this can prove very problematic for some of our congregation to view the images and text on screen.

To enhance the worship experience for all, we have sought advice from Access AV, experts in Audio Visual equipment in Church Buildings. Their recommendations, to keep the beauty of the interior of our Kirk, we mount a screen out of sight behind the archway which will drop down only when in use – see image opposite. A projector will be mounted in front of the gallery, therefore not restricting access to the front pews as we do at present, this will include a long throw lens to ensure the clarity of the images.

This project is a huge benefit to our families worshipping at Logie, but it does come at a considerable cost. To help keep this expense to a minimum, we can save £7000 by opting for a pre-owned projector, reducing the total outlay to £10730.

We know only too well the financial pressure that most are facing at present, and like you Logie is not immune from this. We would ask anyone who would consider assisting in financing the project, please reach out to your elder, our

Minister Jan Steyn or the treasury team Alasdair Smith and Alastair Innes directly or via the Session Clerks - brendasmith_132103@churchofscotland.org.uk
diannemcnaughton_132162@churchofscotland.org.uk



Property Report

We have received our quinquennial inspection and as anticipated it is extremely thorough, detailing the internal and external condition of the Kirk, Session House, Halls and Manse. As ever, many of the issues relate to roofs and walls.

There are six items classed for urgent attention, including asbestos surveys for the church and halls, upgrading of the electrical installation at the church, slate repairs on the hall roof, along with replacement of the failed Velux window over the kitchen.

The remaining action items largely relate to external fabric repairs including roof and masonry repairs. We are not in a position financially to address all the issues raised, and these will be prioritised in order of safety and weather resistance.

Igoe Up Ltd have conducted our annual high-level inspection of church and halls. As with the quinquennial inspection, many points relate to roofs and walls. On a positive note, all the repointing of the steeple carried out last year is in good condition.



Gordon Smith

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[Logie Kirk Stirling \(Church of Scotland\)](#)

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STIRLING TAIZÉ GROUP

The first meeting of 2024 will take place in PARK CHURCH,
STIRLING on
26TH JANUARY AT 7.30PM
All welcome!

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 3 rd December	Carol Concert	Logie Kirk 4.00pm
Sunday 10 th December	Nativity Service	Logie Kirk 11.00am
Sunday 24 th December	Christmas Eve Service	Logie Kirk 11.00am
Sunday 24 th December	Watchnight Service	Logie Kirk 11.15pm
Friday 19 th January	Burns Concert	Halls 7.00pm
Tuesday 30 th January	Mission Plan Meeting	Halls 7.00pm
Sunday 17 th March	Afternoon Tea	Halls 2–4pm

Christmas Quiz Answers

1. Micah or Isaiah
2. The Angel Gabriel
3. Bethlehem
4. Gospels of Matthew and Luke
5. Good news of great joy
6. It guided the wise men to Jesus
7. Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh
8. Gold represents kingship, frankincense represents deity, and myrrh represents death.
9. God is With us
10. Epiphany