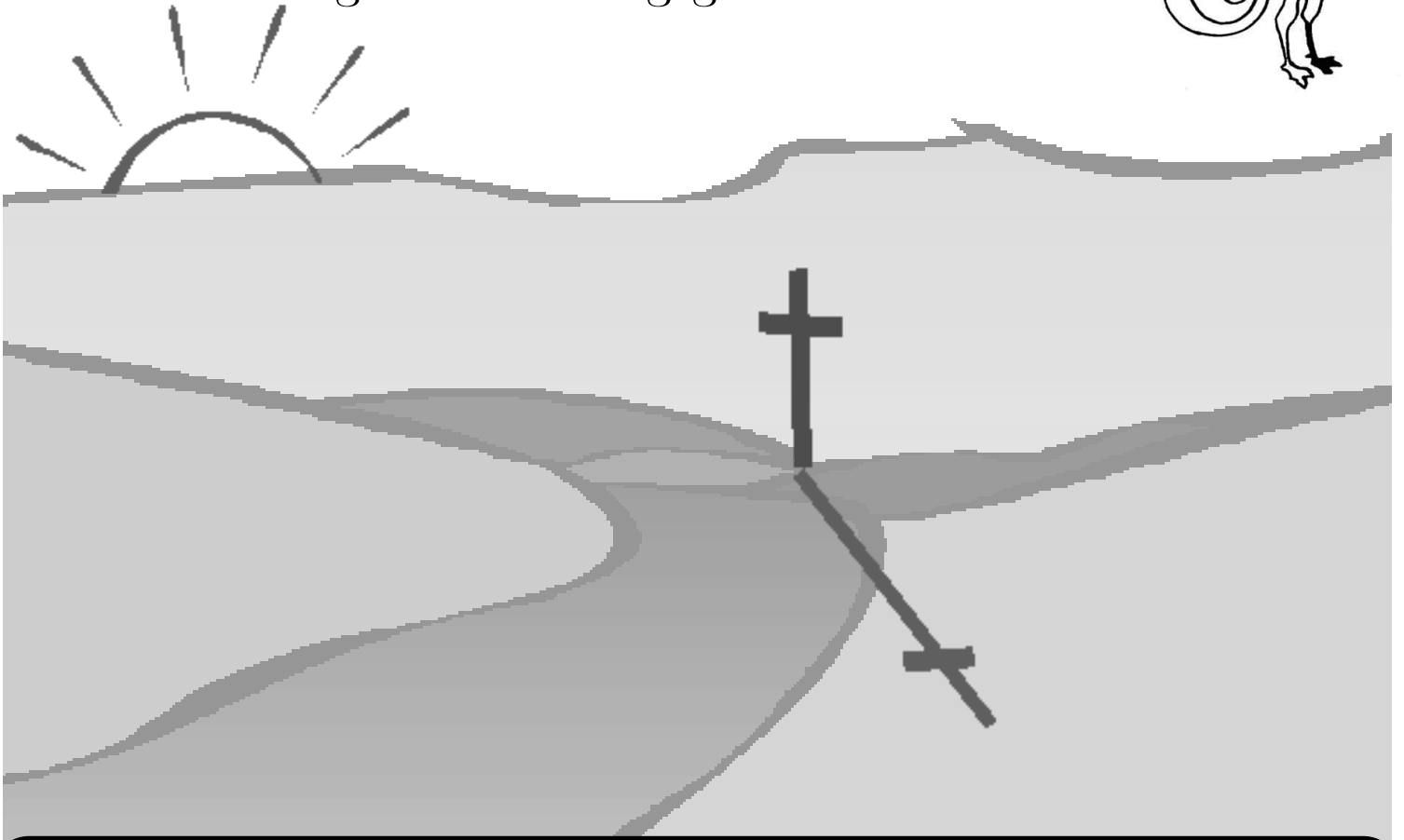
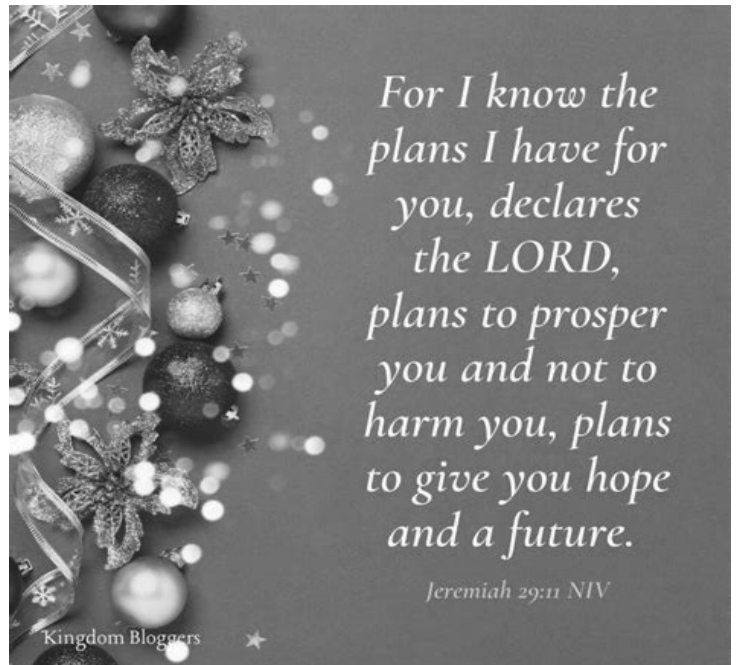


The Wyvern

The Magazine of Kingsgait Kirk Dundee



January 2025 Issue 713



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Kingdom Bloggers

Who's Who

Minister

Rev Anita D C Kerr

Session Clerk

Margaret Adamson

Treasurer

Morag Stalker

Fabric Co-ordinator & Rollkeeper

Mr Ron Chimiak

rollkeeper@outlook.com

Church Officer

Mr Garry Collins

Presbytery Elder

Tim Xenophontos-Hellen

Organist

Ruth Irons

Hall Letting Convenor

Garry Collins

Halls.kingsgaitkirk@outlook.com

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Pam Chimiak

Reader Co-Ordinator

Merelyn Baxter

Mission Partner

JustBee Productions

www.justbeeproductions.co.uk



Session Meeting TBC

Cong Ref No - 291743

Scottish Charity No - SC011775

**Sunday worship is
conducted by Rev Anita
Kerr, every week at 11am .**

What's On?

Girls' Brigade

Monday Evenings 18:30—20.00

Carpet Bowling Group

Thursday Evenings—19:00—21:00

Something else happening?

If you have anything you'd like
intimated in the pre-service slides,
please contact Stewart Kerr
by a Friday at the latest:

st_kerr@btopenworld.com

The Wyvern Next Edition March/April

**Contributions for the next edition are
welcome**

***anytime during the coming weeks,
but at the very latest by:
Sunday 23rd February***

email to

thechurchmagazine@outlook.com

The March/April edition of the *Wyvern* will be
available for collection by distributors
on Sunday 9th March

Greetings from Anita



“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.” Philippians 2: 14-16

As the year draws to a close, there is undoubtedly a time shift from past to future captured in the present. The hopes and fears of all the years met in one place, one time, one axis upon which our world turns. Our world with all its problems, injustices, beauty and promise. Hopes and fears all coinciding, colliding, coming together in the Christ child- *God with us*. In this season of gifting, we give thanks for all in our church family who been such a gift in themselves throughout 2024. We give thanks for our gift of faith, our love, joy and peace. I hope we can begin this year with a renewed sense of purpose. Making our New Year resolutions with the confidence which comes from knowing Christ- *God with us*. Paul offers some good suggestions for New Year resolutions in his letter to the church in Philippi with no grumbling and no arguing! We who have followed a star are called to shine like stars ourselves as we hold firmly to our gift of faith. In this season of giving let's remember the blessing of being grateful for gifts, to say thank you to and for others, who are in themselves gifts, especially in our church family. Thank you for your generosity of time, energy, talents and kindness. Thank you for being willing to offer when asked and step in where needed, for all that you do to make our church family a warm, loving and good place to belong.

A special thankyou to all who have given so generously to our Advent and Christmas Appeal as we work together in the Church to help create a culture where women at home, and across the world, can live and work without fear.

The proceeds will be shared between Dundee Women's Aid and Transform Trade's campaign to work towards a safe society for women to work. Thank you all for shining like the stars that you are, in Christ's name. Whatever your hopes or fears are for the future, it is my prayer you will know *God with you* on the good days and not so good days, through difficult times and fun times, waking and sleeping, and all times in between!

Blessings, Rev Anita

Reflections of Activities of the St Andrews Parish Church Boys Brigade and Former Members Association

Monday night in the church hall meant hard work with a range of activities including gymnastics, Indian Clubs, maze marching, and pyramids all under the critical eye and encouraging tongue of officers including Bob Adams, Dave Pont, and many other officers and non-commissioned officers plus a pianist when available. I enjoyed the Indian clubs and maze marching but struggled to get over the vaulting horse and the parallel bars but some of the lads were excellent at everything. Unfortunately, I was always on the bottom level of the pyramids. On a Tuesday evening, George Ormond took a first-aid class for a couple of hours and at the end of the course we were put forward for a certificate from the Red Cross. Wednesday was a noisy night when all those taking piping, drumming, or bugling, came together to play as a band under Pipe Major Harry Watson or Tom Merrilees and by the time came for a Church Parade or Annual Inspection in the Morgan Academy assembly hall we were quite an accomplished pipe and bugle band. John James was a first-class bugler and for many many years played at the Remembrance Service.

Thursday night became swimming instruction in the Dundee baths - long before Olympia - when any boy could come along and enjoy lessons in the crawl, back-stroke, breaststroke, and butterfly, which was the least popular way of swimming. That brought us to a Friday night in the Cowgate Primary School which had several classrooms on either side of a wide corridor perfect for individual activities such as piping, drumming, bugling, and signaling - using flags and morse code - and the wide corridor for drill in marching plus inspection by our BB Captain John Fridge at the start and the end of the evening to ensure you were turned-out clean and smart with jackets fastened and shoes polished so you could see your reflection in them. On a Friday night there would always be officers to teach each activity and as the annual inspection neared there would be marching behind the pipe band either in the corridor or preferably outdoors in the playground of the school. This would normally attract onlookers and gave us young lads a true feeling of pride.

Continued...

The night of the Annual Inspection was the highlight and display of our years' accomplishments and always began with the whole company lined up outside the school for inspection by an invited well-known local person. This Inspecting Officer would pass along the ranks of boys - stopping sometimes to ask a question - before entering the school hall where he would sit with senior Church figures and our BB Captain as the audience took their place at one end of the hall ready to enjoy their laddies' year's work. Every BB lad would be on the floor at one time or another to show off their prowess in their chosen activity until the finale when trophies and prizes were presented to the lads who had performed the adjudged best in their chosen activities. To complete this special evening the BB gave three cheers to the Inspecting Officer, the BB Officers who gave so much of their time and effort over another year, and to the families who made up an enthusiastic audience.

All that remained was the hearty singing of the third verse of the BB Hymn:

*"Jesus my Saviour, Master, King,
Who didst for me the burden bear,
While saints in heaven Thy glory sing,
Let me on earth Thy likeness wear;
Mine be the path Thy feet have trod,
Duty, and love to man and God."*

Frank Galloway

Advent Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our Advent Appeal, either via the donation box or through Christmas Greetings. A total of £300 was raised, to be split equally between Dundee Women's Aid (<http://www.dundeeomensaid.co.uk>) and Transform Trade's 'Work without Fear' Appeal (<http://www.transform-trade.org/christmas>). In addition, the Hammerman Trade have very kindly donated £200 to be passed on to Women's Aid.

Your generosity towards the work of both these organisations to support women locally and worldwide is greatly appreciated.

Morag Stalker, Congregational Treasurer

The Epiphany Star (from the Sunday 5th January service)

Back on the 1st Sunday of Advent I gave everyone who came to Kingsgait a sparkly green Christmas Tree decoration to help us make the link between evergreen and everlasting life that Jesus offers.

Today, I gave everyone another decoration – a wooden star (pictured) sprayed with orange-gold sparkly paint, to help us make the link between the magi and the festival of Epiphany which . The magi were a group of wise men, astrologers, who followed the movements of the stars in the night sky and understood that they were linked in to the happenings of the world, whether positive or negative.



Epiphany describes two things – the appearance or manifestation of the divine (God) to humans, and a moment of sudden and great revelation or realisation.

The magi came to see a king, but this manifestation meant that God was presented to them in the form of Jesus, a human baby. Of course, they were expecting a king but not God, and that's where the revelation was important – for they realised that Jesus was God. Even though the magi didn't know any of the backstory to the promised Messiah, they met him anyway.

In the verse I selected from Isaiah for our Call to worship, God said "I will beckon to the nations, I will lift up my banner to the peoples". Isaiah wasn't to know that God would use a star to invite the nations, nor could he know that just a few came, these wise men, magi, kings.

So why do we commemorate them? Because they saw the star, and decided that the star heralded a king, and that they must follow that star to find the king.

We think they came from Persia, modern-day Iraq, travelling some 1000 miles by camel on a journey of 1 - 2 years.

Continued...

It matters that they came from far away for it makes them the first non-Jews to be invited to see Jesus. In fact we know that God invites everybody to see Jesus, to journey to him, to see him, learn about him, and get to know him.

Our advent candles have now gone, as has our tree – but God still wants to invite us to celebrate his Son Jesus who has come to live with us, to experience human life and teach us the way of divine life.

Whoever you are, and whatever your circumstances, God invites us all to follow Jesus today and every day.

Tim Xenophontos-Hellen

Girls' Brigade News



We marked Remembrance Day by taking the girls into the church where they studied all the War Memorials and the poppy wreaths. We followed this up with some poppy artwork and worksheets.

As part of our theme, we were delighted to welcome Dental Connect, a group of dental students, who taught the girls how to brush their teeth correctly, played games to back up their presentation and even made small bags to leave for the tooth fairy.

In December, we were delighted to welcome Caroline Taylor who told the girls the story of the Nativity and brought activities to help them learn the true meaning of Christmas.

The rest of our meetings in December were all Christmas-related. Christingles were made, one for each girl and one to present to the members of the Guild at their Christmas lunch. Our other 2 Christmas crafts used re-cycled goods. The snowman's body was built on a Marks and Spencer's fishcake packaging and our baubles were decorated with scrap wax crayons melted by a hairdryer.

Our last meeting was the Christmas party when games, dancing and food were enjoyed. The highlight, however, was the visit from Santa.

'The Galloways' Annual News'

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year

Firstly we hope you have had a good 2024 and now looking forward to the festive season and into 2025 - with resolutions to fulfill all your dreams.

Our new year was celebrated once more in the Canary Islands cruising for a week followed by a week in a Tenerife hotel with glorious warm sunshine for all 14 days. This year for a complete change to our Valentine's break we decided to have a coach tour to a place we went to before we were married –Blackpool!! - and to see if the tower was still in its place. It certainly was and the five days were spent rekindling our youth with a day's visit to Liverpool and the exhibition of the life of Ken Dodd and his Diddy men from Knotty Ash.

As we are avoiding any more long car journeys we went to Aberdeen for Faye's ?? Birthday and found the Atholl hotel a perfect choice near the city centre and other Aberdeen attractions, including the Duthie Park where we spent a whole day enjoying the famous glass house - blooming glorious!!

Having tied the knot in Kelty North church on the 6th June 1964 we decided on a fortnight cruise to celebrate our diamond wedding taking in the Greek islands, starting and ending in Corfu. On the morning of the 6th June 2024 we returned to our cabin after breakfast to find the room decorated with rose petals on the bed, banners on the doors, champagne, strawberries dipped in chocolate, a diamond wedding chocolate cake, a photo shoot, flowers and diamond wedding cards from relations and friends. We sincerely thank all who made our diamond wedding day so special.

Following on our special year, we discussed a few days away to Blackpool or Belfast. After Faye's trip to the travel agents, our short break became a 12 night cruise from Dundee on the Ambassador Ambition to Denmark and Sweden. Sailing away down the River Tay on a Sunday afternoon, we entered the North Sea at the same time the ship's captain announced a spell of rough seas and that sea-sickness pills were available at the reception if required. After 25 cruises Faye experienced sea sickness for the very first time, but fortunately the pills did the trick and the rest of the cruise was grand visiting Copenhagen and Stockholm and quaint ports of call in between. Christmas and into 2025 will be in the Don Pancho hotel in Benidorm, which has always been our favourite hotel for many reasons.

As this will possibly be the last annual "news fae the Galloways" we take this opportunity to say it's been a real pleasure giving you - our dear relatives and friends - just a glimpse of our favourite pastime and wee breaks in between the cruises keeping us and you -we hope - sane in this crazy world of ours. It's been a real privilege - thank you all.

Faye and Frank Galloway

Guild News



Our two guest speakers in November, although their subjects were quite different, were both interesting and entertaining. Eliot Sawers' illustrated talk gave us an insight into the amazing work carried out at Dundee Disabled Children's Association.

Sheila Kinninmonth, a storyteller from Fife, shared a variety of tales from around Scotland. With the help of a screen depicting a blazing fire, we were transported back to the time when families would gather around the hearth and share stories. If anyone wonders why there are so many midges in Scotland, a Guild member can enlighten you!

We were grateful to Anita for preparing and conducting our Nine Lessons and Carols and to David Smith for accompanying our singing. As usual, the afternoon tea following the service was well-received.

Our Christmas lunch was again held in the Glasite. This allowed us, after enjoying our meal, to have a quiz and play some games. We soon discovered that some of our members can be quite competitive!

The first meeting of 2025 will allow the competitive juices flow again as we have a 'Fun Afternoon' planned.

On 21st January, we will welcome Kim Scott, who will share with us the tremendous support given to so many families through the work of CHAS, the Children's Hospice Association.

In February, we will have a guest speaker from the Tayside Deaf Hub. followed by podiatrist, Bharti Rajput.

A Thank You Message

My sister Elizabeth and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the flower donor and flower committee for the beautiful flowers we both received on Sunday 10th November for the 1st anniversary of the loss of our dear Mum, Agnes Robertson. At a time which is always going to be difficult, it was lovely to know we were all remembered in such a kind way. Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Elizabeth Strachan & Audrey Johnston

Church Walking Group

Happy New Year!

Are you enjoying a New You this New Year? Maybe you've a list of good intentions, some of which have already fallen by the wayside, making you feel a bit bad. Maybe you've gone for Just One Thing; much more manageable and fewer opportunities to fail. Maybe you've seen the light and are enjoying the You that you are, warts and all (there's a cream for that).

Well, I'm going to give you food for thought which I hope you'll also act on and I'm not talking muffins or starry biscuits.

Walking, yes, one foot in front of the other, in the company of friends, is so very good for you, both in mind and body. Those cobwebs get blown away, new places explored, old places revisited, nature admired, friends made and even the odd social media "Wish you were here" post posted. You have a dog which can't be left at home unattended? No problem, dogs on leads are welcome.

Kingsgait Kirk has it nailed; there's a monthly walk arranged from April to September. Due to popular demand, there are no mountains to be scaled, generally the miles walked are 4-5 and, to the joy of free bus pass holders, accessible by public bus. If this wasn't enticing enough, most walks see a grand finale at a coffee shop, where feet are rested before the bus ride home to Dundee.

During 2024 the Walking Group visited St Andrews {see photo of happy walkers}, Arbroath, Tayport, Tentsmuir, Broughty Ferry, Auchterhouse and Balmerino. There are pictures on the wall of the St Andrews hall for you to see what fun is had.

Everyone who is interested in the Walking Group is invited to a meal at Medina, Perth Road, Dundee on the evening of Tuesday 28th January. Please contact Tim or Stella to let them know if you are coming. If you can, please bring details of a favourite walk which is reachable by bus. (important). We will make up the 2025 timetable from them.



Best foot forward!

Stella & Tim Xenophontos-Hellen

Flowers

	<u>Flower Donor</u>	<u>Flower Committee</u>
<i>January 2025</i>		
<i>5th</i>	Mr. P. Davidson Mrs. M. Chisholm	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>12th</i>	Mr. R. Greer	Miss. M. Graham
<i>19th</i>	Mrs. S. Baird Mrs. D. Steven	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>26th</i>	Mrs. J. Gardiner	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>February 2025</i>		
<i>2nd</i>	Mrs. E. Strachan	Miss. M. Graham
<i>9th</i>	Mrs. A. Petrie	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>16th</i>	Mrs. A. Dewar	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>23rd</i>	Mrs. M. Baxter	Miss. M. Graham
<i>March 2025</i>		
<i>2nd</i>	Mrs. I. Dryden Mrs. S. Valentine	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>9th</i>	Mrs. E. Davidson	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>16th</i>	Mrs. A. Sanderson	Miss. M. Graham
<i>23rd</i>	Mrs. D. Steven Mrs. M. Chisholm	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>30th</i>	Mrs. A. Forbes Miss. M. Stalker	Mrs. A. Sanderson

The Flower Committee wish to thank all those who assisted with the delivery of fruit and posies after the Christmas gift service, your help is greatly appreciated.

Church Christmas Tree

Thanks must go to those who were responsible for the beautifully decorated Christmas tree. Fiona Battles supervised her family who made a fantastic job of it. Our thanks must also go to Steve James, who for a number of years has willingly used his van to transport the large tree from Templeton to the church.

Sheila Valentine



Useful Contacts

Christian Aid Co-Ordinator

Reverend Caroline Taylor

Flower Committee

Avril Sanderson

Muriel McKenzie

Girls' Brigade

Sheila Valentine

Guild President

Sheila Valentine

Kingsgait Kirk Charity Knitters

Stella Xenophontos-Hellen

Life and Work

Ron Coull

Fair Trade

Sally Romilly

Margaret Chisholm

Church Eco-Congregation contact

Sally Romilly

Wyvern Distribution Co-ordinator

Alison Collins

Wyvern Editor

Aimee Brown

Minister's Details

If you have any pastoral needs or if you know of anybody at home, or in hospital who requires a visit please contact our Minister

Rev Anita Kerr

Email: Anita.Kerr@churchofscotland.org.uk

Telephone: 01382 456659

Or

Church Office

Kingsgait Kirk

2 King Street, Dundee, DD1 2JB

Tel: 01382 224860

Email: standrewsdundee@outlook.com

Please note that Rev Anita Kerr is uncontactable on a Friday.



[Kingsgait Kirk, Dundee](#)



[Meadowside St Paul's l/w St Andrew's](#)

