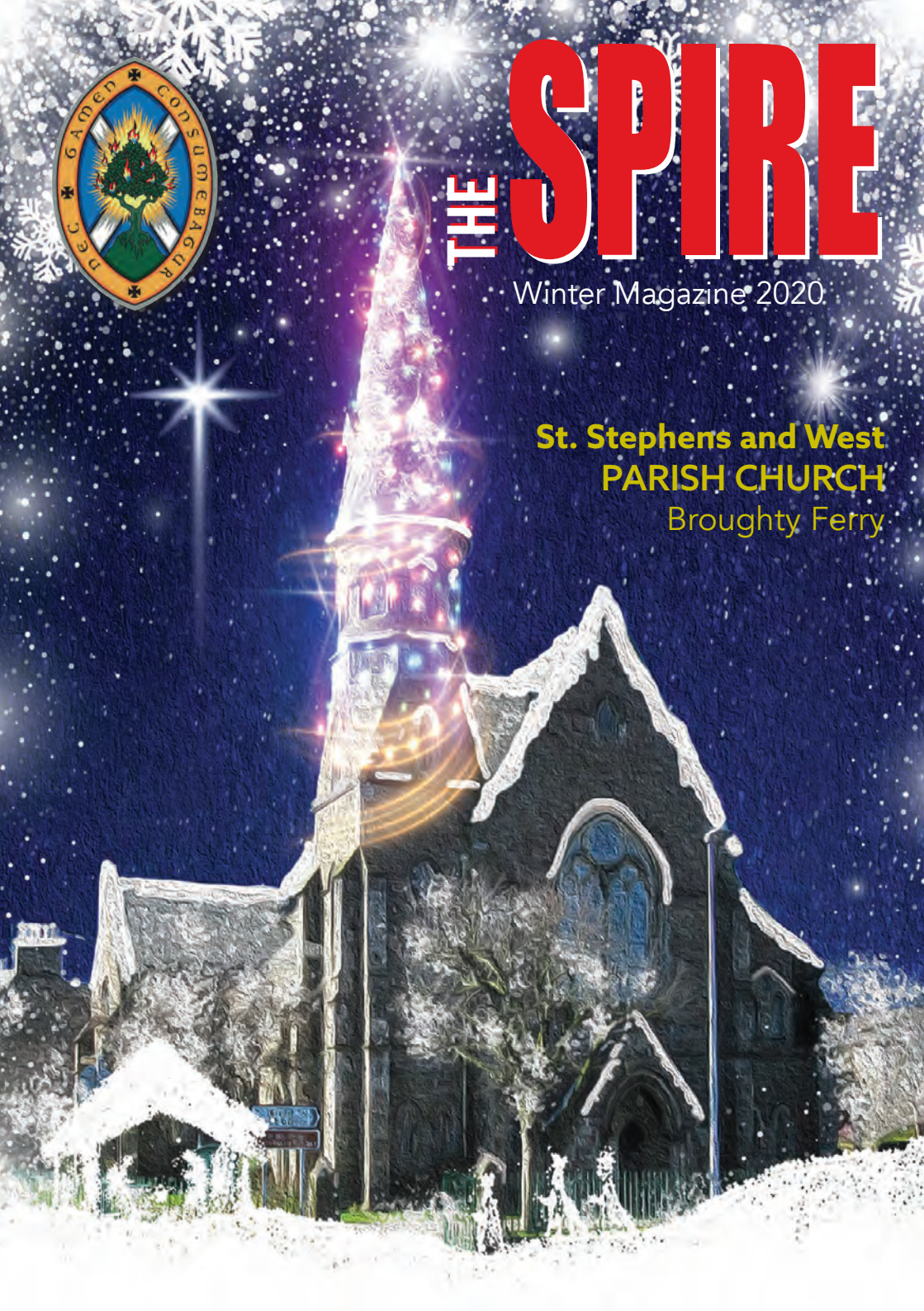




THE SPIRE

Winter Magazine 2020

**St. Stephens and West
PARISH CHURCH**
Broughty Ferry



The story of Christmas

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

From Luke 2: 1-20

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

"Love is born at Christmas." *(Contributed by KFH)*

This is a piece of creative writing in which scene and setting are wholly imaginary, characters fictitious but the message imparted, a very real one.

We had always been a very "proper" family, never very demonstrative. We seldom hugged and almost never kissed. We men shook hands. Father taught us to give a firm, manly handshake and to look the other fellow in the eye while doing so.

But as my father grew old, I saw that he became far less inhibited. He was not ashamed when others saw him weep. He finally found freedom to take my mother's hand and kiss her in front of the grandchildren, something we never had seen him do in his younger years.

Some may have equated his new found freedom with senility: I attributed it to maturity. Dad once told me that the older he became the more he realised he had confused spontaneity with impropriety. Life is too short not to show our genuine feelings.

As I watched my father become free and felt my own love for him growing, I too, longed to express my affection in a more meaningful way. Yet every time I was with him and the time came to say goodbye, instead of bending to kiss him I always stuck out my hand. Even the words, "I love you" were caught in my throat. I wanted to say them, but I was too afraid to try.

Finally, I could stand it no longer. My sophistication and twisted concepts of masculinity were choking me. One Saturday afternoon I made a special trip to my parents' house, thirty five miles away.

Walking into my father's study, I found him in his wheelchair working on his accounts.

"I have come for one purpose," I said.

"I want to tell you something and then I want to do something."

Suddenly, I felt like a fool. I was forty seven

years old: he was eighty six. But I had come this far and was not going to back out.

"I love you," I said, choking on the words.

"Is that what you came to tell me?" he asked gently, putting his pen on the desk and placing his hands on his lap.

"You didn't have to come all the way down here to tell me that. But I am very glad you did."

"I've wanted to say those words for years," I said.

"I find it easy to write them down but it has been difficult for me to say them. Perhaps I needed to say it more for me than for you."

His face grew pensive and he nodded slowly.

"There is something else," I said.

He did not look up but continued to stare straight ahead. I bent down and kissed him, first on one cheek, then on the other.

He reached up, took my arms in his strong hands and pulled me down to him so that he could put his arms round my neck. For long moments we remained in that awkward position. Finally he released me and I straightened up. There were tears in his eyes and his lip quivered.

Looking up at me, he said, "I know you love me and I hope you keep on telling me, until the day I die."

Something broke loose in me that Saturday afternoon, something that had been all knotted up within me for years.

As I drove home, I felt my spirit soar.

At last, I was free too.

Love was born anew in my heart and it felt very good!



Welcome

to the Winter issue of

St. Stephen's & West Kirk
Magazine
Winter 2020

THE SPIRE

A warm welcome to this the winter issue of The Spire.

I hope you enjoy the articles that have been provided for the magazine and my thanks go to those who have contributed. I am always on the lookout for contributions and this may be articles regarding hobbies,

holidays, stories in fact anything that would be of interest to your fellow members. Just get in contact with me and we could discuss the best way to take the idea forward.

I have added a little Christmas cheer in the magazine because I think we need a little bit of cheering up during these difficult times. Covid 19 continues to be a problem and I have included an update about how it affects the organisation at the church.

After distribution of the magazine to members there are always spare copies left. If you would like an additional copy for giving or sending to a friend or relation or whatever please let me know. Alternatively a number of spare copies are available in the vestibule of the church so feel free to help yourself.



George Anderson

Be safe and best wishes for Christmas and also 2021.

The Parish Register - In Memoriam

In Memoriam: "The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God. There no torment shall touch them for they are at peace."	September 15 2020	John Aimer Grieve 20 Rowanbank Gardens, Broughty Ferry.
	October 18 2020	Frank Cura Redwood Care Home, Broughty Ferry.
	November 1 2020	Jean Milne Orchar Care Home, Broughty Ferry.
	November 6 2020	Muriel Anne Wilkie 76L Strathern Road, Broughty Ferry



In Memoriam: John Aimer Grieve: June 12, 1929 – September 15, 2020

It is written of Abraham, "Thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace. Thou shalt be buried in a good old age, full of years, greatly honoured."

Of our fine friend, John Grieve, we may also say that he too died in a good old age, full of years and is gathered to his father in peace.

The picture I shall always have of him is that of a committed, convivial, circumspect gentleman, steadfastly devoted to all the higher loyalties and sanctities of human life. John served as Session Clerk at St. Stephen's & West Parish Church, his family Kirk, for very many years and to that Office he gave of himself without stint or reserve. Dignified and most



meticulous, John ensured that every Communion season bore a sense of real occasion. His attention to detail was second to none and his knowledge of families within the congregation and their ancestors, truly encyclopaedic.

On leaving school, John joined his father in the retail trade and with characteristic aplomb ran D.A. Whitton Toy and Hardware Wholesalers until his retirement. A kenspeckle figure in Broughty Ferry, John and his most elegant and dignified wife, Dorothy, played a prominent part in Dundee Rotary, where they were highly regarded and widely respected. In 1988, John served as President of Dundee Rotary Club and in 2001 was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship for his hugely significant personal service to Rotary International.

A keen sportsman, John played a mean game of tennis and allegedly on one occasion in Pitlochry when Broughty Ferry Lawn Tennis Club won a memorable tournament, John was instrumental in setting off fireworks on the main street in Pitlochry late in the evening. So much for our circumspect Session Clerk!

John loved to dance and Carole, his only daughter, tells that while sifting through old family photographs, she found numerous images of her Dad escorting young ladies to dances at The Chalet. Allegedly, he brought so many of them, hopefully not all at once, to Sunday lunch at his parent's home in Home Street, that his father called them all, Susie, as he couldn't remember all their names! Carole, her husband David and their two daughters, KFH

Christine and April, cherish among a wealth of fond memories, the fact that John celebrated his ninetieth birthday still living independently at his home in Rowanbank Gardens.

Of a truth, John's passing from us is not so much a loss, as great gain. We are all privileged to have been influenced by this very fine man: one who valued genuine friendship, warmth of understanding and compassionate concern for those so rudely circumstanced.

In his final Ode, Horace, that giant of Roman satire, refers to the sterling life and work of a noted individual, thus: "exegisti momentum aere perennius" John Aimer Grieve, truly "thou hast wrought a monument, (in this your Kirk), more durable than bronze."

NOTE OF APPRECIATION from the Minister



Dear Friends,

The Minister wishes to place on record his warm appreciation for the unfailing loyalty and increasing generosity of members and friends towards the wellbeing of our delightful family Church: St. Stephen's & West. While we all miss congregational singing during Services of Worship and of equal importance, the friendly banter shared in the Hall over Coffee tables after Worship and indeed, at our several Saturday Coffee Mornings and Cream Teas, nevertheless we remain in good heart. Recent statistics published by The Church of Scotland reveal that the family of St. Stephen's & West play a significant part in the wider work of the Kirk: the graph grows in a positive and healthy direction.

Owing to COVID 19 restrictions we are unable to hold United Services of Worship over the Festive Period. Please note that Morning Worship will be held within St. Stephen's & West on Sundays, December 27, 2020 & January 3, 2021 at 10am. Unless stated otherwise, Services of Worship are conducted by the Minister.

Grandpa's Christmas Story

HO HO HO!

Grandpa decided that shopping for Christmas presents had become too difficult. All his grandchildren had everything they needed, so he decided to send them each a cheque. On each card he wrote: 'Happy Christmas Grandpa' P.S. 'Buy your own present!' Conclusion: Now, while Grandpa

enjoyed the family festivities, he thought that his grandchildren were just slightly distant. It preyed on his mind into the New Year. Then one day he was sorting out his study and under a pile of magazines, he found a little pile of cheques for his grandchildren. He had completely forgotten to put them in with the Christmas cards.



Remembrance Sunday



Covid19 restrictions meant that the annual Remembrance Sunday services traditionally held all over the UK were for the first time in 100 years cancelled or dramatically changed because of social distancing.

It is correct that we at St. Stephens and West remember the sacrifices of others over the years who have taken part in the many conflicts and for some paid the ultimate sacrifice.

We will remember them.

During the dark days of the Blitz, John Gillespie Magee, Jr., was one of the many Americans who enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Within a year, he was sent to England and assigned to the No. 412 Fighter Squadron, RCAF, where he flew the Supermarine Spitfire. On September 3, 1941, he flew a high-altitude test flight in a new model of the Spitfire V. As he climbed upward through 33,000 feet, he experienced great exhilaration which inspired his immortal line, "to touch the face of God." He later expanded it into a poem.

Three months later, he was killed in a midair collision. He was only 19 years old. High Flight has since become the most famous aviation poem ever written. It has inspired countless aviators and astronauts.

High Flight

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds ... and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of ... wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

GA



CHARITABLE INITIATIVES

MERU Update



To find out more or to donate to the Meru /Dundee partnership, please contact: scemcluckie@btinternet.com

'Greetings in Jesus name ' come from Rev Elijah and the congregation of St Stephens in Meru to us in St Stephens and West. They share our concerns and daily restrictions caused by the coronavirus.

Covid 19 is no respecter of climate nor country and Meru in Kenya is currently enduring a second wave which seems worse than the first.

The kindergarten, along with other schools, closed in March and is dependent on private funding from the church not the government and therefore can neither pay teachers nor provide PPE . This is bad news for the vulnerable children and families they support.

In recent correspondence Elijah says,

'The St Stephens kindergarten was started by the church to cater for the poor i.e. single mother's children and children under the care of grandparents in the locality'. Elijah is very dispirited by the impact of the covid situation on the needy and asks us to pray for them so that hopefully their children can return to school once they reopen.

Fundraising hasn't ceased during lockdown - I've sold 3 paintings and with my grandchildren have sold painted stones raising over £700 for the kindergarten and Limbene PS. If we had had a Christmas fair, I have new African jewellery, macrame flowerpot holders and lovely crossstitch pictures donated by a friend to display. If you are interested in any of these for Christmas gifts please get in touch - scemcluckie@btinternet.com.

I will hold on to any funds until the situation in Meru becomes clearer.

Churches in Meru were opened in mid September for 14-58 year old members but may now be closed because of this second wave.



In the middle of every month since lockdown I've collected toiletries for delivery to Salvation Army and Women's Aid. Friends have been very generous. If you would like to contribute please leave them at my door 47 Camphill Rd. These donations have been very much appreciated.

Meantime I pass on the love and blessings of our fellow Kenyan congregation and my personal best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas.

Sheila

WRBF update

Thanks to all members and their friends who have continued to donate to the Dundee Refugee Support. I am very pleased to report that a container shipment has just gone to Moria Camp, Lesbos, Greece which was recently destroyed by fire. The sorting and packing has resumed and so please continue to gather your donations and they can be once again be put in the basket in the church vestibule. For larger bags please call me. Tel. 736278.



The charity is unable to send backpacks out to Malawi at the moment and their warehouse is full. They will resume as soon as it is possible and I will let you know when this is. Meantime grateful thanks to all who contribute to help fill the bags and hopefully we can continue in the not too distant future.



This appeal has been able to go ahead this Christmas and grateful thanks from Louise Scott, the area organiser for St Stephen's donations of Shoeboxes and fillers. They are being sent to Romania this year and will certainly brighten up many people's Christmas during difficult times.

Jill Oakley - 11/11/20



As ever household goods necessary for setting up home urgently needed - anything from tin openers to towels.

Many thanks to all who have donated,

and as Happy Christmas as possible to all our St Stephens family,

Liz



LIFE ON THE 'AULD ROCK'

Contributed by Margaret Young

In 1973, we as a family moved from Glasgow to Shetland. My late husband worked in the Clydesdale Bank and in those days, to get promotion, you had to be willing to move. This move though, the fourth in only a few years, was quite a challenge, with four young children ranging in age from 3 – 13, none of whom wanted to go to that 'faraway place'.

We weren't the only 'Sooth Mothers' to land in Shetland in 1972 as with the start of the booming oil industry the island saw an influx of over 5000 people, all working to build the refinery at Sullom Voe. Interesting times and once we all found our feet, we managed to settle down and begin to enjoy and embrace island life.

Originally from a small fishing village on the Moray Firth, my husband loved it as his office overlooked the harbour. One of the first things we did was join the 'Big Kirk' where I sang in the choir and the children went to Sunday School. We made lots of friends through the church, many of whom we are still in touch with today.

After 10 years in Lerwick, we left (with lots of tears) for Dundee and Broughty Ferry seemed the obvious place to buy a house, (also near the pier!). We all still have a soft spot for Shetland, in fact two of my daughters who became teachers, went back there to teach - to get it out of their system! I wrote the following poem for the church magazine just before we left.

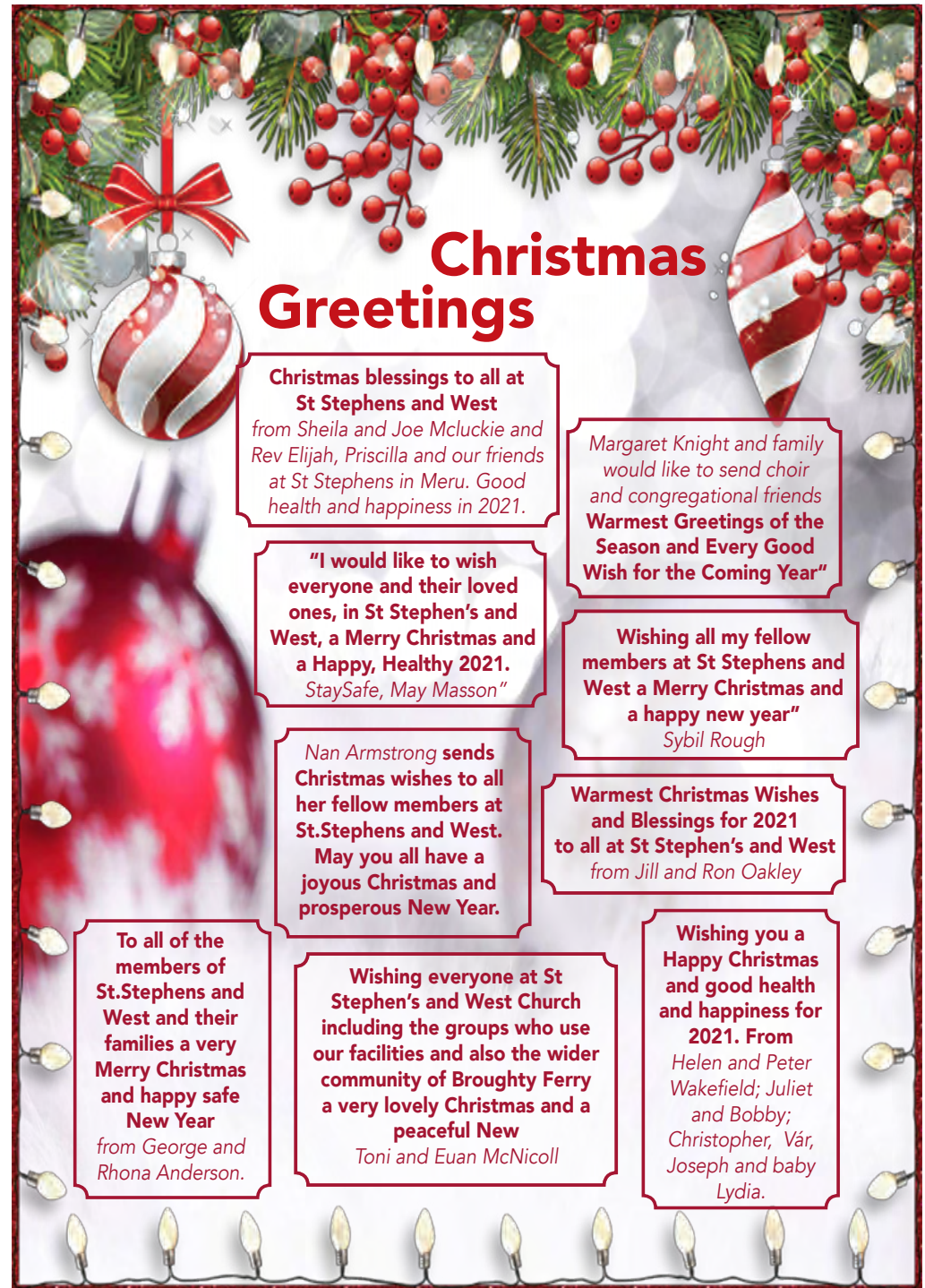
**What will we miss about Shetland?
Apart from the people we've known,
This bare and barren rocky land,
With a beauty all its own.**

**A land of inclement weather,
Where gales relentlessly blow,
Where fog lasts for days, drifting in from the sea,
And there's blind horizontal snow!**

**But oh, what a change when the sun shines,
Then the transformation is grand,
Revealing the magic of Shetland,
The beauty of sea and of land.**

**Light and shade on the hills above Bressay,
Dying rays of a setting sun,
Reflections of sails on still waters,
Bring a peace when the day's work is done.**

**So, we leave with a little sadness,
But we know that wherever we roam,
We'll remember the magic of Shetland,
That for a wee while, we called 'home'.**



Christmas Greetings

Christmas blessings to all at St Stephens and West

from Sheila and Joe Mcluckie and Rev Elijah, Priscilla and our friends at St Stephens in Meru. Good health and happiness in 2021.

Margaret Knight and family would like to send choir and congregational friends Warmest Greetings of the Season and Every Good Wish for the Coming Year"

"I would like to wish everyone and their loved ones, in St Stephens and West, a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2021. StaySafe, May Masson"

Wishing all my fellow members at St Stephens and West a Merry Christmas and a happy new year" Sybil Rough

Nan Armstrong sends Christmas wishes to all her fellow members at St.Stephens and West. May you all have a joyous Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Warmest Christmas Wishes and Blessings for 2021 to all at St Stephen's and West from Jill and Ron Oakley

To all of the members of St.Stephens and West and their families a very Merry Christmas and happy safe New Year from George and Rhona Anderson.

Wishing everyone at St Stephen's and West Church including the groups who use our facilities and also the wider community of Broughty Ferry a very lovely Christmas and a peaceful New Year Toni and Euan McNicoll

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and good health and happiness for 2021. From Helen and Peter Wakefield; Juliet and Bobby; Christopher, Vár, Joseph and baby Lydia.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Restrictions are still the same with regards to the church even although we have recently moved into Tier 3 of the Governments regulations.

These restrictions do not stop us providing a warm welcome in a cosy kirk every Sunday. The safety guidelines are strictly adhered to and our thanks go to the team who ensure that hand sanitisers, safety notices etc. are maintained and made available on a weekly basis.

Covid 19 affects the organisation of the church and as regulations change so does the running of our church.

I would highlight the change to the planned united service on December 27th. which was to be held in the New Kirk as previously intimated in the last magazine. Our service will now be in our own church as united services cannot be held and our minister will conduct the service.

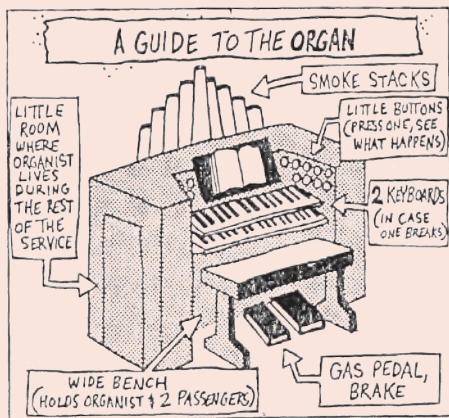
For those who provide door and beadle duty every Sunday please note the change to the rota which is detailed on the back page. Only one on door duty plus the beadle but it may revert back to two on door duty if health and safety requirements change.

Covid 19 also brings its problems when repairs are necessary.

As you know we were without the organ for a few weeks when it decided to suddenly stop playing and Alex Perry our organist maintained the musical side of the service using a digital piano.

In recent years the Organ has been regularly serviced by Church Organ World of Shaw, Lancashire, who have been very helpful and reliable. On this occasion making arrangements for the technician to visit was complicated by the restrictions imposed by Covid 19 which led to a delay.

The organ was returned to full working order on Sunday 18th October and our grateful thanks go to Alex for making the necessary arrangements during this difficult period.



HO HO HO!



Yarn of the Seat in Stand

Freddie and John were fortunate enough to have a season ticket to watch Dundee United. They could not help noticing that there was always a spare seat (B14) next to them and they had a friend who would love to buy a season ticket, especially if all three could have seats together. One half-time Freddie went to the ticket office and asked if they could buy



the season ticket for B14. The official said that unfortunately the ticket had been sold. Nevertheless, week after week the seat was still empty. Then on Boxing day, much to Freddie and Eddie's amazement the seat was taken for the first time that season. John could not resist asking the newcomer, 'Where have you been all season'. Don't ask he said, the wife bought the season ticket back last summer, and kept it for a surprise Christmas present.

As we look forward to 2021 - For the garden of your daily living....

Plant three rows of peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

No garden without turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip for one another

To conclude our garden we must have Thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

Contributed by Robin Little

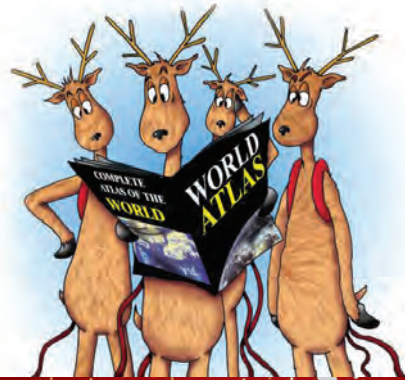


Ho Ho Ho!

A Warm Witty Short Christmas Story

It was the day after Christmas at St Peter and St Paul's church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John, the vicar, was looking at the nativity scene outside when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the figures. Immediately, Father John's thoughts turned to calling in the local policeman but as he was about to do so, he saw little Nathan with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the

figure of the little infant, Jesus. Father John approached Nathan and asked him, 'Well, Nathan, where did you get the little infant?' Nathan looked up, smiled and replied, 'I took him from the church.' 'And why did you take him?' With a sheepish grin, Nathan said, 'Well, Father John, about a week before Christmas I prayed to Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'



Thank You

A big thank you to Robin Little. We are indebted to Robin for keeping the church lawns and flower beds in pristine condition throughout the year. Robin certainly doesn't let the grass grow beneath his feet.



PENNY BOX

Our penny box collection has been carried out for a number of years and provided additional funds for the church. Since the beginning of the pandemic and with no surprise donations have taken a nosedive. Now that we are back in church please think about looking out the loose change and boost the contributions.



This church accepts all denominations



fivers, tenner and twenties.



Ho Ho Ho!

Another Christmas Tale from the Inn

Did you hear about the St Jude's Primary School Nativity Play? Two children are dressed as Mary and Joseph, and they are on their way to the inn in Bethlehem. Meanwhile on the other side of the stage, a lad in a shepherd's outfit is on a mobile phone, calling to make a reservation.



ST. STEPHENS & WEST PARISH CHURCH

BROUGHTY FERRY

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Door Duty

(One duty elder with transport should offer to distribute flowers.
Please arrange a substitute if any date is unsuitable for you.)

2021 St Stephen's & West Parish Church

Elders Duty List

Date	Time	Door Duty	Beadle
Sun 3 Jan	10:00	Mrs S McMillan	K Matheson
Sun 10 Jan	10:00	Mrs S Thomson	Mrs Fiona Watt
Sun 17 Jan	10:00	Mrs M Masson	A L MacKenzie
Sun 24 Jan	10:00	Mrs S Rough	Mrs L Parry-Richards
Sun 31 Jan	10:00	Mrs S Grinyer	P Wakefield
Sun 7 Feb	10:00	A Justice	R S McPherson
Sun 14 Feb	10:00	Mrs M Knight	Mrs S Thomson
Sun 21 Feb	10:00	Mrs A McNicoll	Mrs S McMillan
Sun 28 Feb	10:00	R S McPherson	C S Smith
Sun 7 Mar	10:00	A Justice	R Stewart
Sun 14 Mar	10:00	Mrs E Mussen	K Matheson
Sun 21 Ma	10:00	C S Smith	Mrs Fiona Watt
Sun 28 Mar	10:00 (BST)	R Stewart	A L MacKenzie