

# News at Wardie



www.wardie.org.uk

December 2018

## GIVING CHRISTMAS A CHANCE



**Happy Christmas, Charlie Brown!**

says Lucy, the fearless and most terrifying character from the comic strip Peanuts, as she walks towards her good-natured friend with her hand outstretched. At this time of year, she begins to lecture Charlie, we should bury our disagreements and try to be kind to each other. It must be Christmas, I think, if

Lucy, a well-known bully who has been described as “a combination of zero brains, infinite appetites and infinite self-esteem” begins to understand that Christmas should have a positive effect on us. Why do we only put on our best behaviour at this time of the year? Why not every day? Charlie Brown asks with his endearing naivety. He does not need to wait long for Lucy’s reply to return to him like a boomerang: Are you telling me that you’re one of those fanatics?

If only it could be Christmas every day, I think every year at this time as I prepare for the services with the most beautiful hymns and readings. There is a beauty with depth, with a hope for a people who are running fast out of hope, opening doors to a future to those among us who feel desperate, who cannot see anything positive lying ahead of them.

Are people who ask for an everyday Christmas really fanatics or dreamers, I wonder? Or is it not far more unrealistic to expect that for one day only, on Christmas Day, we can be on our best behaviour, kind, caring, full of love. Would it not make more sense to give love and joy a chance on a regular basis and in more moderate incarnations? I’m not thinking of the love we have to offer to others, that is the second part of the Christmas story. The first part begins with love coming to our door. The hand stretched out to us. There is nothing spectacular about it, we may think, just as there is nothing spectacular about a baby born to a young couple who can ill afford it, far away from the limelight. The truth about the Christmas gift is that God revealed himself as love that is possible. The Christmas news is not aimed exclusively at those with power and money; you cannot buy love with either. God in his love freely reaches out to people like you and me.

*What if God was one of us?*

*Just a slob like one of us*

*Just a stranger on the bus*

*Trying to make his way home,*

Joan Osborne asked in her song more than 20 years ago.

*If God had a name what would it be?*

*And would you call it to his face*

*If you were faced with him*

*In all his glory?*

*What would you ask if you had just one question?*

As we prepare for Christmas, let us be open to the love God sends our way, no matter how ordinary and unspectacular it may look to us. As we travel beyond Christmas and into the New Year, let’s learn to give Christmas a chance every day.

Joy and peace be yours,

*Ute*

## Christmas Gifts

Please help continue Wardie’s long tradition of generously supporting the children of families affected by imprisonment by providing gifts for distribution at Christmas. These will be gratefully received at the morning service on **Sunday 2nd December**. Gifts for children of any age are welcome, wrapped in Christmas paper and either marked, or with a detachable label, to indicate the gender and age of the child for whom the gift is appropriate.

This year we received a thank you card with a picture of crafts that some of last year’s recipients had created, with a message: ‘This was designed and painted by the children whose Christmas was made very special by you. The difference you made cannot be measured.’



Thank you for your support.

*The Pastoral Team*

## Drop-in Advent

**Saturday 1st December, 3–5pm, Wardie Church**  
**Christmas is coming. Let’s start in style!**



- Discover your green fingers making Advent logs
  - Engage in Advent and Christmas crafts
- Catch some peaceful moments in the church
  - Listen to Advent music
- Explore meditative Advent stations
  - Enjoy a chat in our Advent café
  - Taste freshly made waffles

Entrance free, donations and people of all ages welcome.  
 Entrance at the red Netherby Road Door.



# News at Wardie, December 2018



## The Newsletter of Wardie Parish Church

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*News at Wardie can be received by post, at a cost of £7.50 a year. Apply to the church office*

### Church Register

#### Deaths

9th October Sheila Sutherland  
4th November Pauline Aird

### A Beautiful Gift

Wardie has been given 25 very pretty little coffee mugs for the different organisations to use – and in so doing to remember Sheila Sutherland and her ever-generous hospitality. We are extremely grateful to Fiona, Morven and Jaimie for this delightful and practical gift.



### WARDIE GUILD

First of all I would like to thank all those who came to our Guild Project fundraiser "**Autumn Leaves**" on **7th November**. Thanks to Judith Gardner Jones and Margaret Donaldson for a lovely morning of music and also to the hard-working committee for the refreshments. A total of £325 was raised for our Zambia and Crossreach project.

We welcome **Tom Kelly** on **5th December** for the **Juke Box Era**. Tom will take us back to the days when the juke box was king so prepare to sing along to your favourite tracks!! Put on your Christmas jumper or your party dress and come along to our **Christmas lunch in the New Hall** on **12th of December** at 12.30pm.

Our first meeting in 2019 will be **Journey Together - Zambia Project** when the speaker will be Jennie Chinembiri from the World Mission Council.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Wendy Sodergren

### Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal 2018

Once again Wardie has been so generous. We filled 111 shoe boxes which all had the most wonderful variety of gifts in them.

As always Wardie Guides filled many boxes, and we also received boxes from Blackhall Guides. Thank you to all the members and friends of Wardie who donated boxes and who gave generous donations to help with transport costs.

We also received many beautifully knitted items.

All of these gifts will be hugely appreciated by the recipients. Thank you all so much for your generosity.

*Kate Clegg*

### Prayer Corner

*Biblically, waiting is not just something we have to do until we get what we want. Waiting is part of the process of becoming what God wants us to be. (John Ortberg)*

In this season we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas, there are many good Advent resources for reflection & prayer available to help us do this.

One new book that caught my attention is "**The Art of Advent**" by Jane Williams. It is published by SPCK and is promoted as the Archbishop of York's Advent book 2018. This beautiful book takes us on a journey through Advent (and goes a bit further to Epiphany) reflecting on a different painting each day and challenging us as we wait for the arrival of God incarnate. These masterpieces range from through the centuries right up to the present day and are beautifully reproduced in colour in this neat wee book.

Each day leads us into a reflection on a painting and encourages us to think deeply about our Advent journey. Following this text there are a couple of questions that we can think about as we move forward. The day concludes with a short uplifting prayer giving us hope and joy for the day (or night) ahead.

*The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. Lamentations 3:25*

Look out for the new prayer resources available in the sanctuary from this month: Prayer cards, bookmarks, ideas of books and websites to help with daily prayer.

*Jane Scott*

## OPEN DOOR at WARDIE PARISH CHURCH

Join us for our Christmas meal on **Tuesday 11th December** (please note change from normal Monday) in the Main Hall at 8pm. There will be a sheet on the Open Door noticeboard for people to indicate what dish they will be bringing.

**Cost £5 to cover drinks.**

Contact person: **Christine Shepherd**  
[cmshepherd@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cmshepherd@blueyonder.co.uk)

### Thanks from Tilda

Once again Wardie Parish Church and Marion Conacher have been acknowledged in Tilda Mission Hospital's latest Annual Report. Many thanks for all your continued support.

### 'Love Meets Wisdom: Buddhism through Christian eyes'

An introduction to the rich teachings and traditions of Buddhism in dialogue with Christian faith.

**Wednesday 16th January, 13th February, 13th March**

7.30–9.00 pm, New Hall, Wardie Parish Church

The course is **free** and open to all.

*Donations are welcome.*

Kenneth Fleming is a Christian minister who, over 40 years, has engaged in a 'living dialogue' with Buddhism. His interest is both personal and academic; he belonged to a Buddhist monastic order and has written books and articles on Buddhist-Christian dialogue. He has spent several years living and working in Asia, in societies shaped by Buddhist culture and teachings.

\* \* \* \* \* **NEW** \* \* \* \* \*

### Advent Group

Precious time to slow down and reflect  
Exploring different ways of praying with meditative music.

**Monday 3rd, 10th, 17th December**  
**New Hall, Wardie Parish Church, 7 to 8pm.**

Please contact the church office if interested:  
[churchoffice@wardie.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@wardie.org.uk) or 0131 551 3847



A wet and windy evening on 9th November showed Network what many homeless people face every day. By sleeping in the church garden they raised over £1000 for Social Bite. There is still time to donate - visit [www.wardie.org.uk](http://www.wardie.org.uk) for more. Huge well done to Joe, Ben, Ross and Jane for lasting the whole night outside.

## Alternative Christmas Gifts 2018

All gifts will help raise funds for people in need.

### Solar Aid: £10

This will provide two solar lamps for families in Malawi, shining clean light into homes without the toxic black smoke emitted from kerosene lamps.



### SightSavers: £15

Your gift would help to protect 375 children from River Blindness in Uganda. River Blindness is caused by a parasitic worm, transmitted by biting black flies.



### Circle Scotland: £25

Circle works at the heart of deprived communities across central Scotland. Your gift will provide a session for a family affected by drugs or alcohol, with a qualified support worker.



### Social Bite: £35

This would help provide an employee at the Social Bite café with a half-day pay at the Living Wage. 1 in 4 of Social Bite's employees have been affected by homelessness and a job can transform their lives.



*Network has designed cards for each of these charities and will produce them this year to help raise funds in this country and beyond.*

*On sale every Sunday in the Main Hall at coffee time up until Christmas. Please support Network in raising money to help these projects.*

### Postage Stamps

Please save your postage stamps  
in aid of the Scottish Bible Society!  
Collection points are at the front door  
and the Netherby Road Entrance. *Many thanks.*

## Worship at Wardie, December 2018

2nd	10.30am	Morning Service on the 1st of Advent
5th	8.30pm	Midweek Communion
9th	10.30am	Morning Service on the 2nd of Advent
	3.00pm	"On the Lookout for Christmas": Advent Service for Seniors followed by seasonal refreshments
12th	8.30pm	Midweek Communion
16th	10.30am	Nativity Service with Kidz@Wardie and the Junior Choir
	6.00pm	Community Carol Concert followed by refreshments
19th	8.30pm	Midweek Communion
23rd	10.30am	Singing on the Way to Bethlehem – A Countdown to Christmas in words and music
24th	6.00pm	Christingle Service for all generations
	11.15pm	Watchnight Service
25th	10.30am	Interactive Christmas Day Service: "A Travelling Nativity" ( <i>children are invited to come dressed as their favourite characters from the nativity story. Costumes will also be provided</i> )
26th		No midweek communion
30th	10.30am	Welcoming the New Year: "By Gracious Powers So Wonderfully Sheltered" ( <i>kidz@wardie on holiday</i> )

### ❄️ "On the Lookout For Christmas" ❄️ Advent Service for Seniors 2018



Come and join us for  
A short service on the 2nd of Advent  
at Wardie Parish Church

**Sunday 9th December at 3pm**

followed by seasonal refreshments in the Hall.

All Seniors, with family members and friends are welcome!  
For further information, if you need transport or know someone who would like to come, please contact Catriona at the church office on 0131 551 3847 or [churchoffice@wardie.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@wardie.org.uk).

*This service aims to be dementia friendly.*

### Community Carol Concert

**Sunday 16th December, 6–8pm**  
in Wardie Parish Church



Festive entertainment, carol singing and refreshments.  
All are most welcome.

## NEW Wardie's Living Advent Calendar



### You are invited for a taste of Christmas between 1st and 24th December

when a new window or door of the Living Advent Calendar will be opened at a different address promptly at 6pm followed by a short presentation (*music, poetry, creative art, stories or folklore...*) based on an Advent or Christmas theme. The surprises will be as varied as the hosts.

**For a copy of the Living Advent Calendar and route map, please contact [churchoffice@wardie.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@wardie.org.uk) or you can pick up a leaflet at Wardie Parish Church on Sundays at 10.30am and during office hours (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10.00-12.00) or check our website [www.wardie.org.uk](http://www.wardie.org.uk)**

### Christingle Service

**at Wardie Parish Church**  
(please enter by the Netherby Road door)  
**on Christmas Eve at 6pm**



Please come along to celebrate the birth of Jesus, light of the world, the Christ Light. This service is suitable for all ages.

**ABSOLUTE DEADLINE** for contributions for the January edition of News at Wardie: Sunday 9th December.

Please send contributions to Cathy Ballantine at [news@wardie.org.uk](mailto:news@wardie.org.uk)

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