

# CALDERBANK PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

([WWW.CALDERBANKCHURCH.CO.UK](http://WWW.CALDERBANKCHURCH.CO.UK))



**December 2025 & January 2026**



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Dear friends



There is the extraordinary truth that when we are to think about “God made flesh” or “God with us”, we are to begin with the memory of a helpless baby born in Bethlehem. For then, immediately, just as a baby is born to live, we are to think about what God has in store for us?

And so every year in December the Christian rhythm focuses on beginnings. A more natural place to start – the way of the world – is to have the New Year as the time of making a fresh start, and interestingly in history the New Year was not always celebrated on 1st January but rather when spring was in the air. But for Christians, the theme of new beginnings is absolutely centred on Jesus and his birth. We might attempt to make many fresh starts but as we all know the change is not often sustained. The new start which came with Jesus was on an utterly different level.

How ironic it is that Christmas can be the time for not changing anything – wanting to keep things as they were in our fondest memories. I suspect Brigid and I do that as much as anyone: there are decorations we have always hung up, we sing familiar carols, we eat seasonal food. I’m not suggesting we forget all of that (memories are too precious!), but I do encourage you (and myself) to see with as fresh eyes as possible the wonder of Jesus being born.

So, think about beginnings and not just one big day from which we simply need to recover! If there are children around, make the very most of how fresh and exciting it all is to them. And pray that with Jesus in our lives, Jesus always in our lives, we may be regularly refreshed and renewed and supported, in this new year to come.

Brigid and I wish you a very joyful celebration of Christmas!

Yours, Peter



## **News of the Church Family**

### **Deaths**

Mrs Rachel Smith, Moray Avenue on 5th November

Mrs Sadie Blair, Green Place, on 8th November



It was a sad month for us – and a sad week with these two funerals in church. Sadie made such a mark in our lives through the Guild and the choir; Rachel, coming into Calderbank more recently, taking on being Roll keeper and Elder as well as being involved in other ways. We give thanks for the way they lived, and remember their families and close friends in our prayers.

How conscious we are of those who ordinarily we would be seeing regularly, but now with ill health and/or age are not able to be around. Every Communion, we remember our Elders who both served and gave such active service for so many years, Archie Bryden and John Currie. PLEASE, please, if we (Minister, Elder, another) who could be of any support or help to those who are limited in their movements, do speak up and ask! We want very much to be a caring family together.



### **Christmas Unwrapped**

We had a great opportunity which we took up to deliver “Christmas Unwrapped” to the local schools, both Calderbank Primary and Corpus Christi. It gave us a very happy morning, and the children a host of hands-on activities to keep them busy. Thank you so much to the volunteers who stepped up to help. Every one of you played a beautifully full part. And it was greatly appreciated.

### **Worship During December**

Every week at 9.30 am! We shall always be glad to welcome any friends or visitors you might have.

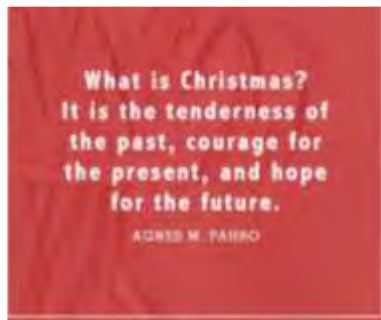
And of course there are other special services:

On Sunday 7th December at 6 pm, a Carol Service in CAIRNLEA led by the Salvation Army Band



### **Watchnight Service**

The Watchnight Carol Service will be held as usual on Christmas Eve, at 11.30pm in Calderbank Church.



### **Christmas Day Service**

On Christmas Day at 10.30 am in CAIRNLEA, the Celebration of Christmas!Worship.



During November our Anchors, as well as being 'superheroes of patience', participated in the Battalion Anchor Boy challenge. They were timed balancing balloons, blowing ping pong balls and building towers along with other challenges.

Meanwhile our Juniors competed in two Battalion competitions; the Top Team quiz and Physical Activity (PA) competition. They performed admirably in both and looked particularly smart in the PA as they 'donned' some new sports tops that we were kindly donated.

As a group we also completed the annual fun run/walk at Drumpelier Park and visited the village war memorial on the 11th to lay a BB wreath.

We're now looking forward to Christmas and in particular our visit to Hollywood Bowl and McDonald's on the 9th to finish this part of our session. We will then be back on the 6th January to have lots more fun.

Lesley Aitken

Email - [1Calderbank@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:1Calderbank@boys-brigade.org.uk)





The next ladies lunch has been arrange for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm in Il Capo.

If you would like to go please give your name to Joan McPhee.

### The Glasgow Phoenix Choir: Christmas with the Phoenix



Tickets available from the Box office 0141 353 8000 at a cost of £23.90. £21.66 (includes booking fee and restoration fund)



I can't believe we've sped through October and November since we last gave an update!

October was full of spooky crafts and games then it finished up with our Halloween party. There was plenty of dancing, games, food, fun and of course, the costume parade which was won by Strawberry Shortcake.

In November we learned about the traditions behind Bonfire night and we were going to have sparklers for some fun but the rainy weather put paid to that. We also learned about the different ways we can communicate with a deaf or hard of hearing person. One of the ways was British Sign Language where the Girls learned how to use sign for:

What is your name?

My name is

Where do you live?

I live in Airdrie

Please

Thank You

And also how to clap in sign

Along with this they were able to finger spell their name and count to ten.

Some of the girls also helped out at the Church Fete which they really enjoyed and then last week our Young Leaders did some non-baking baking with them. One of the things they made was called Armpit Fudge, needless to say, I didn't try any of it....

Now we're in to December and have a couple of weeks of Christmas crafts, games and music leading up to our movie night (film to be decided) on the 17<sup>th</sup> after which we'll break up for the Christmas Holidays.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone and the Girls' Club will see you again next year!



## The Guild

The Guild have had such a busy few weeks, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December is our final event this year and we hope to see many of you at our Senior Citizen lunch at 1pm when you will enjoy a lovely lunch and entertainment by Colin Scougall.

Please give your name to any Guild members if you would like to come along.



## Newsletter

who has contributed to the 2025 newsletter. We hope you enjoyed being kept up to date and managed the puzzles.

Please remember we are always looking for articles and snippets so if you have any then please just pass to us in 2026.

We hope you enjoy your little Christmas gift in this edition of the newsletter and have a Very Merry Christmas.

Gwenn & David





### **Saying Goodbye!**

At the end of this year, sadly, we will be saying goodbye to our assistant musician, Marija Račkauskaitė, as she heads home to Lithuania. Marija joined us while she was completing a Masters degree at the Royal Conservatoire in her first instrument, the flute, and has stayed with us for the last three years or so. Marija is an accomplished pianist and soon learnt her way into playing for our form of Church of Scotland service with little difficulty. She has become part of our community bringing chocolate brownies for after church coffee and joining in the chat and it will be sad to see her go.

Marija's last Sunday with us will be Jan 4<sup>th</sup>. We are going to have a wee collection for her and hope to give her a wee gift on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, so if anyone would like to contribute, please give it to me as soon as possible. Thank you.

Brigid Donald





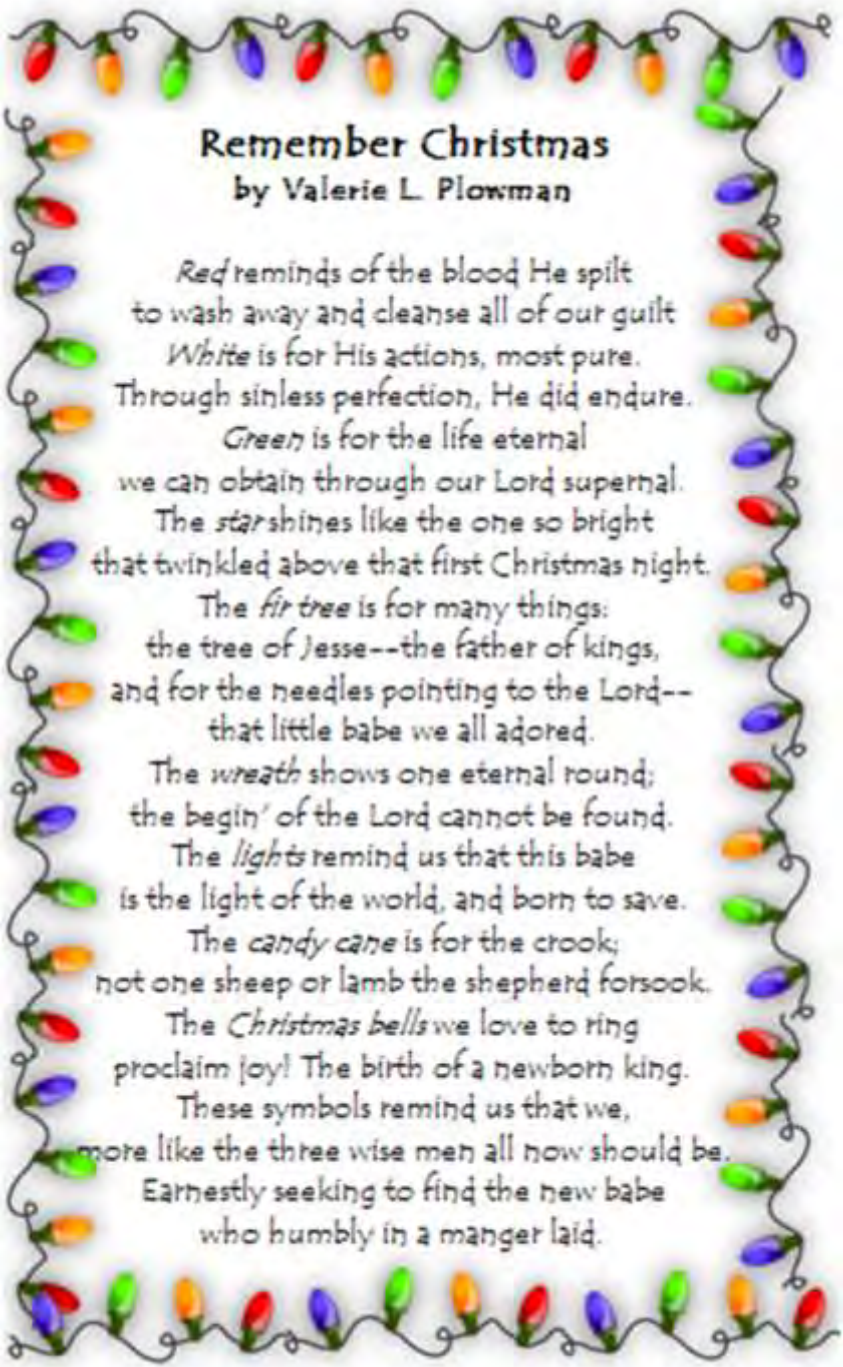
# CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fayre was a great success and was so busy, It was lovely to see so many people there- regular and new faces. We raised £2294.50!! This was the best yet and will be most useful to help sort out the church heating. Many thanks as always to all who came along to support us and to all who donated or worked so hard to make this possible



Remember to save your stamps for Crossreach.





## Remember Christmas

by Valerie L. Plowman

*Red* reminds of the blood He spilt  
to wash away and cleanse all of our guilt.

*White* is for His actions, most pure.  
Through sinless perfection, He did endure.

*Green* is for the life eternal  
we can obtain through our Lord supernatural.

The *star* shines like the one so bright  
that twinkled above that first Christmas night.

The *fir tree* is for many things:  
the tree of Jesse--the father of kings,  
and for the needles pointing to the Lord--  
that little babe we all adored.

The *wreath* shows one eternal round;  
the begin' of the Lord cannot be found.

The *lights* remind us that this babe  
is the light of the world, and born to save.

The *candy cane* is for the crook;  
not one sheep or lamb the shepherd forsook.

The *Christmas bells* we love to ring  
proclaim joy! The birth of a newborn king.

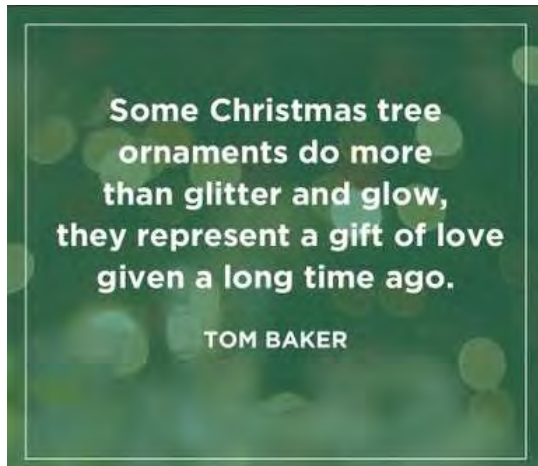
These symbols remind us that we,  
more like the three wise men all now should be.

Earnestly seeking to find the new babe  
who humbly in a manger laid.

## Door Duty Rota



7 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Ian Thomson	Gordon Thomson
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	David Stewart	Bobby Kinniburgh
21 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	Joan McPhee	Ian Buchanan
28 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	David Findlay	Billy Dunlop



## Flower List

7 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
21 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2025
28 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	28 <sup>th</sup> December 2025



## Church Flowers

Just a reminder that the diary is now open for 2026. If you are interested in adding your name to the rota then please speak to either myself or Helen after church. Alternatively, you can phone or text me on 0703219384.

Christine Edmondson



DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Ladies Lunch	2pm	Il Capo
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Watchnight Service	11.30pm	Calderbank Church
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day Service	10.30am	Cairnlea Church









MONTH	CONTENT DUE BY	ISSUE DATE
February 2026	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> February
March 2026	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> March
April 2026	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	5 <sup>th</sup> April
May 2026	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	3 <sup>rd</sup> May
June 2026	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	7 <sup>th</sup> June
July/August 2026	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	5 <sup>th</sup> July
September 2026	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2026	6 <sup>th</sup> September
October 2026	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2026	4 <sup>th</sup> October
November 2026	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> November
December 2026/ January 2027	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2026





When the world is all at odds  
And the mind is all at sea  
Then cease the useless tedium  
And brew a cup of tea.

There is magic in its fragrance  
There is solace in its taste  
And the laden moments vanish  
Somehow into space.

And the world becomes a lovely thing  
There's beauty as you'll see  
All because you briefly stopped  
To brew a cup of tea.

William Gladstone





*Let's Celebrate!*

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

Brush away old heartaches.  
Learn from our mistakes.  
Another year is finally over.  
A new dawn awakes.

Let the old year out.  
Welcome the new one in.  
Bury the bad things of the past  
As a new year now begins.

Make your New Year wishes  
As simple as you can.  
Pray for peace and love,  
Not for wealth or fame.

Pray for health and happiness.  
Pray for your fellow man.  
Pray for all the ones you love.  
Pray for those who've lost their way.

As the midnight hour chimes,  
We leave the old and embrace the new.  
I wish the things you wish for yourself,  
And may God's love stay with you.



# Door Duty Rota

4 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Ian Thomson	Gordon Thomson
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	David Stewart	Bobby Kinniburgh
18 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Joan McPhee	Ian Buchanan
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	David Findlay	Billy Dunlop
1 <sup>st</sup> February 2026	Ian Thomson	Gordon Thomson



## Flower List

4 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	
18 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	
1 <sup>st</sup> February 2026	



# FESTIVE ANSWER SHEET



1	Gluhwein
2	Austria
3	Capricorn
4	Japan
5	A Flocked Tree
6	Stolen
7	Eleven
8	Donald Duck
9	Lowering
10	Mistletoe



1	Jingle Bells
2	Donner
3	Christ
4	1610
5	96

## True or false

1	True
2	True
3	False- it was Paris
4	True
5	True
6	False- Coca-Cola
7	True
8	True
9	True
10	False – He has 9 -Dancer, Donner, Blitzen, Prancer, Dasher, Rudolph, Vixen, Comet & Cupid
11	True
12	True
13	False- Manhattan
14	False- Rudolph
15	True
16	False- Parson Brown
17	True
18	False- Spanish

How many Gingerbread people were in the puzzle pull-out?

16

How many Christmas Trees were in the newsletter?

16

The next circulation of the newsletter will be on the  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2026



Remember if you have any stories, articles, or snippets  
you would like to share please send to

[News@CalderbankChurch.co.uk](mailto:News@CalderbankChurch.co.uk)

Please pass any items to be included in the next edition  
of the newsletter to me by the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 at the  
latest.

Thank You

Gwenn