

Logie Kirk News



December 2024

Logie Kirk Stirling (Church of Scotland)

Charity No. SC001298

A Word from our Interim Moderator – Attie van Wyk

Dear Logie Kirk Friends,

Advent and Christmas are upon us. The past year you have faced some big challenges regarding the future of Logie Kirk and the way forward. I would like to thank you for your positive attitude, and every volunteer, especially the Kirk Session, Office Bearers, and Clerks who've contributed towards the great success of a loving and caring ministry at Logie during the time of vacancy. You surely know what it means to be Church.

The Advent and Christmas seasons bring with them the joy of festivities and cherished moments spent with family and loved ones. Yet, for others, it can be a difficult time — a season of longing for those who are far away or no longer with us.

In South Africa, as in many countries, it is a longstanding tradition during Advent and Christmas to visit care homes, orphanages, and similar institutions to share the joy of the season. This tradition reminded me of a touching story about a missionary couple who visited an orphanage.

Before distributing gifts, the missionary's wife gathered the children to tell them the Christmas story. She shared how Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, only to find there was



no place for them to stay, leading them to take shelter in a stable. There, Jesus was born and placed in a manger. The children sat spellbound; their eyes fixed on her as they heard this story — most of them for the very first time. After the story, the missionaries handed out pieces of cardboard and taught the children how to make their own mangers.

Once the mangers were ready, the children collected bits of grass to place inside. Strips of cloth were distributed as blankets and felt was provided to craft a figure representing the Baby Jesus.

As the children eagerly worked on their creations, the missionary's wife walked among them to admire their efforts. Everything looked wonderful until she reached the table where a little boy named Mike, about five years old, was

sitting. To her surprise, she noticed that his manger held not one baby, but two.

Thinking Mike might have misunderstood the story, she gently asked him to explain it as he understood it. Mike retold the story beautifully, all the way to the moment when Joseph and Mary laid Baby Jesus in the manger. Then, with quiet confidence, he added his own special version:

“And I was there that night when Jesus was born. Jesus looked at me and asked, ‘Mike, do you have a place to stay?’ And I said to Him, ‘No, Jesus, I don’t have a mom or a dad, and I don’t have a house to stay in. I’m an orphan, with nowhere to belong.’

Then Jesus said to me, ‘You can come and stay with Me.’ So, I thought for a moment and said, ‘But Jesus, I don’t have a gift to give You, like the wise men did.’ Then I asked Him, ‘Would it be okay if I lay in the manger with You and kept You warm? That could be my gift.’

Jesus looked at me and said, ‘If you keep Me warm, that will be the greatest gift ever.’ So, I climbed into the manger with Him, and Jesus said, ‘Mike, you can stay with Me forever and ever. We’ll be fine!’”

With tears in his eyes, Mike looked up at the missionary’s wife and said, “Now I have Someone I belong to. Someone who will

never push me away because I'm an orphan. Someone I can always stay with."

This story moved me deeply. It reminds us of the true meaning of Advent and Christmas. This season is about Emmanuel—God with us. Jesus invites us just as we are, accepts us as we are, and loves us as we are. For those who feel cast aside, lonely, unloved, or without a sense of belonging, His message is clear: He will always make room for us. He will never leave or forsake us.

During Advent, we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child—God's greatest gift to us—and we also look forward to His promised return, when He will unite us with the family of believers. As Jesus says in John 14:18: "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

May the love and peace of Christ fill your hearts this Advent and Christmas season.

Blessings in Christ,
Rev. Attie van Wyk

Becoming a Stirling Street Pastor

When we moved to Stirling from Nottingham in 2018, I knew I wanted to continue volunteering. I spent a few years volunteering with Home Start Stirling and Listenwell Scotland. While rewarding, it was very focussed on using my professional knowledge and I realised last year that I needed to do something totally different.

I was aware of Street Pastors from our time living in Nottingham and when I saw a post on Facebook for new volunteers, I decided to go for it and find out more. My journey started with doing an observer patrol this time last year (November 2023) - with the pleasant outcome that I managed to stay awake until 3.30am!

Street Pastors are volunteers from across the Christian faith community who aim to provide practical help on the night-time streets by caring, listening, and helping. In Stirling, this means we patrol the town centre on Fridays and Saturdays from 10pm until 3am (or, if you're lucky and The Fubar has a late licence, until 4am) and the University Campus on Fridays over the lunchtime period.

We offer practical help - we carry bottles of water, flip flops, hats, and gloves now it is getting colder, space blankets, brush and shovel to clear away broken glass and, of course, lollipops. We meet and chat with people out in the pubs and

clubs as well as those who may find themselves sleeping on the streets. We provide a listening ear for those who want to chat or in need of support.

We come from all walks of life and churches across Stirling and surrounding areas and range in age from 20s to 80s - a Glasgow volunteer recently retired at the age of 92 years!

We are always looking to increase our volunteer numbers so if you are curious, please do let me know, I'm happy to chat anytime. For me it is proving to be a very rewarding way to give some time back to our community.

Nicola Whiteman

(Pictured, left, with Rev Attie van Wyk and Street Pastor colleague Ingrid)



Harvest Thanksgiving



Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated in Logie on the 13th of October. Sharon's beautiful montage of photos of the day while stunning, didn't capture the full beauty of Logie resplendent in God's Harvest.

Several thank you's are due.

Firstly, to those who volunteered to decorate our kirk and bring to life the lettering above the chancel,

"OH, WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS"

Secondly to John Logan for once again providing a very

generous donation of Bothy goodies which the congregation exchanged for a collection to Babes in the Wood. Thirdly to the enhanced congregation who attended that day and swelled the sound of worshipping in the beauty of holiness.

Lastly, as always to the Reverend Scott Raby who had a harvest festival laid out at the front of the Kirk. Donning his apron, he took us through a harvest meal, even by some miracle turning a carafe of water into what appeared to be a carafe of wine!

It was quite moving hearing the comments of those leaving the kirk, including, "I'll never forget that service".

To be honest John Logan also had a two-word comment, both words began with B but I couldn't possibly include in such a publication!

Brenda Smith

Logie's Indoor Market

For the past four months Logie has been collecting new and used clothes, toys and equipment for babies, children, and young people right across the Stirling area for the Social Enterprise, Babes in the Wood. This culminated in our November Indoor Market.

20 stalls were involved selling Christmas decorations, other crafts involving wood, and fantastic sewn and knitted goods. The Tombola Stall which was donated by the congregation was huge, so thank you to all at Logie who donated. The Record Stall, sorry Vinyl Stall to be trendy was very popular, while the rest of us just thought, "Oh I had that one".

Wallace's Ochil House staff and pupils brought their crafts along as did pupils from Cornton Primary who were so polite, bright, and cheery it was great having them in the hall.

Our Logie Cafe was very professionally run, and donations were irresistible, as was the scent/smell of square/Lorne sausage gently wafting through to the main hall.



In the end we raised £1375 for Babes in the Wood, a tremendous amount. Some stall holders donated their entire sales and some donated unsold stock to Ochil House for an upcoming event. One stall holder donated her unsold knitted items to Babes in the Wood.

Two unexpected bonuses are that staff from Ochil house are bringing some of their pupils along to the Coffee Morning, they have been sadly missed since Covid.

Staff at Babes in the Wood were so impressed by Sharon's poster for the event and how many were dotted around the Stirling area that they are delighted that our very talented Sharon is going to give them some help.

So, 1375 thank you's to everyone who in any way helped make a difference!

Remembrance Sunday

There was a tremendous response to our appeal for knitted and crocheted poppies and our team of volunteers set to work with impressive displays at the Cenotaph in Causewayhead and in and around the Kirk. Thanks to everyone who helped.



The Remembrance Services themselves were held by Rev Scott Raby who paid moving tribute to those who sacrificed their lives. Several wreaths were laid including ones from Logie Kirk, local schools, Logie Brownies, Guides, ex-servicemen, Causewayhead Community Council and Stirling Council.

New Screen Enhances Worship

After lots of will we won't we, can we can't we, our new screen and monitor are in place, greatly enhancing worship.

The screen is much easier to read even when the sun is shining, the monitor ensures the minister and choir can see what the congregation sees.

After the service the screen rolls up above arch level so remains hidden from sight when not needed.

Thanks to all who helped achieve this.



RNIB Stamp Appeal

Christmas is coming, so are the cards, so are the stamps. Please remember our year long appeal. The box will be in the vestry.

Thank you.

Our Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of:

Thirza Fyfe

Irene Irvine

David Johnston

Anna Stevenson



A festive poster for Christmas events at Logie Kirk. The background is green with a red and white striped border. At the top, there are Christmas ornaments and stars. In the center, there is a nativity scene. Below it, the text reads: "Christmas Events at Logie Kirk". The events are listed as follows: "Saturday 30th November 10-noon Come and decorate the Kirk", "Sunday 1st December at 11am Come and unwrap the Nativity Lighting of first Advent candle & Carol Concert at 4pm Come and join in with our augmented choir Festive Hospitality including Hot Chocolate Children's activity packs", and "Tuesday 24th December at 11.30pm Watchnight Service led by Reverend Scott Raby Choir will be singing from 11.15pm". At the bottom, there is a winter scene with houses, trees, and a large moon. A small text "Charity No. SC001298" is visible on the right side.

**Christmas Events
at Logie Kirk**

*Saturday 30th November 10-noon
Come and decorate the Kirk*

*Sunday 1st December at 11am
Come and unwrap the Nativity
Lighting of first Advent candle
&
Carol Concert at 4pm
Come and join in with our augmented choir
Festive Hospitality including Hot Chocolate
Children's activity packs*

*Tuesday 24th December at 11.30pm
Watchnight Service led by Reverend Scott Raby
Choir will be singing from 11.15pm*

Charity No. SC001298



A poster for Logie Kirk's Carol Singing event. The background is a dark blue night sky with white stars. In the center, there is a Christmas tree with lights. Below the tree, there are six cartoon children in winter clothing. The text reads: "Saturday 21st Dec, 10.00am", "Logie Kirk's CAROL SINGING", and "RAISING FUNDS FOR START-UP STIRLING". At the bottom, there is a red location pin icon and the text "Causewayhead Co-op. Stirling".

Saturday 21st Dec, 10.00am

Logie Kirk's CAROL SINGING

RAISING FUNDS FOR START-UP STIRLING

Causewayhead Co-op. Stirling

Pulpit Supply

We look forward to welcoming the following Ministers over the coming weeks:

1 December	Rev Colin McIntosh
8 December	Rev Elinor Gordon
15 December	Rev Scott Raby
22 December	Rev David Clark
24 December (Watchnight Service, 11.30pm)	Rev Scott Raby
29 December	Rev Elinor Gordon
5 January	Rev David Clark
12 January	Rev Scott Raby
19 January	Rev Elinor Gordon
26 January	Rev Colin McIntosh
2 February	Rev Gordon Mathew
9 February	Rev Elinor Gordon
16 February	Rev David Clark
23 February	Rev Colin McIntosh

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