



TOGETHER IN WORSHIP, WITNESS &amp; SERVICE



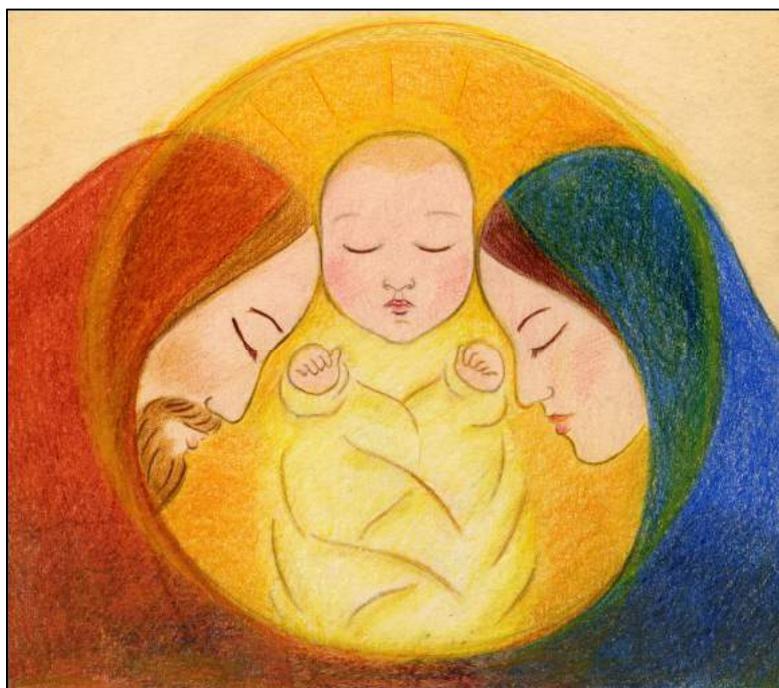
# ST ANNE'S

THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL &amp; METHODIST CHURCH IN DUNBAR

## A letter from the Rector

*Dear friends,*

As I was checking the BBC News website this morning I stumbled across an article asking whether we are at risk of suffering “Christmas fatigue”. Shops seem to bring forward their festive campaigns to get us spending earlier every year. Something like desperation fuels a determination to celebrate continually from November to January. By mid-December, many people seem to be getting tired of Christmas while liturgical purists complain that it’s only half way through Advent and Christmas doesn’t start until 25<sup>th</sup> December!



**Flash-forward  
12 years – pg12**



**How to help  
refugees – pg4**



**Advent &  
Christmas  
services – pg15**



Perhaps our desire to extend Christmas is understandable... After all, we are living in times many are finding tough. From climate change, to European and national politics and the apparently growing gap between rich and poor, we may feel we need something to “escape” to, and pressing fast-forward to make it Christmas every day from now until January can seem attractive. Perhaps we hope our spending and determined celebration will be a quick fix, taking our minds off whatever else is uncomfortable.

Yet the true Christmas message of hope is far from such escapism. Jesus didn't prevent, but was born right into the midst of, turbulent times: the first century people of the Middle East were no strangers to political unrest, poverty and hardship. The advent of the Christ-child didn't signal escape from these. Instead it catalysed a hope that enabled people to live differently in the midst of their trials, together with the promise of a brighter future.

Preparing for, and welcoming, the birth of Jesus reminds us that peace, joy and love can be born in us even in the midst of difficulty. But it requires preparation.

Inside this issue of the magazine you'll find a letter and poem sent in by Douglas Ross, reminding us of the importance of making space in the midst of our busy lives, so that this can happen in us.

As Christmas approaches, I pray we will each know the hope that is present even in the midst of uncertainty, and that we will make time to pause and invite Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to be borne in us anew.

May you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas.



# **A Quiet Morning in Advent at St Anne's**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 10am to 1pm**



**Helpless Babe**



**Mighty Saviour**



**We consider our own faith journey in the light of events in the  
life of Jesus.**

*All welcome! No charge. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch so that we can share fellowship and have a chat at the end of the morning. For more details please speak to Diana Hall or Liz Gordon.*

## Refugees: How can we help?

In early November, I attended a conference on refugees in Sicily. The Sicilian island of Lampedusa is one of the places that refugees from North Africa try to reach. We heard personal stories from people seeking refuge in Italy. Here are just three:



One young man from South Sudan had seen his family killed and had sought temporary refuge in Uganda. Returning to his village during a ceasefire he had found it totally destroyed. Having an uncle in Hamburg, he put together all his family's savings to pay for travel across the Sahara to Libya and passage on a boat to Italy. He told a harrowing account of dealing with traffickers, and of the number of others who died in the desert. His

boat was picked up, near to sinking, by a rescue ship operated by SOS – a non-governmental body committed to saving people from the sea. In his case the boat was able to land in Italy. However, the recent change in government in Italy has created a more hostile environment towards refugees and asylum seekers, and SOS are now barred from docking in Italian ports.



We heard from a Syrian family who had fled after the houses on either side of theirs were bombed. They were a fairly wealthy, professional family (often, it is only the wealthy who become refugees – the poor, elderly, and those with disabilities cannot afford the bribes and payments needed to seek refuge in a foreign land). They put all the possessions they could into their

car and ended up in a refugee camp in Jordan. This family were lucky – they were selected for resettlement in Italy. Now, the father faces the challenge of getting his professional qualifications recognised. But they gave thanks that they are all still together and safe.

A girl from Uzbekistan described how people came to her village and said they could arrange transport and visas for her to work in Germany, where she could have a good job as a chambermaid and be able to send regular remittances back to her family. Her family mortgaged their land to pay the traffickers. When she arrived in the EU she found that she was expected to work as a prostitute. She was fortunate to speak some Italian, and that the priest in the church where she sought help knew what to do to assist. She is still worried that she is an illegal immigrant and that the government may send her back to Uzbekistan.

We also talked about what can be done to help. The UK could take in

its fair share of people seeking refuge: Jordan has taken in well over a million refugees; the UK around 25,000 this last year.

The church can:

- Emphasise the humanity of every person, to try and create a welcoming climate for refugees;
- Explain that it takes an awful lot to make someone flee their own country, and that most refugees want nothing more than to go home;
- Press for an end to violence and civil strife. If there was no war in Syria and South Sudan, no repression in Eritrea, and peace in the Congo, then far fewer people would want to flee;
- Press the UK government to stop supplying arms to these areas of conflict

And, as a church, we can offer our support to those groups working to help people seeking refuge in Scotland be accepted and make a new life for themselves here.

*David Mumford*

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**Methodist Prayer Handbook 2019/2020: *Responding to the Gospel***

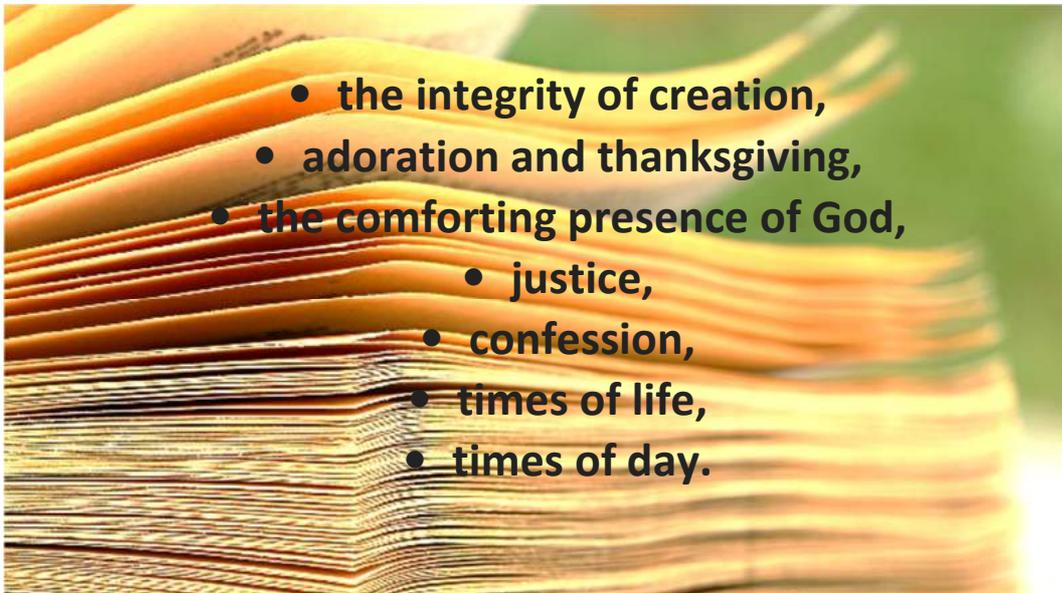
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## **Would you like to contribute a prayer to the Methodist Prayer Handbook?**

The theme for the next Methodist Prayer Handbook is inspired by Our Calling. It will explore how we are called to respond to the gospel by demonstrating God's love, grace and generosity.

Our response should involve action as well as prayer and we are strengthened when we work in partnership with followers of Christ locally, nationally and internationally. The 'gospel' is understood in its broadest sense and includes the whole arc of the biblical narrative and beyond.

The Editor would also welcome prayers for the general pages at the front of the Handbook on the following themes:

- 
- the integrity of creation,
  - adoration and thanksgiving,
  - the comforting presence of God,
    - justice,
    - confession,
    - times of life,
    - times of day.

Prayers should not exceed 120 words and should be emailed to [prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk) by 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Please do send any photos (your own copyright) to help bring your prayer to life or that capture the work of the Methodist Church, either in this country or around the world. Photos should be emailed to the above address and should be sent in their original size.

For full details please visit the Methodist Prayer Handbook submission guidelines at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/methodist-prayer-handbook/>.

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*Peace on earth, good  
will to all people*

Advent Carols  
by Candlelight

St Anne's Church,  
Westgate

Sunday 2nd  
December  
6.30pm

All Welcome

## Report of the October 2018 Diocesan Synod

In his address to Synod, Bishop John said that the challenges we face are both local and global: climate change, the rise of the far right in politics, and the uncertainties of Brexit among many other concerns. The poor suffer the most, with little sympathy shown them, and there are cruel immigration rules.

We live in, and receive of, Christ and we must pray to be sent out in peace and unity to serve God. We must be prepared to help the poor, helpless and damaged, and to care for our planet. On a local level, Bishop John reported with sadness the decision of St Thomas' Church in Corstorphine to leave the Scottish Episcopal Church following consultation after the change to the Church's Canons concerning Marriage. The Bishop is mindful of the need for pastoral care for those from St Thomas' who will not go with them. We were encouraged to pray for the whole church.

Two new appointments were announced: The Rev'd Andrew Bain to St Salvator's Stenhouse, and a

Church Army Officer to the Selkirk Partnership.

The Diocesan Accounts show a deficit in the General Fund and therefore an increase of 2% on Quota (the charge levied on congregations to support central church work) is to be levied. The St Hilda's Fund (which supports mission) is underspent.

The Rev'd Annie Naish, the Bishop's Enabler of Mission, asked prayers for the Selkirk Partnership. She reported on the Big Day at the Cathedral – with 40 churches involved – and gave thanks.



The Mustard Seed missional community is developing well. There is to be a sleepover for young people in the Cathedral on 8<sup>th</sup> December in aid of preventing homelessness, and youth were

sought to register to attend. A Big Sing event is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 – a date for our diaries!

Claire Benton-Evans, Children and Youth Officer, spoke on engaging all ages. There were 60 young people at the Glenalmond Youth Camp this

year, and much enthusiasm shown. They were keen to lead worship themselves.

This was a full and interesting meeting, with very positive vibes all evening.

*Jill Wilson, Alternate Lay Rep*



## **St Anne's Retreat 2019**

*Marygate House*

*Holy Island*

*11-14 February 2019*

Put the dates in your diary now!

Let David Mumford know if you'd like to come along. Topic and leader to be confirmed.

Cost around £125 but don't let finance be a worry as help may be available.



## Inspire Women's Group

The welcoming inter-church women's group meets once a month on a Wednesday evening at 7.45 for 8.00 pm. Our next meetings are:

**5<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas meditation & craft with Vicky Allen @ St Anne's

**9<sup>th</sup> January:** Hazel Gray on her work with Cyrenians  
@ Dorothy Wildgoose's house, 7 Westpoint

**6<sup>th</sup> February:** The Ridge's Kate Darrah  
@ Diana Mackie's house, 7 Mayville Park

*Please join us!*



## Leisure (letter to the Editor)

At the end of the Second World War my older brother returned from the East and in 1956 purchased Lord Wavell's anthology *Other Men's Flowers* for our wedding present.

In the present day troubles the poem *Leisure*, by the Welsh poet W. H. Davies is able to inspire readers today just as it inspired many during the war. Lord Wavell commented on it, "*The hour of meditation is essential. If it is not kept we cannot survive, we are already far advanced into the darkness.*"

For fun I'll quote the fifth verse of *Leisure*:

*No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.*



*Douglas A Ross*

## *A note from Diana*

Thank you for your letter, Douglas. I hadn't come across this poem before and am glad you shared it. I think it also makes a lovely Advent meditation as we wait for the coming of Christmas. Here is the poem in full:

### *Leisure*

WHAT is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs,  
And stare as long as sheep and cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.



## Where will you be in 12 years' time?

In twelve years' time Cian, now proudly five, will have turned 17 and will be in his last year of secondary school, choosing his career or what to study at university. Finnán will be starting to think about his exams and where life will take him too.

When I was five and living in Milton Keynes, one of the first recycling schemes was set up by MK Christian Foundation, a local charity bringing together people from across the city's churches and providing work for long-term unemployed. By the time I had settled in to secondary school the "red and blue box" scheme had reached the whole city. I have been recycling for as long as I can remember and I still have the year-long project from my last year in primary school called "Only One Earth".

This year, Earth Overshoot Day (the day after which we start using more from nature than our planet can renew in the entire year) fell on August 1<sup>st</sup>, and in the whole year we will use 1.7 times what the earth can produce. We are living on



borrowed time, but the good news is that we do still have time to rectify at least some of the damage. There is room for hope.

Last month the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) announced that global overheating, for that is a more apt name for global warming, can be limited to 1.5C if we act now. If we act *now* we can protect millions of people from increased flooding, water, and food insecurity, and save at least 50% of our coral reefs and other vulnerable parts of nature. *If we act now*, Cian and Finnán will learn that after decades of treating the earth as an object to be used for our own ends, we finally

listened and learned how to be good stewards of God's creation.

I have been hearing calls for action for a long time, but this time acting now, really does mean now. The IPCC calculate that we have 12 years to make this happen. If we don't work together for radical change by the time Cian, Finnán and their peers, our children and grandchildren, reach adulthood, the world will be a different place and their future, their earth, will feel much more fragile.

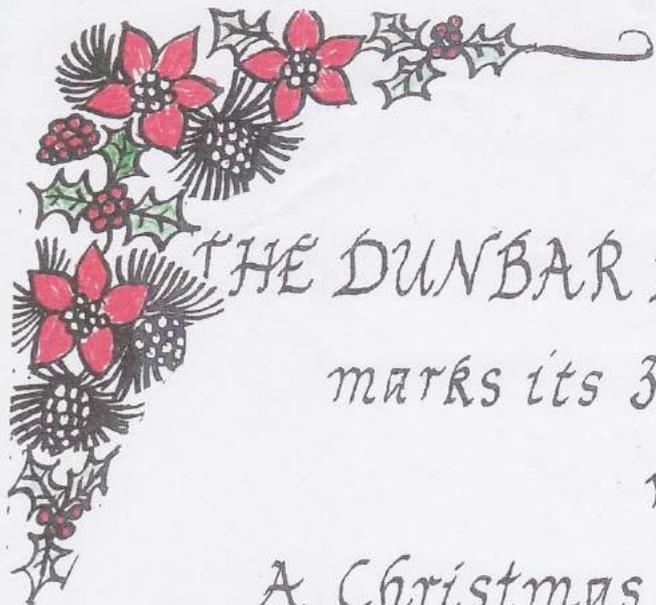
On one Sunday a few weeks ago I realized, with horror, that it was the third time that day that I had driven from East Linton to St Anne's. I promised that I would not do that again, so today I am spending the day in Dunbar and writing this in

the library. Joining the Eco-Group at St Anne's has changed my perspectives on what I can do and what can be achieved when people work together. Our earth is an amazing and beautiful place and we can learn how to love it and care for it again, and in doing that care for ourselves and our children and grandchildren.

*Valerie Hale*

*We would love to hear what you are already doing, and any ideas for ways we could work together. Talk to us, e-mail us ([valerieannehale@hotmail.com](mailto:valerieannehale@hotmail.com)) or join us at the next Eco-Group meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 1030.*





THE DUNBAR BRANCH OF UNICEF  
marks its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

with

A Christmas Concert with Carols  
Soloist CARLO MASSIMO 12 years

to include

Stanley's Organ Concerto; Bach et al.

Given by Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra

On: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018

In: St. Anne's Westgate Dunbar

At: 3 p.m.



Entrance free

Afterwards Donations Welcome

# Advent & Christmas @ St Anne's



2 Dec	6.30pm	Advent Carols by Candlelight
16 Dec	2.30pm	Let's Sing Christmas Special
20 Dec	7.30pm	Dunbar Sings Christmas Concert (ticketed event)
23 Dec	10am	Family Service
24 Dec	6.15pm	Crib Service
24 Dec	11.15pm	Midnight Mass
25 Dec	10am	Family Celebration
30 Dec	10am	Holy Communion
6 Jan	6.30pm	Epiphany Evensong

*Peace on earth & goodwill to all people*

# **Sunday Readings for December and January**

If you swap with another reader, please let Diana know.

Thank you.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> December – Advent 1**

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36

## **9<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 2**

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6

## **16<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 3**

Zephaniah 3:14-end; Luke 3:7-18

## **23<sup>rd</sup> December – Advent 4 – Family Service with Methodist Circuit Preacher**

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55

## **24<sup>th</sup> December – Midnight Mass**

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

## **25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day – Family Celebration**

Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14

## **30<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas 1**

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Luke 2:41-end

## 6<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

## 13<sup>th</sup> January – Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## 20<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 3

Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11

## 27<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 4 – With Methodist Circuit Preacher

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-21



## 3<sup>rd</sup> February - Candlemas

Malachi 3:1-5; Luke 2:22-40

## Festival Communion in December & January

*All at 10.30 am*

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> December - John

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December - Holy Innocents

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January - Naming of Jesus

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January - Kentigern & Mungo

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January - Conversion of St Paul



# Rotas for December and January

If you swap with another person on the rota, please let Diana know. Thank you.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Sidesman	J Rea
Reading	J Rea
Coffee	A Swan
Chalice	Liz M
Intercession and Gospel	J Fleming

## 9<sup>th</sup> December

Sidesman	H Kennedy
Reading	J Fleming
Coffee	R Ling
Chalice	G Wilson
Intercession and Gospel	Liz G

## 16<sup>th</sup> December

Sidesman	A Dickerson
Reading	G Wilson
Coffee	J Ramage
Chalice	Liz M
Intercession and Gospel	Liz M

## 23<sup>rd</sup> December

Sidesman	G Harley
Reading	C Kavanagh
Coffee	H Kennedy
Chalice	Liz G
Intercession and Gospel	Liz G

## 24<sup>th</sup> December

Sidesman	J Rea
Reading	J Rea
Intercession and Gospel	J Fleming

## 25<sup>th</sup> December

Sidesman	J Ramage
Reading	G Ramage

## 30<sup>th</sup> December

Sidesman	J Rea
Reading	J Rea
Coffee	R Ling
Chalice	Liz M
Intercession and Gospel	Liz M



## 6<sup>th</sup> January

Sidesman G Harley  
Reading C Kavanagh  
Coffee J Ramage  
Chalice Liz G  
Intercession and Gospel Liz G

## 20<sup>th</sup> January

Sidesman H Kennedy  
Reading J Rea  
Coffee A Dickerson  
Chalice Liz G  
Intercession and Gospel Liz G

## 13<sup>th</sup> January

Sidesman M Ling  
Reading R Ling  
Coffee A Swan  
Chalice G Wilson  
Intercession and Gospel G Wilson

## 27<sup>th</sup> January

Sidesman J Ramage  
Reading J Fleming  
Coffee H Kennedy  
Chalice Liz M  
Intercession and Gospel J Fleming



# Christmas Carols

At the Battery, Dunbar

Sat 15th Dec - 3.30pm



Churches Together

Mulled wine (non-alcoholic)  
and mince pies provided.

## Regular Services

### Sunday

10:00 am - Holy Communion

2:30 pm, third Sunday of the month - *Let's Sing*

### Wednesday

12:00 noon – Midday Prayer

### Thursday

10:30 am - Holy Communion, followed by coffee and discussion

### Friday

A Prayer Group meets regularly at Liz Mitchell's house

### Church festivals

10:30 am - Holy Communion, followed by coffee and discussion

*Please see pg17 for details*

## Contact Details for the Rector

### The Rev'd Diana Hall

St Anne's House, 1 Westgate, Dunbar, EH42 1JL.

Tel: 07970 105 725

Email: [rector.stannedunbar@gmail.com](mailto:rector.stannedunbar@gmail.com)

The rector's rest day is Tuesday.

 Find us on  
**Facebook** @stannedunbaruk

[www.stannedunbar.org.uk](http://www.stannedunbar.org.uk)

St Anne's Church is Scottish Charity Number SC010950