

Canonbie United Parish Church

# CANONBIE CHRONICLES

Edition 27

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

Winter 2015-16

Scottish Charity: SC000717

## **Christmas Services at Canonbie United Parish Church**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 11:30am. Sunday School Christmas Story Presentation

Christmas Eve Watchnight Service, 8pm.

Christmas Day Service, 10am. Led by the Congregation.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December, 11:30am. Sunday Worship.

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### **From The Manse**

There is something almost magical about Christmas: children dream endlessly about Santa Claus and about riding on a one horse sleigh. We rush to decorate our homes, churches and our villages with beautiful Christmas trees and shimmering fairy lights.

For some of us, Christmas brings the danger of overspending – buying presents that others do not need with money we really cannot spare. Some of us go further still and actively indulge in the annual orgy of over consumption, encouraged on all fronts by the power of the advertisers who long to seduce us into spending our money on their products or in their stores. But, with all the magic, and the stress at Christmastime, are we in danger of missing the point?

In the words of C.S. Lewis, at Christmas we remember “the central event in the history of the earth – the very thing the whole story has been about.” The whole point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ, born to be our Saviour! The whole point of Christmas is that the child in the manger was the King of kings and the Lord of lords! The whole point of Christmas is that, in the birth of the Messiah, God Himself has come to live amongst us in our world. Yet, too often, Jesus has been obscured by the tinsel and trimmings of the commercialised season.

The season of Advent began this year on November 29th. This Advent let all men and women prepare to reclaim the Christmas season. In this short and sacred season of penitence and preparation, let us remember that, in the gift of the Christ-child, God gave us the most precious gift imaginable. This Advent let us prepare to gratefully accept God’s wonderful gift and, through our acceptance, let us strive for a change of attitude which will allow the Christ-child to be born anew in our hearts.

Advent leads the way to Christmas and Christmas is a time of rejoicing, for Christ came into our world to restore relationships, first our relationship with God and, then, our relationship with each other. In this way Jesus supplied the answer to our deepest need. This is why, at the birth of the Christ-child, “angels from the realms of glory” proclaimed the Good News for all humankind, Christ the Saviour is born! I pray that you find the Christ this Christmas.

As you will probably already know I have recently accepted an invitation to be minister at another Church and I left Canonbie on Advent Sunday. In departing, I thank the community for their warm welcome. I have greatly appreciated having had the opportunity to get to know many of you. I am very grateful to our partners in Canonbie Community Café for their contribution in making this project an overwhelming success. I am grateful, too, to Ms. Wallace, at Canonbie Primary School, for graciously involving the Church in school assemblies, always a great privilege. I am also grateful to the Kirk Session for their work and support. I wish everyone the very best and I leave you with the words of a blessing that someone was kind enough to send me recently.

*May the road you walk be a smooth one, may your troubles be few – if any. May the days and years that lie ahead be healthy, happy and many. And may God’s love always surround you.*

Reverend Bill Jackson B.D., Cert. Min.

Our interim Moderator is Rev. Adam J Dillon BD(Hons) Min ThM  
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1 Meadow Bank, Moffat, DG10 9LR

Need a babysitter? Then contact

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### **Soup Kitchens**

Canonbie Village Hall. 11:30am  
to 1:30pm

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016

£5 for soup, dessert and tea or  
coffee

Reduced price for little ones  
with small appetites!

### **Youth Group**

On Sundays, every 2 weeks. 7:30 to 9pm.

### **Monday Evening Fellowship Group**

Every Monday. 7:30pm.

Both at Mozie Law. Ring Ruth on 71583 for more details.

### **Sunday School**

for primary school aged children is held during our weekly Worship service at 11:30am. See Daan in Church or ring him on 71391.

The Mens Group will be having a

### **Pint and Prayer**

6pm in the Cross Keys Hotel.

Space for Christians to meet, drink and chat.

First Friday in every month.

For further details, contact Anthony, Tel. 71386.

Daan will be collecting 2016 subscriptions for

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### **Canonbie United Parish Church Film Nights**

6:30pm. Saturday 23rd January 2016

6:30pm. Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**The African Queen** (1951)

**TO KILL A Mockingbird** (1962)

Humphrey Bogart

Katherine Hepburn

Gregory Peck

Admission free.

Tea & coffee served. Bring your own supper, beer & wine.

### **News from the Community Café**

The Community Cafe has been running for 6 months and has proved to be an outstanding success. We are about to carry out the 6 month review to assess the level of customer satisfaction. The beginners computer classes are held fortnightly and the next one is on Monday 14th December followed by Monday 28th December, 10.30am to 12.30pm. There is a tutor to offer guidance and several other helpers to give support. As usual the cafe is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2 - 4pm where tea, coffee and a delicious selection of home baking is served. This is all provided and served by a band of volunteers who enjoy the experience as much as the many regular customers. We are always happy to have new people on our list of volunteers for either or both baking and serving. The more names we have the fewer times people will be called on to help. For more information or to volunteer please contact Bill Frew 71209 or Beverley Hyslop 71370. The cafe will only be closed for the festive season on Friday 25th December and Friday 1st January.

### **Other news....**

Following Bill's departure we were unsure of available ministry to celebrate **Communion** at the beginning of December. Apologies to anyone who was waiting for Canonbie Chronicles to confirm the date. Communion did go ahead with Revd. Adam Dillon on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Our next Communion will be on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016. **Thomas George Bell Little** was baptised into our faith in our Church on 29<sup>th</sup> November. His Mum and Dad, Emma and Craig from Harelaw were the first couple to be married by Bill after his arrival in Canonbie. **Bill and Linda** have written to our congregation thanking us for the leaving gift that was presented to them at the last service led by Bill in our Church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Members of the Mens Group are encouraged to pop in to the Cross Keys on the first Friday of every month for a drink and chat, the informal **Pint and Prayer**.