

ALLOA LUDGATE

FOCUS



*Christmas greetings
from
Alloa Ludgate Church.
Join us in our celebrations*

Magazine for Alloa Ludgate Church

December 2010

From the manse



Dear Friends,

There can be no doubt about it.....Christmas is coming fast.

The signs are all around.

I had my first Christmas pie yesterday, and it's been three weeks since my first invitation to a Christmas party arrived in the post.

Shops have been decked out in their Christmas decorations for at least a month, and last Tuesday I heard Slade's "And here it is Merry Christmas....."

Everywhere I look I see preparations for the big day taking place.

People everywhere are getting ready, making plans, compiling lists, buying gifts.

And children are beginning to get excited.

It is a wonderful time of year, although a little overwhelming at times.

Maybe you are already feeling a bit like that?

If so, then take heart.....

By the time you read this magazine we will be into the season of Advent.

It's a lovely time in the Church year.

A time when we are invited to pause a while, take time to make

other preparations, preparations of the heart, as we reflect on the events leading up to the birth of Jesus.

We will do this during our times together in church on both Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings during Advent.

Reading passages from Scripture, singing Advent hymns, its like embarking on a journey together that will bring us at last to Bethlehem.

This year we have the opportunity to join with our friends in St Mungo's and Moncrieff churches as we come together for Advent evening services.

Will you come and join with us?

I pray that you will find time to stop a while in the midst of your own preparations for Christmas.

Reflect a while on the words of the prophet, and give thanks.

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

*With love to you,
Liz.*

From our Associate Minister

ADVENT THOUGHTS

I had a deprived childhood.

I don't remember ever having an advent calendar.

Actually I'm not sure there were such things in 'my day'.

Maybe it was just not something my family thought was important or perhaps it was not commercially promoted as it is now.

Nowadays there seem to be advent calendars everywhere with the latest cartoon and TV characters, chocolates behind each window and so on. Sometimes it is hard to find one with a purely Christian theme.

The other reason Advent may not have been so prominent in the past is that the Church of Scotland and other churches were less interested in celebrating the traditional seasons of the Christian Year - Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

I think that our church life has been enriched in recent years by the increased interest and knowledge of these seasons. As we prepare for Christmas the waiting time is important to help us to understand the significance of the biblical story. **Advent** is a time of waiting in hope, a time to prepare for the best Christmas present ever - **Jesus Christ** who was born as one of us but who was also born to save us all from sin and death.

Just as all parents, families and friends prepare for the birth of any baby so we need to prepare. We are challenged to take time to think about what this special birth means to us now, about what it has meant in the past to us and others, and what it

will mean in the future. We do not look ahead only to the birth but also to the death and resurrection of Jesus and to the promise that he will return to unite heaven and earth for eternity.

Some years we use the Advent wreath with its 5 candles to focus on God's people, the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist and Mary with the last candle always kept for Christmas day to represent the coming of Christ as light of the world.

There are other Advent themes and all are based on the bible and the ways it points to the fulfilment of the Old Testament in the birth of Jesus.

This year's themes are hope, joy, peace and love which we will explore together in a variety of ways in the Sundays in Advent, beginning on 28th November. You may also like to explore these further in our daily readings and at the study group which will meet weekly so that we can share our thoughts and experiences.

So this year, with or without the help of an advent calendar, I hope and pray that Advent will be a special time for all of us. I look forward to sharing in this journey with you.

With love and prayers

Muriel

Congregational Register

DEATHS – “Jesus said ‘I am the Resurrection and the life. Those who live and believe in me will never die’” John 11:25,26

We record, with sympathy, to their families and friends, the death of the following member of our community.

Barbara Dunnachie 24th August.

The new Alloa Ludgate Church refurbishment implementation team

(otherwise known as The IMPS!)

The next phase of the work on refurbishment has begun.

Despite the name the new team who are taking over the baton are not at all impish and are industriously pushing ahead.

The new team consists of Jim Paterson (Convener), Les Rose, Jim Thomson, Ian Barker, Janice White, Val Rose, Liz and Muriel. It is intended that this is only the core team, and that as specific needs arise others will contribute to the work. We are fortunate in having varied skills within the team - not least in project planning. This will be essential over the following six months to a year while we consolidate the plans and seek expert advice on heating and sound and light systems.

One of the objectives of the team is to ensure good communication of progress. Reports will be given to the Congregational Board meetings and also there will be a notice board in the Hall of Fellowship which will be kept up to date with developments.

At the moment we are awaiting consideration of the plans by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland and look forward to another advisory visit by some of the Trustees before Christmas.

Over the next six to twelve months I am afraid there will be little to point to in terms of physical changes in the buildings but the team assure you that they will be working behind the scenes to make the vision a reality as quickly and as carefully, as possible.

Val Rose (Implementation Team - Communications)

Some Marriage Guidance



At St. Peter's Catholic Church in New York City , they have weekly husband's marriage seminars.

At the session last week, the priest asked Giuseppe, who said he was approaching his 50th wedding anniversary, to take a few minutes and share some insight into how he had managed to stay married to the same woman all these years.

Giuseppe replied to the assembled husbands, 'Wella, I'va tried to treat her nicea, likea spenda da money on her, but besta of all is, I tooka her to Italia for da 25th anniversary! '

The priest responded,

'Giuseppe, you are an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here!

Please tell us what you are planning for your wife for your 50th anniversary? '

Giuseppe proudly replied,

" I gonna go back an' picka her up."



Know any one in hospital ?

*Please keep Liz (tel: 210403) or
Muriel (tel:: 727927) informed*



CLACKMANNANSHIRE CHRISTIAN LISTENERS

Recently we have taken delivery of our new publicity material so please look out for copies of the new leaflets and cards in the Reception Hall at the front door of the Church. We would really appreciate if you would pick up a few copies of our leaflet and leave them in public places which you visit. Please also have two or three card in your pocket so that you can pass them on to anyone whom you believe might want to use them. If you are unable to get to Church but would like copies of our material, please phone 212046 and we will deliver them to you. There is always a Listener in Church, so please check the Intimation sheet for their names and have a word with them after the service.

As well as providing Listening sessions by appointment, we continue to liaise with Moncrieff Church Coffee Club on Monday mornings, with the Soup Pot and with the local Hospital where the Staff make us very welcome. We participate, along with the Chaplain, at the Hospital Services and take referrals from other Community Groups.

If any of you are interested in becoming a Listener, want to find out more about this Healing Ministry, or want to use us, please telephone 07949845752 or 07947972770.

Moir Bruce

Loch Ness Marathon



I want to thank everyone who sponsored me in last month's Loch Ness Marathon. I have raised £350 to date (I still have some to collect) for the HELP FOR HEROES charity. While running the race, I met some lovely soldiers who were also taking part and they told me how much they appreciated the efforts of people like myself who try to raise funds for wounded soldiers and their families and how it DID make a difference. There was one who was in the medical corp. and had just returned from Afghanistan in the summer and one who had two artificial legs- yes he also ran the marathon. They, along with other solders were there to raise funds for charity while on leave from active duty. I felt very humble, but also so proud of my efforts. So thank you all SO MUCH for sponsoring me. I hope to do more marathons in the future for such a worthy cause and hope you will continue to support me and together we can raise more funds for a very worthy cause.

Jane Binnie

From the Editor

Copy for the March 2011 Issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than 18th February 2011. Send your articles to Linda Thom, 107 Claremont, Alloa or email: Linda@thom-micro.com or leave it in the Magazine Editor's pigeon-hole in the Church hallway.

Any views expressed in the features, news reports and reviews etc. in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor, Ministers or Kirk Session.

FOOTLIGHTZ

Most Sundays all children meet in the Church as part of the whole congregation. After the start of the service the children go to Footlightz.

First of all there will be a general talk, collection of money and a prayer. After that the topic of the Sunday will be introduced. This can be a reading from the bible, a story, a game or a drama based on a bible passage. Then there are different activities children can do, varying from colouring in to filling in puzzles. Meanwhile the children can have a chat with each other or with the leaders.

The collected money is used for donations to groups/charities/etc., the children have chosen. One ongoing project is sponsoring Mario, a 12-year old boy in Guatemala (through Adopt-A-Child). Last year we also sent cheques of £100 to CHAS, A2Z World Without Walls, God's Little Angels in Haiti (after the earthquake) and one for helping people in the local community (Soup Pot, Alloa Ludgate Church).

The people who are involved with Footlightz are:

- Rev. Elizabeth Clelland
- Anne Comrie
- Alie Hilda de Vries
- Emma Hilton
- Val Rose
- Anne Thomson
- Janice White
- Rev. Muriel Willoughby

If you are interested in helping Footlightz, please contact one of the persons above.

Property Committee Report

The Property Committee has met regularly and each delegate has contributed to assembling quotations from relevant services and trades, with a focus on using local firms as far as possible, for the work identified within the Quinquennial Review and for work arising from our local awareness. The priorities are tempered by the recent decisions on which buildings are to be retained. There is currently a focus on only addressing essential repairs to keep all buildings wind and water tight in the interim period till we have Alloa Ludgate Church and related buildings all sorted out. The Committee last met a week before the last Board meeting and intend to present for approval by the Board an agreeable programme of work and investment early in the new year.

There is a lot to deal with on the property front, as you will likely be aware, and it is important to the Committee that we all go forward together in our efforts to create a quality place for worship, fellowship and to further assert our important presence within the community of Alloa . So please don't be too anxious if things appear not to be happening right away. It is vital that we go forward with our aims ultimately achieved at the best possible cost for us all. Your support is valued and feel free to speak to any of the Committee at any time.

Property Committee delegates list:

Reverend Liz Clelland

Moira Bruce

Helen Ure

Rita McNeil

Jane Cowie

Robert Robertson

Jim Thomson

Les Rose

Ian Barker

Ronnie Beveridge (Convener)

FRIENDSHIP GUILD

We meet every second Tuesday in the Community Halls at 2.30pm where we have a mixture of interesting speakers, slides and entertainment.

We are going to see the Forefront Theatre in January, and we have some different meetings planned for the New Year.

If you are free Tuesday afternoons, please come and join us. You will be sure of a very warm welcome.

Rita McNeil

HOSPITALITY GROUP

The Hospitality Group last met on Thursday 23rd September following the summer break.

The newly formed Welcoming Group commenced their duty on Sunday, 3rd October, when all members of the Group were introduced to the congregation. There are 12 members in the Group and we are still looking for some more volunteers who are available for back-up. If you are interested please contact myself or Ian Russell. Two members will be on duty each week on a rota basis.

Steps to Twinning with a congregation in South Africa to promote our International Links are well in progress. Ian Russell has been conversing with the Reverend Wilhelm Bezuidenhout, a South African minister, until recently a member of Stirling Presbytery. Wilhelm introduced Ian to minister Lentikile Mashoko of the Mamelodi Garden Presbyterian Church in Pretoria. This is purely on a friendship basis and Ian has chatted with Lentikile by telephone. Two members of the congregation, Moira Bruce and Louise McQuater along with Muriel and Liz, will be corresponding with the Church and if anyone else is interested in getting involved please get in touch with one of them.

Ian Barker is preparing the Photo Boards which will be in place soon. Discussion has also been taking place to decide on designs for the notice boards to go on display outside the Church, front and rear entrances.

We are looking for someone to write an article for the Church magazine with regard to up-to-date news on the World Mission, please contact Ian Russell or myself if you think you can assist. You would receive regular magazines from which to extract articles.

Thanks to Betty Jorgensen for undertaking this task for many years.

We are also looking for a volunteer/volunteers to write a regular article in the District News section of the local press, extracts can be taken from the magazine for this purpose, please also get in touch with Ian or myself to either find out further information or to volunteer to undertake this task.

If anyone has any ideas, or anything they would like to bring up at one of our meetings, please get in touch with Ian Russell, Linda Thom or myself, or better still please come along to one of our meetings, you would be made most welcome!

Jane Binnie



Blythwood Shoebox Appeal 2010

Thanks to everyone who filled a shoe box or donated items for inclusion. Your generosity enabled us to send off **more than 100** boxes.



Thanks too, to the car drivers who ferried the boxes out to Morrisons on a cold and frosty morning

Joan Hall

ALLOA BABY & TODDLER GROUP

On Friday 29th October, we held a Halloween party. This proved to be very popular and had approximately 20 children in attendance with nearly all in fancy dress. Also, a big thank you goes to the parents/carers who turned out in fancy dress.



Our next big event will be the 17th December when Santa will be stopping by with presents for the children. This will be a good chance for them to have their photos taken with Santa if the parents/carers wish.

Our last session before Christmas will be the 17th December 2010 and we will recommence on the 14th January 2011.

We are always open to new members with the first session free and thereafter a £2 charge for children over 6months. Each additional child is 50p.

This is a non-denominational group and everyone is made welcome.

If you have a baby or toddler and would like to bring them along, please join us on Friday Mornings in Ludgate Church hall between 10am and 12 noon.

For further information please call Shona Smart on 07825703562 or Shirley Hume on 07969083005.

Thank you to all who volunteer at this group and hope to see you all in the New Year. Merry Christmas.



Stirling Street Pastors

Caring, Listening and Helping

Dear readers, welcome to the 16th edition of our newsletter. It has been a very busy couple of months but we are excited by our God given opportunities and where we have been led over the past two months. We hope this will encourage you also.

Making a difference - to date we have:

- Engaged with 3774 people
- Removed 962 glass bottles
- Assisted 57 vulnerable individuals
- Rescued 221 pairs of sore feet with flip flops
- Impacted 411 lives with Jesus

Training 2010

Training successfully kicked off this year on the 18th September. This saw 5 volunteers from Stirling join 12 others from cities & towns across the Forth Valley and Central Belt areas come together in Dunfermline to begin training. These volunteers have now been trained in three 'core' topics: "Roles & Responsibilities", "Alcohol, Drug and Solvent issues" and "Listening Skills". On the 20th November our 5 new volunteers will complete this year's 'core' training needs and will have their first night out as uniformed Street Pastors in December.

Discipleship

This has been an exciting month as we have seen our prayers for discipleship be answered. It has been a long standing difficulty for us to connect the people we meet at the 'coal face' of culture and society into a relevant church context that will see them welcomed and grow in Christ. Over the last two months we have seen one of the doormen in the city be connected to a

church, confirmed in Christ and baptised in the faith through our connection with him. We pray for him and further opportunities to connect with people at a real life level and that we may see these people gain in wisdom and understanding for what God has for them.

Oxjam

This year we assisted with planning and staffing Scotland's only youth version of the Oxjam festival - an annual music event for young people. Stirling's version of the festival saw nearly 400 young people celebrate music by local youth bands and has raised nearly £2000 for the international work of Oxfam. We were able to have a stall and met many of the young people attending as we handed out free sweets and bottle stoppers to 11-18 year olds at the event.

UIB

In October, I attended on behalf of Stirling Street Pastors a multinational event organised by the British Council and Architecture and Design Scotland. The UIB (Urban Ideas Bakery) aimed to identify needs within Stirling and then create potential solutions to be implemented to tackle some of those problems. It was an exceptionally busy three days but also a great encouragement as it showed that Stirling Street Pastors are now being recognised at a national level as important to the wellbeing of Stirling city centre.

Halloween

Halloween is one of the busiest weekends of the year for pubs and clubs in Stirling. This year's Halloween was very different to last and saw our very first Sunday night team take to the streets. The combination of volunteers from different teams ran a shortened shift from 9p.m. to 12a.m. and saw the city centre transform from almost entirely empty to queues of around 400 or more for each of the two night clubs. These were mostly students - dressed in quite the array of costume - returning from a mid-semester holiday week. Most had preloaded on alcohol at home with the intention of heading straight into the clubs. We

recognised that there would be large scale disruption when the night clubs closed at 3a.m. but due to several of our volunteers working the next morning we had to pull the team at midnight and trust that our prayers would be sufficient to get everyone home safely later in the night.

Financial Update

October saw our bank balance fall to its lowest level since work began in Stirling. Our regular monthly support has largely remained unchanged since our 1st birthday in March and despite several unexpected and very generous one off donations supporting our immediate future we are still having to apply for over 75% of next year's budget from secular grants and trusts. We thank God for those sustaining our work and with this month seeing another of our teams preventing a young woman from potential sexual abuse or rape and a doorman being baptised in the faith - we know that we are continuing in God's will and trust in him for our future.

Many thanks for your continued support,

*James Mackenzie, Coordinator
Stirling Street Pastors*

REVEREND DAVID ARNOTT IS MODERATOR DESIGNATE

A FORMER chaplain to one of the toughest prisons in Scotland has been nominated to be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. **Reverend David Arnott**, who was chaplain at Her Majesty's Prison Barlinnie in Glasgow, was named as Moderator Designate. He will preside over the 2011 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Community Group.

SOUP POT



Now that we are into November, Soup-pot is open Tuesdays and Thursdays to provide a hot meal for the homeless. We serve from 12 noon till 1pm. and in the first winter week we served 32 meals. These numbers will increase as the weather gets colder.

We have our counter with household goods---sheets towels duvet covers and curtains. We also have our rail with clothing. Our folks are always looking for warm jackets.

We would like to thank Elaine McFarlane who held a Table Top sale which raised £180 and also St Mungos Parish guild who did a quiz which raised £70.00. This money will help to provide a Christmas bag for our folks in December.

Jan Ross and her husband have a novel way of raising funds. They are to provide a meal in their home and the proceeds are for us.

I would like to thank you all for your donations of clothing money and prayers, also a big thank you to the team of volunteers.

Rita McNeil.
Co-ordinator

STARTER PACKS

This project is ongoing, and I thank you for your donations of cleaning materials, which is Ludgate Church's share of the goods for the boxes.

It has made a big difference now the other churches in Alloa are involved. It takes a lot of the financial load from us.

To date we have sent 79 boxes to Ace Recycling for distribution.

It is difficult to believe there are so many people homeless, or looking for homes in and around Alloa.

Thank you all for your support, through providing goods, cash gifts and prayers.

Rita McNeil.
Co-ordinator

CHILDREN ARE QUICK



TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it.

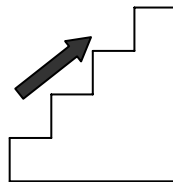
Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand....

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher

It's Time To Step Up!



At the time of the Annual Accounts, I indicated that the Church was heading for a deficit for the current year. It would be unrealistic to assume that this situation would not in fact occur or that if we ignored it, it would simply go away. As responsible office-bearers of your Church, it is the responsibility of the Finance Committee and the Congregational Board to face reality and try to plan for the avoidance of such a deficit, so that we can look forward to a rosier future.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

There is the story of a Minister who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

As a 'new' congregation, I think that it is important that we review our situation and realise that we all have a responsibility to the future of our church and that basically, the buck stops at each of us individually

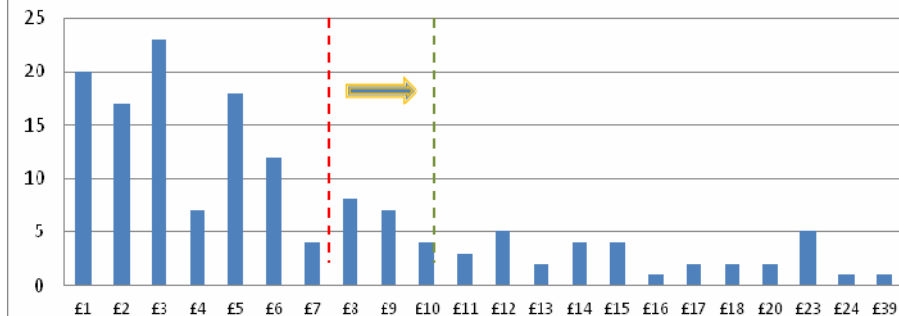
I have mentioned often enough that the expenditure required from us to pay our Minister and organist, maintain the properties of our Church and Manses and meet our obligations for the wider work of the Church of Scotland, means that we now annually require an income figure approaching £90000.

What this all means of course, that it is up to all of us to dig a little deeper into our already overstretched pockets and try and meet the challenge that has been laid at our doors.

I have taken a look at the figures of the amount received so far this year from Weekly Offering envelopes and payments received through the bank account from your standing orders. I have reduced this to a weekly equivalent for the 152 members of the congregation who have contributed so far this year. I know that this is not the figure for the whole year and that some of you will contribute more as the year comes to an end and perhaps some of you have only recently started to give, so it is not a totally accurate picture, but it provides us with a starting point for the purposes of this exercise:

As you can see from the chart, the majority of the contributions lie at

Weekly Equivalent from WFO Envelopes and Standing Orders



the left-hand side of the chart, with a much small number over to the right. It shows that as a very roughly, the average amount contributed each week is £7.00. How do you compare with that remembering that there are 52 weeks in every year and a couple of weeks missed will bring down the average significantly. If we could move that average nearer to the £10 per week, what a difference it would make. We could be looking at an extra £20,000 per year which would go a long way to guarantee our survival and look forward to the many changes that we have planned for our Church property, so that we can move into the next couple of decades with fit-for-purpose buildings.

Remember also, that if you are a tax payer, make sure that you have signed a Gift Aid Form. We could really do with the tax back from your giving. See Helen Ure or myself for these and if you would like to make regular contributions by Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes or by Standing Order, again contact me or Helen.

Again, I'm sorry for placing the burden on your shoulders, but remember, the current financial situation will not solve itself and Alloa Ludgate Church is your Church - only you can keep it going.

Thank you.

*Alister
Treasurer*



The Twenty and the One

A well-worn one-pound note and a similarly distressed twenty-pound note arrived at the Royal Mint to be retired.

As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The twenty-pound note reminisced about its travels all over the country.

"I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to London and Manchester, the finest restaurants in York, performances in Edinburgh Playhouse, and even a trip across the North Sea on the Rosyth to Zeebrugge ferry."

"Wow!" said the one-pound note. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one pound note replies, "Oh, I've been to the Ludgate Church, the Baptist Church, and St Mungo's."

The twenty-pound note interrupts, "What's a church?"



Christmas gift suggestions

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect

Oren Arnold

A Gift to the Church in your Will

Unusually, a spam email caught my attention the other day. The message was:



30 Million UK residents have not drafted a Will

Making a will is the most effective way to ensure your wishes are respected after you're gone. If you die without one, the government will decide how your assets are divided and your loved ones' futures could be at risk.

I have to admit that I am one of the 30 million and I wonder how many of you are, like me, intending to do it but never quite get round to it. So, although our demise is not something we like to think about, get it on your 'to do' list and get it out of the way.

Many members of the Church have, over the years, made gifts in their Wills for particular areas of the Church's work or as unrestricted gifts to be used by the Church for whatever they feel the greatest need is at the time. The legacies have ranged in value and the Church would be very grateful for any amount that you feel comfortable with.

Please consider a Gift in Your Will to your congregation or to any other Charitable Organisation as a way of continuing to support the good work that you believe in, after you have gone.

Thank you.

*Alister Marr
Treasurer
Alloa Ludgate Church*

Diabetes UK Scotland

Now that the dust has settled a bit I just wanted to express most sincere thanks to you for all the help and cooperation you've given me in preparing and producing our **Concert**. You have also been an encouragement to Liz & me and for that we are very grateful.

Perhaps you would convey my sincere thanks and the appreciation of Jane-Claire Judson and staff of **Diabetes UK Scotland** to everyone from Ludgate Church who assisted in so many ways to ensure the Concert was a great success.

I've spoken personally to Robert Robertson and thanked him for all his expertise and willingness to help.

I appreciate the kindness of the Session and Board for granting the use of your premises and to Enid and all the ladies who provided refreshments and floral displays. I haven't heard anyone complaining about the extra work and the efforts that were made by you and all the other folks, made the Event run very smoothly.

Since the concert there have been so many appreciative comments, e-mails and 'phone calls and I think we touched many people with the music. There was such a happy feeling in the Concert, both from the audience and the artistes and I'd be grateful if you would let all your folks know that it was such a pleasure to be there.

Every blessing and encouragement as you work with combining 2 congregations and developing the work that is planned.

I do hope we can work together in the future.



Just thought you'd like to see the official handover to-day of the Cheque for £1740.00, proceeds from the Concert in Alloa.

Ms Jane-Claire Judson, Director, Diabetes UK (Scotland) and all in the Scotland Office join with me in saying a Very Big " Thank-You " to you and all your friends who helped to make the evening such a wonderful success. Your efforts and generosity are much appreciated and you can be assured that the money will be put to good use in supporting CARELINE and Scottish-based Research.

The picture shows Jane-Claire and Fundraising Manager, Sara Ling receiving the Cheque

Thank you most sincerely

Bob & Liz McQueen



Dear Liz, Muriel, Val and all the wonderful parishioners at Alloa Ludgate!

THANK YOU*TATENDA***TWALUMBA LOKO***NABONGA**

We would like to thank you on behalf of A2ZWWW for your kind and generous donations, love and support for A2ZWWW. You will be pleased to know that we filled a 40 foot container with an abundance of donated items which will all make a sincere and lasting positive impact on many people. The container is currently sailing toward Africa and we hope and pray it will make it to us before Christmas.

We hope that you will follow our mission as we live and work to make a difference in Zimbabwe and the lives of her precious people.

Please do keep in touch if you can and we look forward to visiting you all in the future to share all that God is doing in our lives and the lives we touch through the help of your generous efforts.

We would also greatly appreciate your continued support and prayers and would love to have any of you come out to visit us - you will have a truly unique experience!

With love and blessings

Colin & Laura

Colin and Laura Shreenan
Trustees

www.a2zworldwithoutwalls.co.uk
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=212731587401>
<http://twitter.com/A2ZWWW>



Let us be inspired this Christmas season to reach out to others in our individual communities. There are many ways that we can be 'encouragers', even if we think that we have little to offer.

The greatest gift that we have been given, from God, is Jesus - whose birth we celebrate each Christmas. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, asks us to:



- Love one another*
- Pray for one another*
- Give to those in need*
- Care for the sick, elderly, lonely*
- Comfort the bereaved*
- Offer hospitality*
- Forgive one another*
- Respect one another*
- Value each other*
- Encourage one another*

These are stepping stones to enable others to share the gift of happiness. Despite our own limitations, as we count our blessings this Christmas, may we **encourage** others by sharing the blessings that we have received.

Advent Services

Christmas Eve.....	5.30pm	Joint Service with Alloa Baptist Church in Alloa Baptist Church
Christmas Eve.....	11.30pm	Joint Service with Alloa Baptist Church in Ludgate Church.
Christmas Day.....	10.00am	Service in Ludgate Church
Dec 31st6.30pm	Communion Service in Ludgate Church



_ - to build on the national covenant between the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church of Scotland the 3 local congregations of Ludgate, St Mungo's and Moncrieff are planning extra Advent services together. These are as follows:

28th Nov	6pm	Moncrieff Church Halls	ALTERnativity meal £6 includes 3 course Supper
5th Dec	6pm	Ludgate Church Halls	Reflective Service
11th Dec	10.30am	Alloa Town Centre	Community Carols
19th Dec	6.00pm	St. Mungo's Parish Church	Christingle Service suitable for all ages

1 Corinthians 13 A Christmas Version

If I decorated my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has co-ordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the **gift of love** will endure.

We've raised over **£1180** with easyfundraising so far but we need your help to keep donations coming in.

Sign up at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/alloaludgatechurch> and start making a difference...simply by shopping.

So how does it work?

You shop directly with the retailer as you would normally, but if you sign up to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/alloaludgatechurch> for free and use the links on the easyfundraising site to take you to the retailer, then a percentage of whatever you spend comes directly to us at no extra cost to yourself.

How much can you raise?

Spend £100 with M&S online or Amazon and you raise £2.50 for us. £100 with WH Smith puts £2.00 in our pocket and so on. There's over 2,000 retailers on their site, and some of the donations can be as much as 15% of your purchase - **Every little helps**

Save money too!

easyfundraising is FREE to use, plus you'll get access to hundreds of exclusive discounts and voucher codes, so not only will you be helping us, you'll be saving money yourself.

In Malawi there is an association of Smallholder Farmers.

Members join for a small subscription, meet regularly to support each other and have access to training in new methods and crops and to quality seeds and crops. Some had grown only maize. Then the Association introduced them to the cultivation of rice. They gave them good quality seed and showed them how to grow it in a nursery, plant it out, weed, harvest, thresh and dry it. The result has been remarkable. In 2 acres of ground one of the farmers can now grow crops to feed his family of four boys. The rest of his land is set aside for rice and yields a remarkable amount to sell. This is a dramatic change for the family. They have two well-built brick houses and a toilet in an area that is prone to earthquakes. They have a plough and two oxen to help with the work and he is able to send his children to school. He has to sell 90kg of rice to pay for one child going to school.

Just Trading Scotland, a fait trade company in Paisley, has been working to import rice from Malawi for the last two years. Over the last 18 months they have brought 50 tonnes and they are hoping to increase that in the coming year. They have been assisted by churches all over Scotland who have been selling 90kg of rice at a time to provide a market for the small farmers in Malawi.

Betty Jorgensen

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Church Officer	Robert Robertson 14, Bedford Place	722081
Community Centre Letting	Jane Cowie 28, Braehead	213910
Depute Church Officer	Colin Bell 5 Mitchell Crescent	211586
Fabric Convener	Ronnie Beveridge	751323
Flower Convener	Devonknowes Cott, Devonknowes Farm, Coals. Janice White 13 Dunvegan Court	722842
Friendship Guild	Helen Rankin 9 Fairburn road	215885
Gift Aid /FWO Convenor	Helen Ure 16, Windsor Gardens	215868
Magazine Editor/Life & Work	Linda Thom 107 Claremont	216622
Organist	Lawrence Wright 102 Nevis Crescent	218394
Prayer Correspondent	Vivienne Alexander 8, Glenview, Menstrie	
Presbytery Elder	Ian Russell Ashley Terrace	722949
Social Convenor	Kate Hill 21 Dunmar Crescent	214110
Treasurer	Alister Marr 50, Hilton Road	721221
Woman's Guild	Jennifer Grant 1 Norwood Grove	213479
Women's Group	Helen Ure 16, Windsor Gardens	215868