

*Outlook*  
*Gullane Parish Church*  
*December 2021*



*The Christmas Issue*

*This is the musical start to this year's Advent services*

## **The Candle Song (Like a candle flame)**

Like a candle flame  
Flickering small in our darkness  
Uncreated light  
Shines through infant eyes

*God is with us, alleluia (Men)*  
*God is with us, alleluia (Women)*  
*Come to save us, alleluia (Men)*  
*Come to save us (Women)*  
*Alleluia! (All)*

Stars and angels sing  
Yet the earth sleeps in shadows  
Can this tiny spark  
Set a world on fire?

Yet his light shall shine  
From our lives, Spirit blazing  
As we touch the flame  
Of his holy fire

Graham Kendrick



## Message from the Interim Moderator

Dear friends

As we enter the season of Advent we start to think about journeys because Advent is, first and foremost a journeying time of the Christian year with its destination being Christmas Day itself.

The thing about journeys, though, is that when we get to our destination, we often tend to forget about how we actually got there.

When we get off that plane or train at our holiday destination, we often lay to one side the fact of the journey that we've been through. My wife and I did that recently when we took the train for a short break in York. To be sure the journey was only two and a half hours. It was smooth, remarkably unremarkable. But leaving the station to begin the short walk to the hotel we were staying in, it was easy to see the journey we'd just been on as little more than a means to an end. It becomes something we just go through to get to where we want. The eye is always on where we want to go.

Advent is, of course, not like that at all. And, even if we treat them as such, I am not even sure that the journeys we go on to get to places are actually so easy to set to one side. After all the journey is part of the experience and Advent, to get back to the festive season, is the time of journeying that takes us to the birth of our Saviour which, itself, only came about after a journey to a little place called Bethlehem.

So, there is our own journey. And then there is the journey of our Saviour's family to where he was to be born. And now, as we approach Christmas, there comes the recognition that there has also been the divine journey too... the journey of God towards us.

With my own best wishes for a happy and Holy festive season  
I simply offer the prayer below which I found the other day, a  
prayer for our own personal journeys at Advent.

*God of hope  
be with us in our Advent journey  
to the stable and beyond,  
be with us in our meeting  
and in our travelling together,  
be with us in our worship  
and our praying together,  
be with us in our Advent journey  
to the stable and beyond,  
our God of hope.*

Robin Allison (Rev), Interim Moderator



## **...and one from our Locum Minister**

As a minister, Christmas begins in earnest right after Remembrance Day. It seems surreal when I think about it but that is how the Christian year goes for ministers. This year it means we, here in Aberlady and Gullane churches will have had our first Advent service on the 21 November with "Jesus calling the 12". Many other churches might be planning to look at the pregnancies of Elizabeth and Mary and following the traditional Advent Journey to the birth of the baby. Whilst I get the reasons for doing that, I have chosen to come at Christmas from the other end.

When we begin with the traditional biblical sequence I sometimes wonder if we simply revisit the historical Jesus story. I am hoping this year that we can journey to Christmas as Disciples and recognise that it was because of the baby that we each can have Jesus with us in the here and now. That our gift is eternal life, eventually yes, but also the power of Heaven for the here and now, both with us and in us!

I do hope you will make that journey with us this year, as we look at the 12 and how Jesus was with them. How he wants to be with us!

May I leave you with this final thought? When we look for the little blessings we have in life I believe we can find a lot to be thankful for. I PRAY with all my heart you can find enough blessings in your life to build a happy Christmas for you and yours this year.

Blessing  
Fred

The service details appear below and hope to see you there.



## ***Our Christmas Season***

12 December

Services: Gullane (9.45) and Aberlady (11.15) *Jesus calls us.*  
Christmas Walk 2pm (see later article)

19 December

All-age Nativity Service :\* **Gullane (9.45)** and Aberlady (11.15)

24 December

\* **Christmas Eve service 6.30pm in Aberlady**

This year there will be no Watchnight Service in Gullane

25 December

\***Joint 30 minute service 10.30 in Gullane.** Please bring the children with one of their presents if you can as we celebrate Jesus' birthday together. We plan to have an informal Communion to which everyone is welcome.

This service will also be streamed live on Zoom

(Meeting ID 892 7783 9554; passcode 460904) or you can phone in on 0131 4601196 using the same ID and passcode but check website in case of last minute changes

26 December

Services: Gullane (9.45) and Aberlady (11.15)

*The Wise Men and what we might learn from them*

2 January

Joint service in Aberlady at 11.15 as we celebrate the start of a new year together. A bit later than normal for those who were celebrating into the wee small hours.

**\*Booking required for these services: click the link on the church website. You will be notified whether or not you have successfully reserved a seat/seats,**

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Gullane and Aberlady churches are able to have Holy Communion again and invite you to join us. We use individual disposable cups that include a sealed-in wafer as well as the wine, meaning we can offer elements untouched by human hands, nothing like being super safe with Covid still around.

## Kirk Session News

It has been a busy time. The sale of our Manse on Hummel Road was completed at the end of October. There was considerable interest in the house and Ken Wright was extremely busy conducting viewings and arranging access for various parties to the Manse. We are all very grateful to him for this and the regular inspections he has carried out over the last year while the Manse has been unoccupied. The sales proceeds of just under £1.5m are held centrally by the Church of Scotland and are available to us should we wish to (and be allowed to) invest in new or existing properties.

The future of Ministry in Gullane and Aberlady was further explained to Kirk Session when we met with Lothian Presbytery in October. The plan is for us to move into a grouping with St Andrew Blackadder, North Berwick. We retain our separate Kirk Sessions and congregations and their Minister, Rev Neill Dougall, would be our interim moderator. In addition, we would have the services of a locum minister as we do now with Rev Fred Harrison. Our church building remains open and Sunday morning services will continue to be held there. On 2 December, members of Gullane, Aberlady and St Andrew Blackadder had an initial meeting to discuss how we may work together in future. This meeting was a very positive start to further discussions.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming people to our Christmas services this year. Unfortunately, COVID distancing restrictions mean that our churches have reduced capacity. We are not having our usual Watchnight service in Gullane Church on Christmas Eve. However details of all services, along with booking and streaming arrangements, appear in the Christmas Season listing opposite.

Tom Walker  
Session Clerk

# ***Carols on the Green***

All are invited to join together  
to sing some  
well-known Christmas Carol  
favourites

Sunday 19 December  
4.30pm  
Smiddy Green

Songsheets available on the  
day or from the church website  
Please bring a torch



Welcome to a new organist



On October 10, 2021, we were delighted to welcome Irene Hogg to our team of organists and pianists. Irene has very kindly undertaken to play the organ for us on the second Sunday of each month and we value her significant contribution to our Sunday worship.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Anne Trail and Fergus Malcom who have played for us on a regular basis for a long time now. The church really comes alive when we are fortunate enough to have the services of an organist or pianist and we are grateful for their time and the hard work that goes into practising and preparing for services

In the meantime, Sandra Robertson has kindly stepped in and played the piano for us on the third Sunday of each month. We are now looking for someone to play either the organ or the piano on the third Sunday of each month from the start of the year. If you, or someone you know, could help, please contact Joy Grey for further detail including remuneration. Please spread the word.



### ***Pastoral Care***

If anyone feels, or knows of someone, in need of pastoral care, including a contact by the minister, Fred Harrison, please telephone Anne Dobie



### **National Giving Day**

In our last issue we highlighted National Giving Day for which our church had decided to support the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Afghanistan. As a result of this fundraising £780 has been sent to the Red Cross Afghan Appeal.

## Sunday Club/JAM Club

We are so enjoying being together again in JAM Club. We are back in the Church Centre, meeting as normal during the Church service. We have a great number of children coming along this autumn, of both primary school age and younger. It's lovely to see both new faces and old attend when Sundays are busy days for young people in the village.

This term in JAM Club we have been thinking about the gifts and talents God has given us. We have explored the gifts each of us has, as well as looking at people in the community and their gifts. We learnt about people in history like Johnny Appleseed and Florence Nightingale who had gifts they shared with others.

As we are still limited by some COVID restrictions we couldn't host our craft afternoon this October. Instead, we headed outside and enjoyed a family harvest walk around the local area. We explored the woods and fields by Saltcoats Castle, with stories, activities and snacks along the way. We hope to repeat this activity before Christmas, everyone is welcome, it won't be a long walk.

In the lead up to Christmas we will be planning our contributions to the nativity service as well as attending the local pantomime as a festive treat.

Rachel Wallace



## EJAM

Our new Evening JAM (also known as 'Eating' JAM) children's group has so far been hugely successful. We now have twenty children aged 8 – 11 who attend this group on a Sunday evening from 5:30 until 7pm. We have settled into a routine which seems to suit both the children and leaders well, with a Bible study and discussion focused around a chosen theme. Then the children break off to complete an activity in small groups before they enjoy pizza and other goodies from Gullane Superfry (this is the 'Eating' bit which the kids love!). The idea is to provide a friendly, relaxed environment to gain a basic understanding of what the Bible is for and how it works, as well as allowing the children to ask questions at their own pace, regardless of their previous knowledge. We also aim to make things relevant to the world around them and have fun

along the way. In November for example, the children showed a phenomenal understanding of COP26 and we read through Genesis 1 to understand how God wants us to look after the world. A huge thank you to all the kind volunteers who have offered to help us out for future sessions.

We thought some of you might like to test your Bible knowledge so have included our quiz from September. Good luck!

### Bible Quiz

1. Which bit of the Bible is all about Jesus and his teachings?  
Old or New Testament?
2. How many books are there in the Bible?  
Old Testament, New Testament and Total
3. What is the first story in the Bible about?  
Creation                  Noah's Flood                  Jesus's birth
4. What is the name of the four men who wrote the Gospels?  
*(hint, they are the first 4 books in the New Testament)*
5. Which 17 books in the Bible are written as 2 or 3 parts?  
*(e.g. 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians. NB - one is divided into 3 parts)*
6. What is the last book in the New Testament?
7. What do you think is the shortest book in the Bible?  
*(hint: it's one of the last 10 books in the Old Testament , is between Amos and Jonah and is only 2 pages long!)*
8. Which Old Testament book in the Bible was written by someone with the same name as our minister who we had during the COVID lockdowns?
9. Which book is famous for the author's run in with a big fish?
10. Which book sounds like you might learn about it in music class?

*No answers were provided, so you are on your own – or perhaps you could ask one of the children*

## Christmas Walk

Everyone is welcome to join Gullane Parish Church's Christmas Walk. We will be meeting at 2pm on Sunday 12 December in the Gullane Church Garden.

We will then head along to the new seating areas in the Millennium Woods for a short children's talk before heading towards Saltcoats Castle. We will finish up in the woods by the PefferMill Burn for children's hot chocolate and cake (BYO tea/coffee flasks encouraged). This walk is 2km each way, 'all terrain' buggy friendly, though there will be areas of uneven/muddy ground.

We'd love for as many of our congregation and community to join us for all or part of this walk – we hope that this will be an opportunity for us to stop, think and appreciate God's beautiful world around us amongst all the chaos of Christmas preparations. We also hope this will provide social opportunity to meet new people as well as catch up with old and new friends.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and, if possible, let Rachel or Hilary know if you are coming so we can cater accordingly.



## Church Life Group

A new, informal social discussion group has been formed and we would love for others to join us. The group meets every 4-6 weeks for a drink and a chat and takes the opportunity to share and chat through new ideas and initiatives that our church and congregation might be involved in. Discussions so far have ranged from how we might set up a Church Walking Group and 'Home Groups', to tips for decorating the church for Christmas and even favourite hymn suggestions. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please contact Hilary Smyth on 07702 638 170 for info, or to be added to our What's App Group, to find out where and when we are next meeting. Definitely a case of the more the merrier!!!

## *The Guild*

The Guild letter this month is sadly, most likely to be the last. We had a committee meeting on November 18, when we decided, reluctantly, that we had to disband Gullane Church Guild. The main reason for this decision is, that our membership is ageing and that new members are not coming forward

Over the years our Guild has been a great meeting place for people ,raising funds for diverse causes, providing interesting speakers and being a place to meet friends and neighbours So it seemed sadly the only action we could take.

However, the committee thought it might be a good idea to have a farewell lunch at Craighielaw Golf Club in January or February. The date is to be decided later on.

I would like to thank the committee for their help over the last years; they have willingly given of their time to support me as president and are expert at organising Sales of Work and Coffee mornings.

My particular thanks goes to Marian Chambers, who has been our efficient treasurer over many years and hosted all our committee meetings over time.

We will keep in touch with each other, I have no doubt.

Very best wishes  
Angeniet Black



## Coffee Time

As normal access to the Church Centre is still not possible, after-church coffee is still on offer at the Old Clubhouse immediately after morning service and the meeting together has been much enjoyed. A donation to the coffee is appreciated.

# COMMUNITY LINKS

## Gullane Library

Since re-opening in October, Gullane Library is slowly getting back to normal. Our current opening hours are:

Mondays & Tuesdays: 10am-1pm, 2pm-5pm

Wednesdays & Thursdays: Closed

Fridays: 10am-1pm, 2pm-5pm

Saturdays: 10am-1pm

We're gradually starting up our old groups with Knit and Natter every Monday, 10.30am-12pm, our games club the first Friday of the month, 2.30pm-3.30pm, and several book groups who meet once a month.

For the little ones we also have Bookbug every Tuesday at 11am; come along to sing some nursery rhymes and hear a story.

The branch offers many resources that you may not be aware of from printing and photocopying services, recycling box covers, hearing aid batteries, bus passes, blue badges, and a home delivery service for members who are unable to get to the library but still want to borrow books, to name a few!

Our newest staff member Gayle has been working hard organising events for children. Please keep an eye out online and in-branch for information about our Christmas craft and story time sessions running in December. We will also be advertising our post box to the North Pole. You can bring your little ones with their letter to Santa and collect his response from our Christmas tree a few days later.

We're always planning fun things for everyone to enjoy so please do pop in and find out what we're up to. It's been brilliant welcoming back our regular visitors and meeting new ones too! We're always open to new ways for visitors to enjoy the library. If you would like to see certain groups starting up or would like to start your own activity please get in touch:

## Gullane Scone Café

The Gullane Scone Café opened on 16 October when representatives of the North Berwick Coastal Community Connectors welcomed guests looking to meet local folk and make new friendships. The Day Centre staff have kindly allowed us to use the Day Centre while it is empty on a Saturday morning between 10.30am and 12noon. In the comfort of the safe and well-equipped Day Centre sitting area, a small but select group enjoyed talking and eating scones and drinking soft drinks, tea and coffee. Thanks to the generous support from 'Cherish', our local Gullane café, we will be able to supply our guests with their delicious scones and volunteers were on hand to introduce guests and enjoy the get-together. We were subsequently open on two Saturdays with the next time being Saturday 18 December between 10.30 and 12 noon.. Thereafter the Scone Café will take place on alternate Saturdays.

We are looking for more volunteers to help as well as suggestions of guests who might benefit by coming. If you



know of anyone who might appreciate attending our Gullane Scone Café or you would like to join as a volunteer or you want to know more about it, please contact Margaret McSorley Come and join us!

## Gullane Flower Club

Like others the Flower Club are hoping to start up again next year. in their case in early February. Watch all spaces for updates.

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*No change of tune for 2022; all your ideas and information for Outlook welcomed with open arms. Ed*

## East Lothian Foodbank

It's Christmas time so the Foodbank is a very busy place. We have just had our 3-day Tesco collection bringing over 7000Kg of food into the warehouse. This all gets categorised and dated before being made into the usual 3-day food parcels ready for delivery. We have the usual number of referrals coming through, but volume always increases throughout December. It's also \*\*Jingle Bag time in the Foodbank. This month, alongside the standard parcel, everyone referred gets a Jingle Bag containing everything needed for a Christmas dinner. Please donate generously to your local Foodbank; we need the standard items as well as extras for the Jingle Bags. Items can be left at the church when open, the CO-OP or the library. If you have any difficulty getting to these drop-off points, please give me a ring and I am happy to collect your donations.

Go to the website [www.Eastlothian.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.Eastlothian.foodbank.org.uk) for more information, or like us on Facebook.

Many thanks

Rachel Wallace

\*\*If you would like to help fill a Jingle Bag  
here's what we need

|                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| chicken/turkey (tinned)       | Christmas pudding         |
| potatoes (tinned/packet mash) | custard                   |
| carrots (tinned)              | biscuits                  |
| sweetcorn (tinned)            | chocolates/selection pack |
| peas (tinned)                 | Christmas savoury snacks  |
| gravy (packet)                | bread sauce (packet)      |
| stuffing (packet/box)         | Christmas crackers        |

As bags will be given out from 9 December  
ALL items must be non perishable

To find out more go to <http://bit.ly/ELFBJinglebags>



GULLANE AND DIRLETON HISTORY SOCIETY  
Lecture Programme January-April 2022

An experiment of a hybrid meeting is planned for the lecture on January 12th which will be delivered live in Gullane Hall but also available on Zoom. There will be appropriate social distancing and mask wearing in place. For subsequent meeting do check the posters

Wednesday 12 January Sarah Goodswen  
Inns and their Signs

Thursday 3 February Olwyn Owen  
Landing in Paradise – the Vikings in Scotland

Wednesday 23 February Roy Johnstone  
Henry VIII and his six wives

Thursday 17 March Hamish Reid  
The life of Sir Walter Scott



Waterston House, Aberlady

**“Close to Home”**, the new solo show by locally-based artist, Darren Woodhead, is an ode to the natural world and a reflection on the anchor it has been for the artist over the past months. As Darren explains: “it is my escape, my sense of serenity and belonging. Many of the paintings have stemmed from observing birds in the garden or from “one man on his bike” trips in the field. Here, I could immerse myself in the changing seasons and the parallel natural world, and feel the ultimate connection to my subject, close to home.”

The exhibition runs until 9 January 2022 and Waterston House is open Wed-Sun 10am-4pm

~ ~ ~ ~

*...and at the **very** last minute: So well done to Jake for his performances in The Young Chorister of the Year*

## ***PARISH REGISTER***

### Deaths of members

24 September 2021    Sandy Jarvis

28 October 2021      Sheena Hope

As long as we have memories,  
yesterday remains. As long as  
we have hope tomorrow waits.  
As long as we have love,  
today is beautiful.





**~~ Directory ~~**

|                               |                          |                         |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Locum Minister</b>         | <b>Rev Fred Harrison</b> |                         |
| <b>Session Clerk</b>          | <b>Tom Walker</b>        |                         |
| <b>Treasurer</b>              | <b>Peter Grey</b>        |                         |
| <b>Gift Aid</b>               | <b>Morag Black</b>       |                         |
| <b>Free Will Offering</b>     | <b>Carol Murray</b>      |                         |
| <b>Beadle</b>                 | <b>currently vacant</b>  |                         |
| <b>Roll Keeper</b>            | <b>Ken Wright</b>        |                         |
| <b>Sunday Club</b>            | <b>Rachel Wallace</b>    |                         |
| <b>Cradle Roll</b>            | <b>Elsbeth Walker</b>    |                         |
| <b>Safeguarding</b>           | <b>Tracey Thomson</b>    |                         |
| <b>The Guild</b>              | <b>Church Office</b>     | <b>currently closed</b> |
| <b>Presbytery Elder</b>       | <b>Elsbeth Walker</b>    |                         |
| <b>Christian Aid</b>          | <b>Rachel Wallace</b>    |                         |
| <b>Flower Convener</b>        | <b>Anne Dobie</b>        |                         |
| <b>Life and Work</b>          | <b>Tom Walker</b>        |                         |
| <b>Church Centre Bookings</b> | <b>Stuart Munro</b>      |                         |
| <b>Church Office</b>          | <b>currently closed</b>  |                         |
| <b>Church Website</b>         | <b>Hilary Smyth</b>      |                         |
| <b>Newsletter</b>             | <b>Anne McCarthy</b>     |                         |

[www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk](http://www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk)

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