



**WALLNEUK NORTH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
NEWS UPDATE @ WNC**

Abercorn Street, Paisley PA3 4AG

Our Church's website:

www.wallneuknorthchurch.org.uk

Issue No 115

December 2013

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is always good to evaluate our past year and give thanks to God for the great things He has done for us and through us and look to the future of our Ministry.

This, our centenary year, has been very special. We have been able to lead people to worship God in the spirit and the truth for the last 100 years and reaching out with the love of Christ on the basis of the Good Samaritan's ministry: "Love God and love your neighbour."

As a church we are still trying to find new ways of engaging people who may never have been inside a church building and may never want to enter one. I pray the words of Jesus in Luke 10:2, "The harvest is plentiful" and firmly believe that each one of us is called to "Go and make disciples of all nations."

I am more comfortable as a team player than a one man show. I do believe in delegation and sharing responsibilities. In 1999 the General Assembly stated; "Every member of the church is a gifted person. It is the task of the church to release these gifts." I would like to encourage and to

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon His shoulders and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

give the opportunity to every member of the church to serve using their own personal gifts, as in 1 Peter the church is described as being a temple of living stones. All members of the congregation are encouraged to serve within our existing teams—the Worship, Welcome, and Working teams. We need to develop Mission and Outreach teams and perhaps a Follow-up team, too.

I have been praying for the skills to empower people with leadership responsibilities, who will be equipped to reach out to the lost and to train disciples, since we will be running the Christianity Explored course instead of Alpha, starting on January 29, 2014. All are welcome to join the course.

On behalf of my family I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a blessed new year 2014 in advance.

Your Minister,
Reverend Peter Gill

In Memoriam

May Thomson



May was born on September 3, 1927, the youngest of four with two sisters and one brother. After school she worked in the embroidery department at Anchor Mill and then later in RS McColl and Ferguslie Mill.

She met Jimmy Thomson and they married in Methodist Central hall in January 1951. They initially lived in Bank St and then moved to Foxbar. They had two daughters, Irene and Ann.

May joined Wallneuk Church then and her daughters came to Sunday School. She was a talented pianist her skills were needed in Sunday School and for parties. She was always expected to play electric organ at family events and at New Year. She attended the Guild and then later the Friendly Hour.

After Irene married Ronnie and Ann married John, May and Jimmy moved to a smaller house in Gallowhill. They enjoyed visits from their grandchildren—Karen, Kevin, Claire, and Craig. There was always a small treat of a 'French Cake' for the children on their Sunday visits.

May was a regular attendee at Sunday services and was often the first to arrive in the church. When her health began to deteriorate and she needed more care, she became a member of the Littleinch Care Community for several years until her death.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.

In Memoriam

Mrs Janie Page



Janie Page, wife of John Page who was Wallneuk North locum minister prior to the appointment of Rev Peter Gill.

Janie, who was in her 75th year, died suddenly in mid-November in the company of friends.

Formerly Janie Spencer, she met John while he was at school, and when he left school one of the first things he did was buy an engagement ring for Janie. They married in 1958 and went to Germany, where John was undertaking National Service in the RAF.

They returned to England and had a son and a daughter—Andrew and Deborah. In 1983, John decided to train for ministry in the Church of Scotland and Janie fully supported him in this.

Their first home in this new life was in Dunlop in Ayrshire and during this period Janie was asked to go to Southern India on a church mission—this was their longest separation during their marriage. Charges in Gibraltar and Fuengirola saw John spending part of each week travelling between both places. In 2006 he took on Wallneuk North as locum minister. His stay was longer than anticipated, and Janie accepted this with great enthusiasm and good humour.

Janie was well known to all in the congregation and was known for her warmth and understanding. She was a kind, caring person with a ready smile for everyone. She had been unwell recently, but her death will have been a shock to all. Our thoughts and prayers are with John and the family.

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

- Dec 1** Nine lessons & carols
Dec 8 Holy Communion
Dec 15 Gift Service
Dec 22 Young Church Nativity
Dec 24 Christmas Eve service (11pm)*
Dec 25 Christmas Day service: **St James**
Dec 29 Last service of the year
* there will also be a Network Family Service in St Ninian's at 7pm, Dec 24
-

FLOWER DONATIONS

- Dec 1** Vacant
Dec 8 Margaret Cameron & Jim Stevenson
Dec 15 Betty Trimble
Dec 22 Vacant
Dec 29 Vacant
-

GIFT SERVICE DONATIONS

Donations of Christmas presents for under-privileged children in Renfrewshire will be gratefully received at the service on Dec 15. Please mark gifts with an age range and gender (if appropriate). Many thanks.

TUESDAY TOGETHER

Programme of events until end 2013:

- Dec 3** Christmas is Coming!
Dec 10 A Christmas Celebration
-

DEATHS

Our prayers and deepest sympathies go out to the relatives and friends of two members who have recently passed away: Mrs Mary Connell of Kyle Court Care Home and Miss May Pender of



O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

On Saturday December 7 there will be carol singing at the Wallneuk Car Boot Sale. ALL WELCOME! Please see Jemma.

CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE

A Strawberry Tea Dance is planned for Fri 13 December, from 1.30pm until 3.30pm. The leader for the day will be John Findlay and tickets are priced at £3.

Tickets include tea and a mince pie at the interval. Please see Anne Gillies or Anne McAleer for more information or to book.

CENTENARY EVENTS

On Sunday Dec 15 our church family Christmas lunch party will take place in Gabriel's in Gauze St. As well as a great meal, there will be competitions and games devised by some of our centenary team.

The cost of the lunch is about £15 and those under 14 can eat free. Please see Jeanette McLeod to book your place. All that is required is a £5 deposit.

FOOD DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who has very generously donated food to be distributed to our neighbours in Loretto housing.

Your generosity does go a long way to helping very vulnerable people to feel that someone cares, especially as we approach the festive period and loneliness can be amplified.

It would be wonderful if we could keep up this support and I appreciate that these are difficult times for us all but all donations—however small—are very much appreciated.

THE FLATFOOTERS

The mystery is solved! The Wallneuk North Flatfooters are not anatomically challenged; they just enjoy walking on level ground.

Their walk across Britain started in Bowling and—38 miles later—they arrived at Grangemouth by way of the towpath of the Forth and Clyde Canal. All in all, a very pleasant and enlightening experience with clement weather all the way.

The Flatfooters were Barbara Adams, Margaret McKay, Betty Baird (a friend of Margaret), and Elsie Sutherland.

Well done, all!



ELSIE'S CHALLENGE

As well as traversing Britain, Elsie has been working hard on an interesting challenge. Here, she tells us more:

“As part of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2013, I attended Heart & Soul in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. I unwittingly wandered into the Stewardship and Finance Tent and came out with an envelope containing £1 and an explanation of the ‘Parable of the Talents’.

“My £1 more than doubled when I gave someone a lift home and charged £2. This allowed me to purchase materials to make a batch of marmalade. Now—6 months, 71 jars of marmalade, and 32 slices of cloutie dumpling later—my original £1 has become £103.60 net. Thanks you all for your support with my challenge.

The money has been passed to our Treasurer for church funds.”

TOUCHING ARMISTICE TRIBUTE

On Remembrance Sunday, Rab McMillan read the lyrics to a touching song, written by a Scottish singer/songwriter called Eric Bogle dedicated to a young soldier who perished in WWI. The song conveys the sadness and futility of war:

No Man's Land

Well, how do you do, Private William McBride?
Do you mind if I sit here, down by your graveside?
I'll rest for a while in the warm summer sun,
I've been walking all day, Lord, and I'm nearly done.
And I see by your gravestone you were only 19,
When you joined the glorious fallen in 1916.
Well, I hope you died quick and I hope you died clean
Or Willie McBride, was it slow and obscene?

Did they beat the drum slowly?
Did they sound the fife lowly?
Did the rifles fire o'er you, as they lowered ye down?
Did the bugles sing "The Last Post" in chorus,
Did the pipes play the "Flowers Of The Forest"?

Did you leave a wife or a sweetheart behind?
In some faithful heart is your memory enshrined?
And, though you died back in 1916,
To that loyal heart, are you forever 19?
Or are you a stranger without even a name?
Forever enshrined behind some glass pane,
In an old photograph, torn and tattered and stained,
And fading to yellow in a brown leather frame?

The sun's shining now on these green fields of France,
The warm wind blows gently, the red poppies dance,
The trenches have vanished long under the plough,
No gas and no barbed wire, no guns firing now.
But, here in this graveyard it's still No Man's Land,
The countless white crosses in mute witness stand,
To mans blind indifference to his fellow man,
And a whole generation that were butchered and damned.

And I can't help but wonder now, Willie McBride,
Do all those who lie here know why they died?
Did you really believe them when they told you "The Cause" ?
Did you really believe that this war would end wars?
Well the suffering, the sorrow, the glory, the shame,
The killing, the dying, it was all done in vain,
For Willie McBride, it all happened again,
And again, and again, and again, and again.