

News at Wardie



www.wardie.org.uk

January 2018

RENEWING OUR VISION



There is a time between Christmas and Epiphany – the feast on the 6th of January which remembers how wise men from the East came to worship the Christ-child – which can be very dangerous. Still in Christmas mood, with plenty of goodwill in our hearts and some free time on our hands, we start to make plans for the coming year. Maybe that's what happens when

you look at too many old photographs, which not only can leave you in hysterical laughter over "bad hair days" of the past, but also make you wonder how long that seems ago – thankfully – and leave you with the desire from now on to make the most of your life. For what could be worse than waking up after Christmas finding that W.H. Auden's poem For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio has become your reality:

Well, so that is that. Now we must dismantle the tree,
 Putting the decorations back into their cardboard boxes –
 Some have got broken – and carrying them up to the attic.
 The holly and the mistletoe must be taken down and burnt,
 And the children got ready for school. There are enough
 Left-overs to do, warmed-up, for the rest of the week –
 Not that we have much appetite, having drunk such a lot,
 Stayed up so late, attempted – quite unsuccessfully –
 To love all of our relatives, and in general
 Grossly overestimated our powers. Once again
 As in previous years we have seen the actual Vision and failed
 To do more than entertain it as an agreeable
 Possibility, once again we have sent Him away,
 Begging though to remain His disobedient servant,
 The promising child who cannot keep His word for long.

Auden captures well the regret which fills us when we fail to do as the three wise men did. They had the courage to return to their home by a different way instead of playing it safe and retracing their steps. They would have run straight into the arms of Herod. And who knows what would have happened then. They may have never lived to pass on their precious story. But they did. They saw and they allowed what they saw to change their course. They had been given a vision of what the future with God holds for them and the world. It is a sign of wisdom to stop, to reflect on our faith, our core values, before we set out, our vision renewed.

At Wardie, as our joint session clerk, Paul Mitchell, explains, we have entered into a similar process:

We have taken the first steps to renew our congregational vision and begin the groundwork for a creation of a new development plan for Wardie which will be prepared in 2018. It is important that we have our vision before we proceed with the drafting of a development plan.

The initial thinking regarding our vision statement is being driven by themes of community and hospitality, two of Wardie's primary strengths.

To start the process we asked for feedback from everyone at Wardie in relation to three questions

1. What are we doing well?
2. What can we improve upon?
3. What new things would you like to see happening?

This data was gathered over the advent period and the results will be reviewed ahead of a half-day conference on Saturday 20th January from 9am–1pm to which everyone is invited. *Please contact the minister or church office if you would like to take part.*

At this conference, we will explore our mission, the core values that shape our ministry, and aim to put together a short vision statement which provides us with a focus as we move forward. In the next stage, we will engage in reviewing the changes that have taken place over the past 10 years at Wardie and in our local community at Trinity.

Regular updates on the progress of the vision and development plan will be given at church, displayed on our showboards and also through News at Wardie.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Paul or myself. If you would like to send us your feedback guided by the questions above, please send them to us before or on the 6th of January. You can use the cut-out slip below to record your ideas.

This New Year, may we all follow the light that led the wise men to Christ.

Ute

Renewing Our Vision

What are we doing well?

What can we improve upon?

What new things would you like to see happening?



News at Wardie, January 2018

The Newsletter of Wardie Parish Church

Minister Ute Jaeger-Fleming
Session Clerks Heather McHaffie and Paul Mitchell
Secretary Catriona Gardiner
Editor Cathy Ballantine

0751 8805732 Email: minister@wardie.org.uk
Email: sessionadmin@wardie.org.uk
551 3847 Email: churchoffice@wardie.org.uk
Email: news@wardie.org.uk

News at Wardie can be received by post, at a cost of £6.00 a year. Apply to the church office

Church Register

On the Roll by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Clare and Robbie Willis
Jo Simpson
Margaret Maguire

Deaths

3rd November Elaine Lugton

Make a difference in your community

Did you know? One hundred and nine members of Girlguiding Edinburgh meet at Wardie Church every week! These are groups of girls aged 5–14 who go on adventures, do craft and cooking, make new friends and have the chance to develop and grow.

However, to keep these groups going, we need new volunteers!

There are a range of volunteer roles – from planning and delivering activities to helping out with the finances or the administration. Volunteering with Girlguiding is fun and flexible. There are plenty of opportunities to develop new skills, meet new people, and spend time laughing, playing and being inspired by incredible girls. Not to mention you have the chance to make a difference in the lives of girls in your community.

We don't need you to have any prior experience with working with young people and there is no minimum commitment. All we need is enthusiasm!

For more information on how to get involved, please contact Anna at boswalldistrict@gmail.com.



Christmas card collection

Following on the excellent response over the past few years to the collection of old Christmas Cards during the Sundays in January, you are invited again to bring your Christmas Cards to church and leave them in the specially marked box at the Church door. The cards will be taken to a central collection point from where they will be recycled and the proceeds will go to various charities including the Woodland Trust. If you aren't ready to part with your cards before the end of January, you can always recycle them via the card/envelope recycling domestic collection service. The advantage of the Woodland Trust collection is that the proceeds go to plant new trees to replace the ones that have been used to produce the Christmas cards.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Christine Shepherd



WARDIE GUILD

Our first meeting of the New Year is on the 10th of January when we are delighted to have Tom Gordon as our speaker. Tom was a Parish minister and then the chaplain at Marie Curie and since retiring has been in great demand as a speaker. Those of you in the Kirk Session may remember him as our speaker at a Session Conference some years ago. His talk is entitled *Stories of Life, Learning and Laughter*. I am sure you will all enjoy the morning and if any non-Guild members would like to come you will be very welcome.

On the 24th of January, our minister, Ute, will talk on *Life at the Ecumenical Community of Taize*. There will be Taize music and images, perhaps a wee video clip... something for the eyes and the ears! I am sure it will be an interesting morning.

Wendy Sodergren

OPEN DOOR at WARDIE PARISH CHURCH

A monthly opportunity for people from the local community to meet and enjoy each other's company, welcome newcomers to the district, or keep in touch with old friends.

Meetings are at 7.30pm, usually in the small hall and open to all ages and sexes.

Monday 29th January: Burns evening

Join us for Burns-themed snacks, some Burns poetry and an appropriate beetle drive

Contact person: Christine Shepherd

4Men: Wardie Gents' Group Dates for your Diary

1st February at Wardie Church

A Purpose-Driven Life
Talk and discussion. Coffee and bacon rolls.

8th March at Wardie Church

Sporting Conversation with Peter Wright. Open to all

**For more information, contact
Paul Mitchell (sessionprojects@wardie.org.uk)
or Grant Ballantine (grantb600@gmail.com)**

Putting the Mo into Motherhood

As it is for many people January brings with it new starts and new expectations and despite not being one for personal resolutions this January will certainly mark the start of a very different year for me, and my family. With a due date of 28th of January I will be off on maternity leave, however, as a member of Wardie, I do hope that I will still be able to make it along to Sunday mornings and more before the baby arrives and again once he's (baby is a boy!) here. I look forward to sharing this new and exciting part of my life with all of you as my church family and to spending time amongst you as a member before returning to post as Youth and Families Worker in April.

Mo Brand, Youth and Children's Co-ordinator

Traidcraft 2017

Traidcraft has experienced many changes in the last year or so: an upbeat new CEO from Germany; a new contact who deals with Fair Traders; and the new courier, whose problems continue intermittently. Traidcraft in Wardie has had a successful year with income for 2017 amounting provisionally to £4,432. That figure includes £1,701 for Christmas orders, £276 for REAL Easter eggs and £132 for a Big Brew in Fairtrade Fortnight involving our MP, Deidre Brock. I have also been able to send thirteen bagfuls of unwanted watches and jewellery to Recycling for Good Causes, the proceeds of which will be donated to Traidcraft Exchange. Although a few people had to wait patiently for their Christmas orders, I'm delighted that nobody was eventually disappointed by any item being out of stock. I am very grateful to all my stall helpers: Ann, Heather, Marina (who retired in the summer), Lana (who sadly died in October), Helen, Mairi, Frances, Christine (now retiring – alas, no more air pillows to play with!), Sarah, Sheila and Ev. Some people in Wardie are extremely generous in their support, but I am grateful to all of you who buy regularly and are willing to try out new products. Donations have been made to Traidcraft Exchange (£230) and Wardie Church (£220).

Now the time has come for me to hand over the stall to someone with more energy and some new ideas. Sarah Boyd is taking over in January; I am confident that the stall will be in good hands and that you will give her the same support you have given me. I have hugely enjoyed organising the stall and working with Traidcraft in Gateshead. The staff there are just lovely and the best possible advertisement for a Christian organisation. I believe very strongly in what they are aiming to do: help very poor people to help themselves and boost both their income and their self-esteem; empower women; and enable communities to choose for themselves how they benefit from the Fairtrade premium. When we put Christ at the centre of our world, they are truly our neighbours.

Rosemary Philip



Traidcraft 2018 ... and beyond

When I read the advertisement in the Order of Service asking for someone to take on the responsibility of the Traidcraft stall I immediately thought that it seemed to be the job for me! The timing was perfect, I felt I had all the right skills and most importantly Fairtrade is an organisation that I really respect for the work it does supporting farmers and businesses in developing countries. I am so glad to have been given this opportunity to become more involved with it and will do my best to carry on all the good work that Rosemary has done over the last 14 years.

Sarah Boyd

Worship at Wardie, January 2018

7th	10.30am	Morning Service <i>Kidz@Wardie and Network resume</i>
10th	8.30pm	Midweek Communion
14th	10.30am	Morning Service
17th	8.30pm	Midweek Communion
21st	11.00am	Ecumenical Service for Christian Unity at St. James Goldenacre <i>No morning service or Kidz@Wardie! Children and young people welcome.</i>
24th	8.30pm	Midweek Communion
28th	10.30am	Morning Service with Full Communion
31st	8.30pm	Midweek Communion

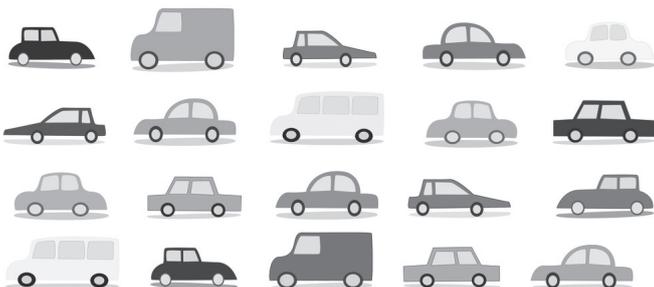
Car transport is available for all Sunday services, including the one on 21st January at St James. If you require transport please contact cmshepherd@blueyonder.co.uk.

Worshipping with our ecumenical partner churches on Sunday 21st January 2018

In January 2017, Wardie enjoyed hosting the ecumenical service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. On Sunday morning, 21st January 2018, we are invited to celebrate this service together with all member churches in St James's at Goldenacre at 11am. There will be space enough for us all. Children are very welcome. There will be no morning service at Wardie that Sunday.

Car drivers needed

As many of you will know, the Pastoral Group organises car lifts to and from Sunday services at Wardie for those who find it difficult to get to church. For this we rely on volunteer drivers, and our list is getting low. At most drivers are called on once a month – and obviously the more drivers on the list, the less often you would be called upon. If anyone feels able to help with this service, which is much valued by those who benefit from it, please contact Christine Shepherd; cmshepherd@blueyonder.co.uk.



Well done Edward!

Wardie Parish Congregation would like to congratulate Edward Beretti Cahen, best known to many as Katy Laidlaw's grandson, on winning the young photographer category of the 2017 Royal Botanic Gardens photography awards. Edward is a frequent visitor to Wardie during his holidays from Paris where he lives and we are very happy to celebrate with him this wonderful achievement. He is pictured above with his winning photograph and certificate.

**WARDIE
PLAYERS
PRESENT**

Dickens' Children
A One-Act Play by Nick Warburton

Performances in Wardie Church Hall
At 7.30pm on January 4th, 5th, 6th

Tickets available from:
Church Office 551 3847

Adults £5, Children £3, Family Ticket (2 Adults 2 Children) £13
Suitable for children and adults aged 8 and over

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE for contributions for the February edition of News at Wardie: *Sunday 14th January.*

Please send contributions to Cathy Ballantine at news@wardie.org.uk

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