

News at Wardie



www.wardie.org.uk

February 2019

WINTRY THOUGHTS



It's mid-January and most of Austria is covered in snow. This is how it should be in winter. But this winter, there is too much snow. Even the tourists who would love to ski down the slopes of the Alps have to stay away and are forced to cancel their hotel rooms.

The snow has caused roads to be blocked, roofs have been damaged. Worse, it has caused harm to human life, to animals and plants. In Scotland, too, so far two hillwalkers have been killed on the mountains which can be unpredictable in wintry conditions. Winter can be hard. We all remember the Beast from the East last year which brought life to a standstill in Edinburgh. Bleak, cold, chilly, frosty, biting, piercing, sharp, raw, unfriendly and bitter are all words the dictionary offers to explain the meaning of wintry.

Yet there's another side to winter.

Henry David Thoreau thought that "many of the phenomena of Winter are suggestive of an inexpressible tenderness and fragile delicacy." For farmers, at least in the past, it could be a quieter time with little or no work to be done out in the fields. It is a time of waiting when the seed lies dormant. Winter means to accept that there is nothing more that can be done. Some seeds, like the humble parsley, even like the cold and need cold and damp conditions to soften their hard shells. Freezing and thawing helps the seed to sprout. Winter, then, is also a time of anticipation. Once the excitement over the first snowflakes has passed, we long for warmer days and for the first green shoots to appear in the parks and gardens.

Samuel Longfellow (1819–1892) captured both the harsh side of winter and what we can learn during this time about God in song:

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
Has left the heav'ns all coldly clear.
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
And all the earth lies dead and drear;

And yet God's love is not withdrawn:
His life within the keen air breathes;
His beauty paints the crimson dawn,
And clothes the boughs with glitt'ring wreaths.

Longfellow did not make light of the adverse effects of the season. And yet he saw beyond it, to where God's love is present and already brings about change. In the 6th century BC when a certain people lived through times of uncertainty, when everything about the future looked rather dull and barren to them, a message from God is given to them in the Book of Comfort (Isaiah 55: 10 and 11):

*As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower
and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

May God's word find its way to us these wintry days.

Ute

The church is looking for a new treasurer. Could this be you?

Robert Anderson, our current treasurer, is standing down at the end of March and we are looking to fill this all-important role as soon as possible. An orderly handover and training will be provided! If you are interested in this role please contact the Finance Convenor, **Rob Matthews**, in person or by email at **FinanceConvenor@wardie.org.uk**. Thank you.



News at Wardie, February 2019

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
552 5026 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 £7.50 a year. Apply to the church office

Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal Thank You

I recently received a lovely 'thank you' certificate, pictured below, from Blythwood for our amazing total of 111 filled shoeboxes. I have pinned it up on the noticeboard opposite the Netherby Road door. I hope that everyone who so generously filled and beautifully decorated a shoebox will look at it and give themselves a well-deserved pat on the back! Thank you all.

Kate Clegg



Shoe Box Appeal 2018 Thank you for filling shoeboxes

*Wardie Parish Church
111 boxes and your amazing support*

shooboxappeal.org

Scottish charity No: SC048001 - Company limited by guarantee No: SC053483 Registered address: Highland Deepgroves, Euanston, Ross-shire, IV16 9LJ

OPEN DOOR at WARDIE PARISH CHURCH

**Monday, 25th February
New Hall 7.30pm**

**Keeping safe: a talk by the Community Police.
All welcome.**

Prayer Corner

***Building relationships, building community, finding
God in dialogue with the world and its people is the
Mission Statement for Wardie Church.***

"We at Wardie are here to love, worship and serve God. The focus of our ministry is to offer hospitality and build community. We aspire to be a beacon of love, hope and support within our community of Trinity, and beyond.

At Wardie, we aim to provide and nurture a safe and inclusive environment where people of all generations can belong wherever they are on their journey of life.

We believe that God calls us to build and strengthen just, caring, mutual and sustainable relationships in church, in society and as members of the global community. We care for the environment and so protect the integrity of God's creation.

We love to communicate with people: to listen, to discuss, to understand and to learn. Through such dialogue we can better find solutions to problems and enhance opportunities to engage in God's work".

Development Plan Steering Group

**Now you are the body of Christ and
individually members of it... Corinthians 12: 27**

*Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for growth in the Church
– banishing apathy, bringing individuals new
blessings, making society whole. May your kingdom
come.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for a deepening of faith a
strengthening of relationships, and grace to perceive
your life in others.*

*May the signs and wonders of your kingdom bring
life and growth to our Church and our world.*

Amen

Mollie Fowler

WARDIE GUILD

Please note that we have a change to our February programme. On **6th February** we will have our own Maureen Kelly who will talk on the **Scottish Sister Travellers and the Sinai Gospels**. This is the often entertaining story of the middle-eastern travels of adventurous Ayrshire twins who, in the 1890s, discovered ancient Christian manuscripts in a monastery in the wilds of Sinai. Knowing Maureen I am sure it will be a very interesting morning.

Don't worry that you are going to miss out on Ute "Losing her Heart in Heidelberg" as you will be able to hear her story on **6th March**... Maureen and Ute have just swapped dates!

On **20th February** our speaker will be Christy Thomson who will tell us about **The Yard** which is home to adventure and play for special needs children and young people. There is an outdoor and indoor play area with fun for every ability.

Wendy Sodergren

A Nepalese Adventure

Thank you to all those who supported me for my trip to Nepal with Raleigh International. I spent 10 weeks in rural Nepal from October to December. For six weeks I stayed in two different communities, Rana Gaun and Khastar (both Gorka region), staying with lovely host families which gave me the opportunity to learn and embrace a new culture. During this time we completed a variety of projects including digging toilet pits, digging and filling trenches for water pipes and building tap stands at every house. We also completed various soft projects within the communities working with the school and woman's groups focusing on WASH (water and sanitation hygiene) projects. I also completed a three-week trek in Nepal's beautiful Ruby Valley. Thank you again to all those supported me – I had an incredible time and hope to go back and visit Nepal in the future.

Emma Matthews



The Living Advent Calendar

The invitation: 'Join us for the opening of a new door/window each evening in Advent, at these times...'

What on earth was going to happen?

It started really at the Drop In Advent on December 1st with waffles and Christmas crafts, reflective space, music, mince pies and mulled wine. Essentially it was old and young from the local area coming together to enjoy each other's company and look forward to an uncommercialised Christmas.

Meeting nearly every evening at 6pm in Advent you could have a new experience – 15 minutes max. Did you expect to gaze at the stars and hear a murder story in the manse garden? How many different Nativity sets do you think there are in Trinity? Among many, I saw tiny ones from South America, a knitted one, a silhouette on a window, and heart-stoppingly beautiful figures made in Bethlehem itself from local olive wood. There were spiced drinks, hot chocolate, tea and coffee; mince pies, zimtsterne, gingerbread biscuits, chocolate worms and sweets; olives from Bethlehem, shortbread from Scotland. Lovely surprises everywhere as doors and windows were opened and mini presentations made. Network greeted us in the church with 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas' played on 'boom whackers' – and their smiles were worth this visit alone. Wallace House provided candle-lit serenity, and St. Columba's Hospice led a reflection on bells (some of which we took away to decorate our own trees).

Whoever came – and it was never the same number or people every night – it always began with the ringing of a little bell and singing a carol or song. Shepherds watched their flocks, kings followed the star, Santa got stuck up the chimney, halls were decked with boughs of holly. Did you know that the holly blue butterfly needs both holly and ivy to complete its life-cycle? Oh, yes, we were properly educated both in natural history and what to do with Christmas leftovers. Take 1 uneaten cheesy cocktail football, 1 cocktail stick, 2 Quality Street wrappers, and hey presto! You have another angel. Add in crackers and their jokes, a quiz, lots of candles, pictures, readings, prayers and blessings, mix with love and friendship from age 1 to ??, and you get a Living Advent Calendar.

It was fun, it was short, it was reflective, it was simple. But above all it was a real community activity. How often do you get the chance to drop into a house or garden you have never visited before and know you will be warmly welcomed? It revived the kind of neighbourly connections which we miss in our modern urban settings, and it was certainly a wonderful way to make our journey through Advent.

Thank you to everyone who opened their doors and windows, and to everyone who came through them.

Susan Dyer

Worship at Wardie, February 2019

3rd	10.30am	Morning Service
6th	8.30pm	Midweek Prayer (No Communion)
10th	10.30am	Morning Service (Kidz@Wardie on holiday)
13th	8.30pm	Midweek Communion
17th	10.30am	Morning Service (Kidz@Wardie on holiday)
	3-5pm	Messy Church: "Still small voice"
20th	No Midweek Communion due to Kirk Session	
24th	10.30am	Morning Service
		Traidcraft stall after the service
27th	8.30pm	Midweek Communion

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

I admit it! I am running a wee bit late this time... wish I could say why!

Maybe because Christmas and the New Year seemed to go on for ages and I took myself five weeks of "rain check" instead of just four... whatever... I'm up and running again and phone calls have been made and as usual I have the kind offers of help in flower donations or money or help. Thank goodness!

Below is where we are for the next wee while.

Please contact me if you would like to contribute in any way.

All the best for 2019

Sheila Mann 552 3307

January 13th	Sheila Elder
January 20th	June Garlick
January 27th	Christine Shepherd
February 3rd	Ann Griffiths
February 10th	Jan Livingston
February 17th	John Brown
February 24th	Ann Watson
March 3rd	Jean Carnie
March 17th	Margaret Watson



Wardie Walkers

Wednesday, 13th February

Haddington to East Linton

Meet Clark Road cycle path entrance at 10.00 a.m. for bus.

Bring warm clothes, stout shoes and a packed lunch.

Various coffee shops at East Linton.

Contact Richard Waller for further details.



Wee Sleep Out

Thank You!



THANK YOU for ALL your support for Network Youth Group taking part in the WEE SLEEP OUT in November, organised by Social Bite.

We raised £1322.50 towards helping End Homelessness in Scotland for Good!

Trinity Community Gala 2019

Remember the sunshine and the crowds of 2017's Trinity Community Gala? The fifth Gala will take place this year on 24th & 25th August – so save the date!

The Gala Team would again, following the success of applications from 2017, like to invite applications from local businesses and crafts keen to take a stall at this year's event.

A limited number of stalls are available, so if you are interested, please contact trinitycommunitygala@gmail.com by 30th March.

We look forward to hearing from you!

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE for contributions for the March edition of News at Wardie: Sunday 10th February.

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

Printed by Barr Printers Limited, East Old Dock Building, 6 Dock Place, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6LU