

# News at Wardie



www.wardie.org.uk

December 2019

## CHRISTMAS ON THE GO



Every year, I start the season of Advent thinking, this year Christmas will be less hectic than last year. That the tree will be ordered, collected and decorated in plenty of time; all presents will be wrapped by 23rd December; the Christmas cards will be written and posted before the New Year (no time for unrealistic ambitions); and, of course, this year, we will not be tempted to buy too much food! This year, as in previous years, there is a strong likelihood that at least one of the things on my to-do list will keep me busy until the very last moment, or something will happen that will require me to abandon the list altogether and hurriedly write a new one.

There is a slight sense of frustration when Christmas fails to match the lavish promises spread out before us on TV adverts. The ones where you see families spend the whole day relaxing in front of the fire, after a meal where nothing was burnt, undercooked or overcooked, and when the dishes miraculously take care of themselves, with everybody constantly happy and full of smiles. The only truly amazing thing about such expectations is how we can fall into believing this “false Christmas myth”, a myth that helps to empty our pockets of much money while putting a strain on our relationships with those we love.

In the carol sung by the field mice, Kenneth Grahame described in his book *Wind in the Willows* how the joy of Christmas comes to us from different place than the place of comfort:

*Villagers, all, this frosty tide,  
let your doors swing open wide,  
though wind may follow, and snow beside,  
yet draw us in by your fire to bide;  
Joy shall be yours in the morning!*

If Christmas keeps us busier than we would like, and even turns our lives upside down, we find ourselves in good company. The real Christmas is one big travel show, taking us to an unlikely place, meeting unlikely people, and God among them in a way that sounds strange to us still more than 2000 years later.

The first to get up and go were the three wise men from the East. They set out at “just the worst time of the year” as T.S. Eliot put it. From Matthew’s gospel, we know that Joseph was not only inconvenienced by the news that his fiancée was pregnant but, against his better instinct, he was asked to pack their bags to set off into an uncertain future. Not to mention Mary, who had a revelation that her life would never be the same again once she agreed to let God into her life. The angels did not have a quiet moment either; they were constantly taking messages to all sorts of people. And then there was the star that appeared in the sky, disappeared, and appeared again. It must have taken the shepherds a lot of convincing to get up and go, and leave their sheep at night in a field unprotected.

If God moves down from heaven to earth on Christmas night, how can we resist moving and being moved?

*For ere one half of the night was gone,  
sudden a star has led us on,  
raining bliss and benison –  
bliss tomorrow and more anon,  
Joy for every morning!*

May you discover this Christmas that which moves your heart, what bids you joy, not just for a public holiday, but every new morning from thereon,

Ute

## Christmas Gifts for Children

Gifts for children of any age are welcome at the morning service on 1st December, wrapped in Christmas paper and marked or with a detachable label to show the gender and age of the child for whom the gift is intended.



The Edinburgh Prison Christmas gift collection has been running for over 30 years, and thousands of children have been able to open a present on Christmas morning thanks to your kindness and generosity.

Thank you for your support, *Church and World Team*



# News at Wardie, December 2019



## The Newsletter of Wardie Parish Church

Minister  
Session Clerks  
Secretary  
Editor

Ute Jaeger-Fleming  
Heather McHaffie and Paul Mitchell  
Catriona Gardiner  
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 £7.50 a year. Apply to the church office*

### Church Roll

The Church Roll keeps a record of names and addresses of members, baptisms, deaths and transfer of church lines. If your details change, or if elders or members become aware of any changes, it would be of great assistance to advise the Roll Keeper, Pamela Jack, or Catriona, the Church Secretary, to help keep the church records up to date.

**Contact: churchoffice@wardie.org.uk, 0131 551 3847**

*Thank you!*

### Christmas Retiring Offerings: Edinburgh Street Pastors



During the festive season, Edinburgh Street Pastors will be patrolling the streets of Edinburgh just as they do every Friday and most Saturday nights. There may be a few more partygoers than usual with whom to stop and share a conversation and the streets may be a little more bedecked with decorations and lights but the role of the Street Pastor will be the same – helping, caring and listening. Our volunteers will continue to reach out to those who find themselves homeless, to those who are lost or lonely or alone, to those who are vulnerable or young or both and to those who are struggling with addiction to alcohol or drugs.

The Church and World Committee has very kindly proposed (and the Kirk Session has equally kindly approved) that the retiring offerings on Christmas Eve and the offerings at both the Wardie Primary and Edinburgh Academy Christmas services be donated to Edinburgh Street Pastors to support their ongoing work in our community.

We are so very grateful for the support Wardie shows for the work of the Street Pastors. Please pray for us, that we may continue to be Christ's feet on the streets and be guided to those most in need of our help.

*Lynne Liddall*

### Prayer Corner

*As we enter the season of Advent, remember that we are in a period of anticipation and expectation – what are we getting ready for in this time?  
For the Joy of God's amazing Love.*

Father God,

God of blessings: You shower us with Your Love, yet often we do not see Your gifts of joy.

Help us to reflect on the darkness in ourselves that we hide or the hurt we sometimes do to people and Your world, and help us to seek Your forgiveness, get ready to make a new start.

Spirit of Life: in this season of Advent inspire us to anticipate and to prepare – not just for sharing a feast of food and gifts and singing in celebration of Jesus's birth, but to be truly ready to welcome You into our lives, and open to be changed from within.

As we wait for the Light, we remember those living in physical or emotional or mental pain, or suffering poverty and homelessness, or at risk of abuse or violence across Your world – or those with just a nagging feeling of being somehow 'unworthy' of Your Love.

God of Justice and Peace: we pray for the courage to speak out and to speak up for others.

We think of those for whom Advent and a coming Christmas intensifies dark feelings of loneliness in the busyness, memories of loss or regrets, or just worrying about not meeting people's unrealistic expectations or unaffordable costs for a dream 'Happy Christmas'.

God of promises, God of Love: we pray for the coming Light to clear away all the darkness.

As we are lighting Advent candles or opening the doors, help us see this time ticking down to a special day when Jesus Immanuel, God with Us, Light of the World comes to each of us.

May Your Holy Spirit fill us with anticipation of a new beginning in our relationship with You,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

*Amen*

## Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal

Once again this year, members and friends of Wardie have been wonderful at filling shoe boxes. We have also had some beautiful hand-knitted goods and donations of money. Thank you to Barbara who covered many boxes for us and she also held a masterclass in box



covering at Open Door. Our total number of boxes this year was 90. When I delivered the boxes to the Blythwood shop in Edinburgh I met a young girl who had helped with distributing the boxes to

young and old recipients in Romania. She said she will never forget the look of sheer joy on the faces of those who received them. Thank you for making that possible again this year.

*Kate Clegg*

## 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 9th December: Christmas Party

See sign-up sheet on Open Door noticeboard.

All welcome.

Contact person: Christine Shepherd

## WARDIE GUILD

On **December 4th** we will have some Christmas Fun with myself and Margaret Donaldson! There will be musical entertainment, jokes, festive handiwork (nothing difficult!) and maybe even some chocolate novelties!

Our Christmas lunch is on **11th December** at 12.00 for 12.30pm so pop on your festive outfit and come along to the meal which will be followed by a Christmas sing-along with Margaret Donaldson.

Our first meeting of 2020 will be a talk by Margaret Clarke on our second project – Malawi Fruits.

*Wendy Sodergren*

## Wardie Ladies

Thursday 16th January

### Beating the January blues at Herringbone

Everyone is very welcome to come along for drinks and a natter – friends, family, mums from Toddler Group, Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers – **the more the merrier!**

## Community Carol Concert

Sunday 15th December, 6–8pm



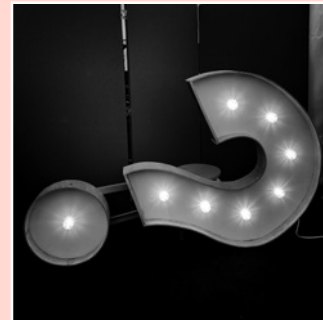
in Wardie Parish Church

Festive entertainment, carol singing and refreshments.

All are most welcome.

## FUN QUIZ NIGHT

MONDAY 13TH JANUARY 2020 at 7.30pm



Beat those January blues and come along to

### Tom and Maureen Kelly's famous Quiz Night

in aid of the Windows Fund. Come as a team or join with friends on the night to take part in this lively event!

Tickets £10, to include refreshments, from Fiona Campbell and Christine Petrie.

## Play Packs for Visiting Children



The chaplaincy team at St Columba's Hospice, with the support of local congregations and community groups, provides a pack for any visiting child to use in the hospice or to take home.

These 'Play Packs' are hugely popular and we are always looking for the following items:

**Pens and pencils.**

**Coloured pencils, wax crayons and felt pens.**

**Little note-books, colouring books, puzzle books and sheets of stickers,**

the sort of things you might put into a party bag!

*We would have to say 'no thank you' to:*

*Paints, glue, glitter, Plasticine etc (too messy).*

Any donations we receive that are not suitable will be sold in the shops so nothing will be wasted.

*Thank you for your support!*



## Worship at Wardie, December 2019

1st	10.30am	Morning Service on the 1st of Advent
8th	10.30am	Morning Service on the 2nd of Advent
	3.00pm	"A Beastly Christmas": Advent Service for Seniors followed by seasonal refreshments
15th	10.30 am	"A Tough Christmas": Nativity Service on the 3rd of Advent with Kidz@Wardie and the Junior Choir
	6.00pm	Community Carol Concert at Wardie Parish Church followed by Seasonal Refreshments
22nd	10.30am	A Countdown to Christmas in Word and Music on the 4th of Advent
24th	6.00pm	Christingle Service for All Generations
	11.15pm	Watchnight Candlelight Service
25th	10.30am	Interactive Christmas Day Service "No Time for Rehearsal Nativity"

*Children are invited to come dressed as their favourite characters from the nativity story. Costumes will also be provided.*

29th	10.30am	Morning Service (Kidz@Wardie on holiday)
------	---------	---

## Advent Service for Seniors 2019

### "A Beastly Christmas"

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



**Sunday 8th 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.

*This service aims to be dementia friendly.*

**0131 551 3847 or churchoffice@wardie.org.uk**

## Wardie's Living Advent Calendar 2019



**Join us for the opening of a new door for these days in December.**

At 6pm for 15 to 20 mins. A surprise (maybe a presentation, story, music or jokes etc) every day, plus carols and refreshments.

***Come and take a moment to look forward to Christmas together. All welcome!***

Monday 2nd	tbc
Tuesday 3rd	33 Boswall Road
Thursday 5th	Church Hall, Netherby Road Entrance
Friday 6th	35 Lomond Road
Sunday 8th	Church Hall, Netherby Road Entrance
Monday 9th	The Bothy, Starbank Park
Tuesday 10th	30 Starbank Park
Wednesday 11th	20 Primrose Bank Road
Thursday 12th	21 Netherby Road
Friday 13th	92 Trinity Road
Monday 16th	20 Larkfield Gardens
Tuesday 17th	40 Lennox Row
Wednesday 18th	6 Primrose Bank Road
Thursday 19th	St Columba's Hospice
Friday 20th	180 Granton Road



## 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 8th December.**

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