

BARCLAY VIEWFORTH

Link

December 2011/
January 2012



BARCLAY
VIEWFORTH

... MAKING KNOWN GOD'S LOVE
IN JESUS CHRIST ...

Church Diary

November 2011

Sun 27 **1st Sunday in Advent**
Morning Service 11.00
Mon 28 Kirk Session 7.30pm
Tue 29 Parents & Toddlers 10.00
Film Club (*various times*)
Wed 30 Prayer Group 7.30

December 2011

Thurs 1 Choir 7.30
Sat 3 Football 10.00
Quest Party 2.30
Sun 4 ***Last day to return Thank***
Offering envelopes
Morning Service 11.00
& Church Lunch
Evening Service 6.30
Mon 5 Connect Group 7.30
Finance Group envelope
evening
Tue 6 Parents & Toddlers 10.00
Afternoon Fellowship
Christmas Lunch
Film Club (*various times*)
Wed 7 Prayer Group 7.30
Thurs 8 Choir 7.30
Fri 9 Christmas Tree Party 7.00
Sat 10 Football 10.00
Sun 11 **Morning Service 11.00**
Gillespie Crescent Carol
Service 3.00
Atrium 5.00
Carols on the Steps 6.30
Mon 12 Connect Group 7.30
Tue 13 Parents & Toddlers 10.00
Bruntsfield School Nativity
Film Club (*various times*)
Wed 14 Prayer Group 7.30
Sat 17 Football 10.00

Sun 18

Mon 19
Tue 20
Wed 21
Sat 24

Sun 25

Mon 26
Tue 27
Wed 28

January 2012

Sun 1

Mon 2
Sat 7

Sun 8

Mon 9
Tue 10
Wed 11
Sat 14

Sun 15

Mon 16
Tue 17
Wed 18

Nativity Service 11.00
Church Christmas Party
Carols by Candlelight
6.30

Connect Group 7.30
Parents & Toddlers 10.00
Film Club (*various times*)
Prayer Group 7.30
Christingle Celebration
7.00

Watchnight Service 11.15

Christmas Day Family
Celebration 10.30

NO Evening Service

CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED

Painters in Church Centre
for 2 weeks

Prayer Group 7.30

Morning Service 11.00

No Evening Service

Church office closed

Football 10.00

SOUPER SUNDAY

Morning Service 11.00

Evening Service 6.30

Fabric Group 7.30

Film Club (*various times*)

Prayer Group 7.30

Football 10.00

Morning Service 11.00

Evening Service 6.30

Atrium 5.00

Connect Group 7.30

Parents & Toddlers 10.00

Safeguarding Training 6.45

Film Club (*various times*)

Prayer Group 7.30

Alpha

Magazine deadline

(Continued on page 20)



From the Manse

The Word on the Street – The word is that There is Meaning

**“...the Word became flesh and made his
dwelling among us” John 1v14**

Back in January I started the year reflecting upon the word “Logos” which is the Greek word used by John and translated here as “Word”. I said then, that *“the “Word” is another way of speaking of Jesus, but to John and his readers the Greek word “Logos” carried a deeper significance since it referred to that which gives expression to meaning. It was used to describe the “logic” or the rationale, or the ordering principle at the heart of things. Through this Logos (Word) everything was made and without this Logos (Word) nothing was made that has been made. In other words everything has meaning, and there is nothing without meaning in this life.*

Since then my reflections have been deepened by reading Alistair McGrath’s book “Surprised by Meaning” and Viktor Frankl’s “The Unheard Cry for Meaning”, and “Man’s Search for Ultimate Meaning”. McGrath, drawing upon the human pre-occupation with crime scenes, detective stories and murder mysteries suggests that there is a human yearning to make sense of seemingly unrelated bits of information so that a mystery is solved or a meaning is found. He also bemoans the fact that we are now bombarded with a “tsunami” of information. Facts, figures, and a constant shower of stuff from the internet threatens to drown many of us in a sea of meaningless information.

Frankl argues that human beings are the only meaning-seeking creatures alive; without meaning, our lives are diminished and can go in the direction of animal instincts or into a dark world of meaningless despair or “existential frustration” where we feel we have no choices, are victims of our circumstances, can easily be replaced by another and have nothing to live for. In the *Unheard Cry for Meaning*, he tells of a report in which 60 university students who had attempted suicide were screened afterwards in an attempt to understand their state of

mind. Of these 60 students, 85% gave the reason for the attempted suicide as being the meaninglessness of life! 93% of these 60 students were actively engaged socially, were performing well academically, and were on good terms with their family groups.

Frankl goes on to compare this single report with a phenomenon that is replicated across America and makes this conclusion. "For too long we have been dreaming a dream from which we are now waking up; the dream that if we just improve the socioeconomic situations of people, everything will be okay, people will become happy.....even more people today have the means to live but no meaning to live for!" (p21).

But what is a Meaningful Life? Well I would suggest that the most meaningful of lives was lived out among us many years ago. Meaningfulness became flesh and moved into our neighbourhood. It is a life that encourages a defiant refusal to be the victim of our past, our genes, our environment, and our circumstances. The trend of sin stopped with Jesus! Watch Jesus, in communion with His Father, transcend the cultural expectations of His day and the spiritual apathy of His day to be the devoted Son of the Father, though bound to human flesh was yet without sin!

Again a meaningful life is a life that knows that even within our unavoidable limitations we can find real meaning. Jesus was born into a peasant home and grew up in poor village out of which some said, "nothing good can come!" yet God had prepared a meaningful life for Him inspite of these limitations! Modern examples might be Helen Keller who lived with blindness, Franklin Roosevelt who lived with lameness, and Fyodor Dostoevski who lived with epilepsy yet all three found meaning for their lives. A meaningful life is a life that recognises that each life is unique and therefore irreplaceable. Of course, there was no other human being as unique as Jesus, the Word made flesh, God incarnate, but it is also true to say that every human being has their own uniqueness. No one else is standing where I am standing, and feeling what I am feeling right now. It is interesting that when God came amongst us He chose to come as a single human being. Surely every single human being is of value to such a God! A meaningful life is a life that is lived responsibly. Holy

living is responsible living. To love God is to respond to Him in a way that transcends our own interests and takes account of His. To love others is to respond to them in a way that transcends our own interests to take account of theirs. A meaningful life is a life that chooses to give rather than seeking to get! Jesus laid down His life for us. Wow! A meaningful life is also a joyful life. Joy is a theme that recurs over and over again in John. When we seek joy we end up losing it, but when we find meaning in our lives the by-product is a deep joy that no one and nothing can take away. There is more to be said on the subject but I encourage you to come and meet the Word for in Him there is found a Meaningful Life.

Warm Seasonal thoughts and prayers for Christmas and the New Year

Sam



**Blythswood
Shoebox
Collection**

Many thanks to all who brought shoeboxes along to the service at the start of November or who gave financial donations.

Over 100 shoeboxes were collected. Your efforts will bring a smile to some faces this Christmas.



Seasons Greetings!

As time races on through these long nights of winter allow me to highlight some dates on the horizon for the coming New Year.

Atrium

A time and a place to grow in waiting in the Lord's presence together and listen to His voice.

Here are the planned dates for the early part of next year. We will meet at 5-6pm in the Chalmers Hall. All are most welcome!

15th & 29th January
12th & 26th February
11th & 25th March

Invest Church Planting Course

There will be a group of students and teachers who are part of a year-long course in church planting and mission at Barclay Viewforth over the weekend of the 20th-22nd of January. We will be using a hall within the church centre as a base for this teaching weekend. If there are any keen bakers who fancy providing some 'brain fuel' in the form of cakes or tray bakes, then please feel free to make your glorious and very welcome contribution! Additionally, please be remembering these seven students in your prayers.

Alpha

In mid January we intend to run an Alpha course. If you would like to attend this course, or know of someone who would like to attend, then please register interest in the church office. Additionally, if you would like to help out in organising this course (and subsequent courses) then please do let me know.

The course will run for 10 weeks from mid January and will

probably happen on a Wednesday evening (though this detail is not confirmed as yet).

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a very blessed New Year.

With love and best wishes
Howard

Christmas Services at Barclay Viewforth



Singing the Word on the Street #Advent 3
7pm, Sunday 11 Dec

Christmas carols on the steps at BV, followed by mince pies and mulled wine



The Gift that keeps on Giving #Advent 4
11am, Sunday 18 Dec

The children's Nativity



Hearing the Word by Candlelight #Advent 4
6.30pm, Sunday 18 Dec

A candlelit service with readings and carols



Light of the World #Christmas Eve
7pm, Saturday 24 Dec

Our Christingle service



Waiting for the Word #Christmas Eve
11.30pm, Saturday 24 Dec

With carols from 11.15, a Watchnight service to bring in Christmas Day



Come, meet the Word #Christmas Day
10.30am, Sunday 25 Dec

An all age celebration of Christmas

Not Quite Farewell

I began my Probationary placement at Barclay Viewforth in September 2010. It seems a long time ago.



I had a funeral service to conduct in my first week and took the full Sunday Morning service, because Sam was away, in my second week. That could be called a baptism of fire or just a good introduction to the very busy, challenging and rewarding experience of ministry at Barclay Viewforth.

I feel that over the last 15 months I have learnt and developed a great deal, and I feel immensely indebted to you all, for all of your support and encouragement. My placement officially comes to an end with the end of November and Fiona and I are now actively seeking where we shall go to next.

There are a large number of parishes currently vacant and we are prayerfully trying to ascertain God's will as we visit various Churches in Scotland. This is both exciting and terrifying in about equal measure. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for us as we continue this process.

In the meantime you are not getting rid of me that quickly! I am hoping to be involved in a number of Sunday services up to Christmas and also continue with the exciting new connect course. I would like to just end this by saying a great big thank you for giving me the privilege of ministering among you, and for all of your love, support and encouragement.

Adrian Lough

Post Script from the Session Clerk

Adrian and Fiona came with considerable experience of cross cultural mission from their work in Uganda and Southern Sudan, using those skills here in running an Alpha Course for those whose first language was not English, for example. The ESOL Alpha was attended by a good number of Chinese students, some of whom also came along to the *Test of Faith* course which Adrian organised.

The cross cultural input supported our initial steps into Emerging Church forms of mission, and Adrian's preaching style really fitted with the biblical teaching that is part of our Sunday services. He seemed to become part of and fit with the ministry team straight away. We'll especially remember his three part rule of biblical interpretation (that's "context, context and context") and the way he applied his RAF experience to reflections at our Remembrance services.

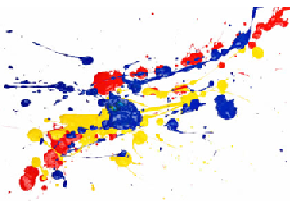
It was a surprise to find that we had a probationer who had been in the year ahead of me in Secondary School (when Sandy Nicolson was doing the children's worship at the morning service it was a Culloden Academy early-80s hat trick). But whether or not the next step takes Adrian and Fiona back up north, I'd like to pass on everyone's hope for God's continued blessing on their ministry, our thanks and our best wishes for the future.

JR



Painting in the Church Centre

The painters will move into the Church Centre (and various other areas in the church) from Tuesday 27



December for 2 weeks. This may cause some disruption over that period, but it will be worth it to have everything looking bright and cheerful again.

Afternoon Fellowship

Last month Ann Chiswick came to tell the Afternoon Fellowship about her work on the Children's panel.

The meetings are held in informal surroundings. The panel may sit behind a table, the parents, social worker and youth worker sitting in front with the child in the centre chair. There are 3 members of the panel at any one time; both men and women serve on it and all are volunteer lay people. The Panel meet in the morning and hope to finish by 2pm; it is very hard work as the members must know about the children coming in front of them, and often have to read many pages of reports beforehand.

Children involved could be of any age, young children whose parents neglect them, older foster children who are encountering difficulties with foster parents or children getting into trouble, for example. Decisions are made by the panel members about the children's future.

There were about 14 of us listening with great interest as it was a subject of which we had little knowledge.

Jean Stirling

Afternoon Fellowship Christmas Lunch out

Tuesday 6 December 2011
12.30 for 1.00 at the Golf Tavern
2 course, and Coffee & mince pies
for £9.95.

Booking is essential. Please speak to Elaine Hogan, Jean Stirling or Jean MacAulay for more information or telephone the church office.

Burns Lunch

Tuesday 24 January
1pm in the Pillar Hall
Please sign up in the Pillar
Hall to book a space for
this event.

All are welcome to attend
these events.



Barclay Viewforth is a very friendly place, where members often help each other out, occasionally even without being aware of the contribution they have made.

Sometimes it is not easy to know how to let people know how much their help is appreciated, and it has been suggested that a regular "thank you" slot could be added to the magazine.

Contributions are invited from everyone who feels they would like

to acknowledge help and support, in whatever of the many forms it has been offered.

Lesley Anderson has started the ball rolling this month:

"Lesley A says thanks to everyone for their prayers, good wishes and practical support over recent months and is happy to report that her Mum (Norma) is now doing well - very appreciative of all concern and really looking forward to joining B/V members for the Christmas services which she so enjoys!"

I would also like to thank everyone for the support and encouragement I have received while my mother, Lorna, has been in hospital. Your concern and friendly enquiries have been much appreciated, and I know my mum has been glad to hear that people in the congregation have been asking after her. She has also received flowers several times from the Sunday morning service, and these have done much to brighten her day.

Elaine R

Meet one of our New Members

Hi everyone!

My name is Nivalda Santos. I was born in Brazil, but lived in Portugal from 2001 until last year.



I've joined this community not long ago, but it feels as if I have always belonged here. Everyone is so friendly, there is no way one can feel it different. October 30th was my Communion Day and I was very pleased with that beautiful service organised by the church. I even sang with the choir.... For me it was a day to remember.

Edinburgh is my home now, and I hope to keep making good friends. Thank you for your hospitality. God Bless.

Nivalda.

Christmas Tree Party

The traditional Christmas Tree 'party' will take place on Friday 9th December at 7.00pm.



Come along and help decorate the church trees, etc , get to know some folks better, enjoy a carol or two by the light of the tree and end the evening with mulled wine and mince pies.

Join us if you are able.



Show you care this Christmas

We sell good quality fresh locally grown Christmas Trees that don't shed their needles. They are

available to order and collect from sites throughout Edinburgh, **ALL profits made from the tree sales in Edinburgh go to support the work of Bethany Christian Trust.**

All our trees are freshly cut especially for us. We stop taking orders about a week before the collection date to allow the team at the Christmas Tree Farm enough time to get all the trees cut.

Don't miss out - place your order today. Last date for orders is 12 December 2011. Order online from:

www.caringchristmastrees.com or call 0845 111 8733.



Origin Scotland presents
The Exile Band, Choir and Orchestra in
Christmas According to Hollywood
with the St Peter's Primary School Choir

Tickets £15, £12, £10 & £8 - Concessions available
From: [www.http://www.usherhall.co.uk](http://www.usherhall.co.uk) or at the
Usher Hall Box Office

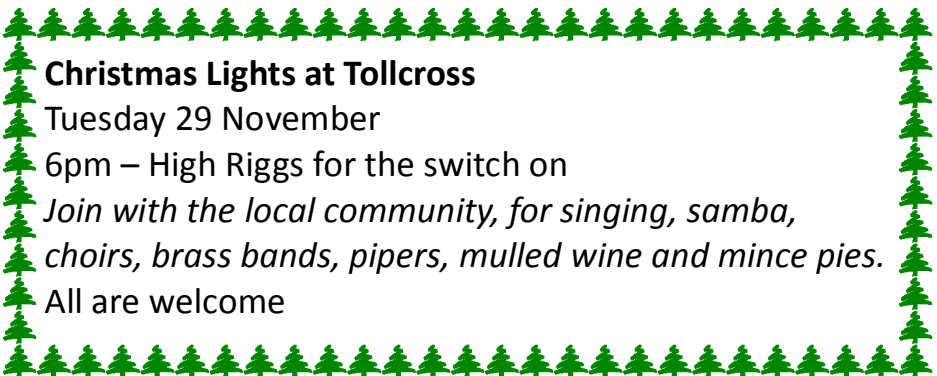
VINE TRUST BARGE

The new home of the Vine Trust is now situated at Prince of Wales Docks. It's also now a centre for Global Citizenship which can be used by school groups who want to learn about children in different parts of the world. The Barge was officially opened by Princes Anne (patron of the Vine Trust) at the end of September and has since opened its doors for conferences and open days for those wanting to find out more about the work of the Trust in Peru and Tanzania. Visits can be arranged for anyone interested.

Tanzania in 2012

A number of Barclay Viewforth stalwarts and, hopefully, a few new recruits will be part of a team heading to Tanzania on 9 July 2012 to continue the work started this summer. We were involved in several building projects, one of which was funded by the money the BV team raised prior to going to Tanzania. Thanks to all of your efforts in supporting our coffee mornings, donations, etc the £2000 raised was able to pay for the building of a house for Mama Maro and her children (their previous house had big cracks and holes in it.) Our hope is to continue to raise money so that more homes can be built to help protect the vulnerable.

If you might be interested in joining the trip to Tanzania please speak to Elaine Hogan as soon as possible for more information.



Christmas Lights at Tollcross

Tuesday 29 November

6pm – High Riggs for the switch on

Join with the local community, for singing, samba, choirs, brass bands, pipers, mulled wine and mince pies.

All are welcome

Christmas Coffee Morning

in aid of the Vine Trust Tanzania Project

Saturday 10 December

10.30-1.00 in the Pillar Hall

Tea/Coffee and scone/cake for £3

Homebaking also on sale.



Tickets available from Elaine/Chris/
Matt Hogan; Mhairi/Robin
Anderson; Fiona Yeats

Congregational Roll

Deaths

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

Mrs Jean Short, Ethel Terrace

Mr Hugh Rose, Gillespie Crescent

New Members

Nivalda Santos

Amon Kandoje

LEGACIES

The Congregational Board would like to record grateful appreciation for the following legacies:

Miss Jessie Paulin - £1,000

Miss B. Winifred Hogg - £10,000

**SPECIAL EVENT FOR INTER FAITH WEEK
Saturday 3rd December – 6pm to 7.30pm**

Big Curry Night In aid of Mary's Meals

Share food with old friends and new at the Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association's Community Meal, with all proceeds going to the Scottish-based charity, Mary's Meals.

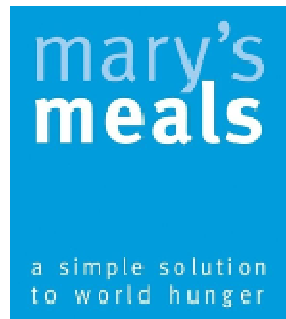
Mary's Meals now feed 581,000 children every day in 15 countries alongside their growing aid programme in Somalia. On the occasion of the 2011 Inter-Faith Week, we would like to make a difference to the lives of children in Africa. Normally, our monthly Community Meal is free or by donation, however on this occasion a ticket is £6.20. It is hard to believe that this £6.20 will feed a child for a whole year in Malawi through the great works of Mary's Meals.

Tickets available now in advance from Hub Tickets 0131 473 2000 and www.hubtickets.co.uk. Please note there is a 50p booking charge.

For more information on Mary's Meals, visit www.marysmeals.org

We acknowledge with thanks the Lauriston Jesuit Centre for hosting us and freely giving their venue and kitchen. We can stay longer after 7.30pm for tea/coffee and chat.

Come and join us for a big curry and feed a child for a whole year in Malawi at the same time!



Quest News

Some Dates for your diary:

The Annual Christmas Party is on Saturday 3rd December at 2.30 to 4.00. Santa has been told about the party and should be in attendance.

Our Nativity Service is on 18 December. Your children will have been allocated a role. It would be helpful if they could attend church on the Sundays before to practise. On the 18th it would be great if your children could be at church for 10.00 to prepare for the service. There is an all age Christmas Party after which should be great fun. This is the first and I would encourage you to attend- the more the merrier!

Safeguarding

The Church of Scotland has made the protection of vulnerable groups in its membership a priority. It is in the process of implementing in set stages new Safeguarding Rules. It has implemented the disclosure of new volunteers working with the young under the new scheme. The next stage will be the disclosure of Pastoral Workers caring for the elderly and incapacitated adults. It is not clear yet whether it will just be new workers or new and existing but clarification will be provided in due course. A safeguarding Event has been arranged to take place on **17th January 2012 at 6.45 -10.00** in the Pillar Hall. If you are currently working with children, the elderly or adults with incapacity in the church I would encourage you to attend. Spaces are limited therefore I would be grateful if you could email me on elaine.coull@nhs.net or ring 447 2331 to book your place. The Church of Scotland does encourage volunteers to attend regular training to maintain best practice. So if you have attended a training session a few years ago it would be good to update your knowledge.

Elaine Coull



News from Barclay Viewforth United

Firstly I must correct a small but not insignificant inaccuracy in last month's football update. By October last year the Church's football team were not in fact pointless in the ESCFA league.

We had of course recorded our first result, a win, against Charlotte Chapel the previous month. Good, got that one off my chest.

The gist of last month's article was that Barclay Viewforth United's performances in the league during season 2011/12 have greatly improved over our inaugural season. Three wins, four draws and five defeats have propelled us to the admittedly none too lofty spot of eleventh place; however there is a hefty twelve point gulf between the bottom team and your crimson clad favourites.

Last Saturday's match against that very bottom team, Broxburn, demonstrated how quickly things can change in football as in life. Our West Lothian opponents, last season's champions, currently sit fourteenth in the league. The match, played in glorious Autumn sunshine on a 3G artificial grass surface at Forresters High School was a choppy end to end affair with countless chances going begging for both sides.

After going 2:0 up through Billy Somerville and Jamie Scott within 20 minutes and on finding ourselves 4:1 up midway through the second half I suppose I should have been disappointed to finish with a 4:4 draw, but not so. With central defender, John Campbell and goalkeeper, Geoff Hunter both acrobatically clearing off our

goal line in the closing minutes I knew a point would happily suffice. Broxburn pushed for their first win of the season and fourteen months on how I empathised with their manager Scott McDonald albeit not quite enough to will them to do it.

Port Seton away, a rescheduling of a match postponed three months ago, constitutes United's final game before the league splits in two. Like Port Seton we will be in the second tier and will have a return against them on 3rd December and against Niddrie Community Church on 10th December. Before then looms a tough away ESCFA Cup match against Gorgie on 26th November. The Cup match will be decided on the day going to extra time and penalties if necessary. Tuesday evening training and practice is now established at Bangholm sports complex. It runs from 8.30 to 9.30pm on a fullsize floodlit astro pitch. Around thirty men now have regular involvement with Barclay Viewforth's football set up of whom four are Christians who are also members of the church. If you are reading this and have some interest in playing football or spectating it would be good to have you along on Tuesday evenings and/or Saturday morning match days. Prayer for the direction of the football squad, regardless of mere match results, would be greatly appreciated as we move towards Christmas and beyond.

As ever if you have any football related questions or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Andrew Stephenson



CHILL OUT ZONE **FOR CHILDREN** **ONLY**



With winter well on its way and the possibility of snow soon, our thoughts inevitably turn to Christmas. What is your favourite part of Christmas?

The food? The crackers? Getting presents?

Personally, I really like giving presents (as well as the wee sausages wrapped in bacon). I think it is great to see that you have made someone else happy with what you have given them. When Jesus was born, he came to give us the best gift of all. He gives us forgiveness, a fantastic way to live our lives, a protector, and a friend who will never let you down. The three kings knew this, and they brought presents in return.

Try to find them, and some other presents in the word-search.

Myrrh Frankincense Gold Sweets Toys
 Chocolate Doll Toy Car

M	S	A	D	O	L	L	H	A	A	B	E
M	Y	U	T	R	I	P	N	D	G	S	J
W	O	R	C	H	A	R	C	O	N	B	T
E	T	H	R	E	I	L	L	E	C	H	O
A	A	S	V	H	D	D	C	A	L	T	Y
S	W	E	E	T	S	N	I	A	C	E	C
U	Y	R	E	V	I	D	E	O	S	L	A
K	N	P	L	K	E	J	A	C	H	G	R
Q	T	L	N	A	N	C	S	T	A	O	S
A	L	A	T	E	D	D	I	E	S	A	N
E	R	E	G	A	M	E	S	M	F	H	D
F	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	D	R

None of these gifts though, are even half as good as the gift that Jesus brought us at Christmas.

“I come to give you life, and life in all its fullness” *Jesus*

SUNDAY MORNING TEA ROTA

As this will be the last Magazine for this year I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the members who have supplied us with tea and coffee after the morning services over the past year.



There are still a couple of free dates on the rota so if anyone feels that this is something they could do please don't be shy and add your name to the rota which you can find on the wall just inside the door of the kitchen. If you would like more information on this please feel free to speak to me on a Sunday morning. The rota for the first three months of next year will be put up shortly and it would be nice to see the usual helpers' names on the rota as well as a few new people.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Every Blessing,
Jean MacAulay

Church Diary continued:

Sat 21 Football 10.00

Fri 27 Magazine Assembly 2.00

Sat 28 Football 10.00

Sun 22 Morning Service 11.00

Evening Service 6.30

Sun 29 Morning Communion

Mon 23 Congregational Board???

7.30

Service 11.00

Gillespie Crescent

Tues 24 Parents & Toddlers 10.00

Afternoon Fellowship

Burns Lunch 1.00 pm

Film Club (*various times*)

Communion Service 3.00

Atrium 5.00

Evening Communion

Wed 25 Prayer Group 7.30

Alpha

Service 6.30