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Pastoral Letter

Rev. Andrea Hagenbuch, Rector

The alert from the Met Office came halfway through the afternoon – the climatic conditions were such that sightings of the northern lights or aurora were possible that evening in our part of Scotland!



This was too good an opportunity to miss! As soon as it was fully dark Stephen, Helen and I set out for the Whangie car park, judging that to be the best place to witness this most spectacular of all shows!

Well....it is often better to travel hopefully than to arrive..... such was the case on this occasion. As we turned into the car park the mist was already beginning to cloud our view. However, armed with binoculars and great enthusiasm we gazed and gazed at the sky searching for signs. Stephen swears to this day he saw a green tinge at the edge of the horizon when we first pitched up. But all too soon it was gone!

At this time of year our appointed scriptures speak of looking for signs.

In these Sundays before Advent we look for signs of the Kingdom. During Advent we will look for signs of the coming Messiah as we look forward to Christmas.

When we listen to the news and hear about the state of the world and politics, we may feel it is hard to see signs of God's kingdom here on earth. But perhaps we should put away our "media binoculars" and look at what surrounds us in our own context. For that is where we will find courage and hope.

"God's Kingdom is nearer than we think!" Romans 13:11

We have had a busy autumn at St Andrew's.

As a result of the summer auction many activities have already taken place. Wishes have also been granted. I know I have been feverishly knitting woollen hats.

We took Jenny and Peter to Glen Fyne to see Golden Eagles. We had a great time, a beautiful autumn day – colours at their best. Bright and breezy – perfect conditions for sightings – but sadly not an eagle in sight! In order not to spoil the day, I was desperate for Stephen to pass off a large buzzard off as one, but of



Pastoral Letter

Rev. Andrea Hagenbuch, Rector

course, Jenny was having none of it! She knows an eagle when she sees one – and we didn't see one!

On a more reliable footing we took two expeditions to Helensburgh to visit the Submarine Museum. The first with Geoff and Penny and the second with the fellowship outing. We have been several times now and each time I learn something new. It's a fascinating place with images telling the story projected on all four walls of the disused church where it is housed.



At the end of September, we had a special service and lunch to bid goodbye and farewell to our dear friends George and Liz Farrow who have moved to Argyll.

We miss them both dreadfully. They brought so much to us: Liz in her priestly ministry and George in his music and knowledge of all things. But

essentially for themselves with their love, humour, support and spiritual presence. However, we had a super lunch, speeches made, and gifts presented. We wish them and their family very well.

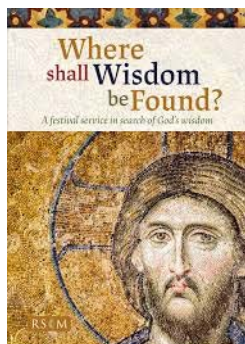
As always, the church was beautifully decorated for our harvest Festival. The offering was given to the Elpis organisation which helps young girls in need.

At present we are undertaking a six-week study course with Bishopbriggs and All Saints. We are watching the drama series "Broken" which features the challenges of life for a catholic priest in a deprived area. In each episode a new issue arises. It is very good and there is much material for discussion which takes place afterwards.

This weekend it is the church coffee morning which we greatly look forward to. Also, Milngavie choir are doing a short Concert of Remembrance in church with the Man Choir from Bearsden Academy.

In preparation for Advent and Christmas the organist has been keeping us busy!

We have been practising for a service for Advent Sunday based on music compiled by the RSCM and entitled "Where Wisdom Shall Be Found"



Also, courtesy of the RSCM, as part of our Advent devotions, we are having special reflections and intercessions with sung responses during the Sung Eucharist on Sundays.

Typically, at the time of year, just before Advent, our scripture is apocalyptic by nature, it speaks of judgement and hard times. Challenging and uncomfortable to read and understand. This will be contrasted with the Advent literature which is more hopeful and forward looking. This will then lead us into Christmas when we will celebrate the joy of the birth of Christ.

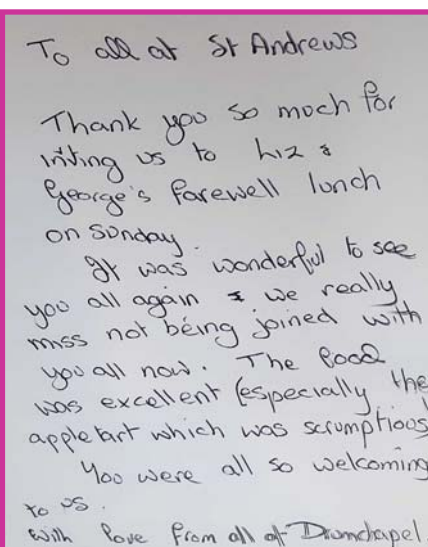
"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" John 1:5

This year we do pray for the light of Christ to shine in the darkness. In our own dark corners of our lives and in the wider world of war, poverty, hardship and political unrest. Especially in these uncertain days of Brexit and a General Election.

I wish you all every blessing for Christmas and for The New Year

Andrea

The following Thank You note was received from the Drumchapel congregation following the Farewell lunch for Liz & George.



Milngavie United Free Church will host an evening with Ian White on Friday 6 December at 7.30pm. Ian is a Christian musician who has recorded many top selling albums and travelled and performed internationally for more than 25 years. During the evening Ian will sing, lead some congregational singing and speak of his work with disabled people in the Inspiration Orchestra. This event is free and donations will be received for the Inspiration Orchestra.

**A trip to Glen Fyne to see eagles
—guaranteed or money back -(only joking!)**



Wednesday dawned a lovely day,

Very soon we're on our way.

Eagerly we're at Glen Fyne;

See an eagle in a while.

Stephen says they're always here

Just be patient, never fear.

So, we walk into the glen,

Stephen pauses now and then.

Look up there, what can you see. . .

A small black thing, size of a flea;

No, we think, it is a crow.

Sadly, onward we must go

And did we an eagle see –

One or two, or even three?

No but we had a super walk,

Sun, a picnic and much talk.

Jenny W

Harvest Sunday



viewpoint (and we have mentioned this before...so we 'oat' to stop now).

The church was beautifully decorated as usual, including some beautiful floral displays.



Andrea linked the harvest theme with the gospel reading from Luke 17:1-18 about the ten lepers whom Jesus healed but only one of the ten who comes back to say thank you. In our lives too, we are often more prone to complaining rather than thanking. Acknowledging our many blessings and showing gratitude to others and also to God is an important part of living out our faith. Caring for the environment and taking individual responsibility in our daily lives as much as we can, was also linked to the theme of appreciation of the natural world around us.

The produce donated will be taken to the ELPIS Centre, which supports homeless and vulnerable young women.

On Sunday 13th October, we enjoyed a service of thanksgiving for harvest, for our food that comes from many parts of the world, for farmers and all involved in the food industry. Centre stage was a magnificent display organised by Gail and Mark, topped off by a packet of oats, with which you can make porridge—or porridge depending on your personal

Liz & George's Au Revoir



receive their gifts from the congregation- RHS Scottish Flowers for Liz ; a History of America in 100 Maps for George; and a framed picture of the Fish Banner created by our congregation, which had been inspired and of course, organised by , Liz.

The gifts were presented, to everyone's great surprise, by the People's Warden—and no-one was more surprised than the People's warden himself—me—as I had forgotten I was elected to the post in 2003!

Sunday 29th September was a sad day for us all at St Andrew's as we said farewell to Liz and George Farrow who have moved to Crinan to be nearer their daughter Wendy and her family. But at St Andrew's we know how to put on a party—and we did it in style yet again and gave them a send off to remember!

Food and drink were at the heart of it as usual—and a team of caterers, led by Clare and Angela provided a fabulous buffet which was greatly enjoyed by all. Liz and George were delighted to

The People's Warden gave a little speech of thanks and then gave the floor to George who embarked on an epic monologue which had everyone searching for a shepherd's crook or the fire alarm button. Personally I greatly enjoy George's company, as he is an incredibly knowledgeable chap, but I do come over all faint and my eyes glaze over when he starts espousing the merits of cricket...



Liz & George's Au Revoir



The man from Del Monte does Bake Off



George practising his Tai Chi



Our spiritual leaders

We will miss them both greatly for their fellowship and their enormous contribution to the spiritual and social life of our church over the last 20 odd years—but as Liz says—it is only Au Revoir.....so perhaps a bus trip to Crinan is the first diary entry for 2020...

A Letter from Ormiston's



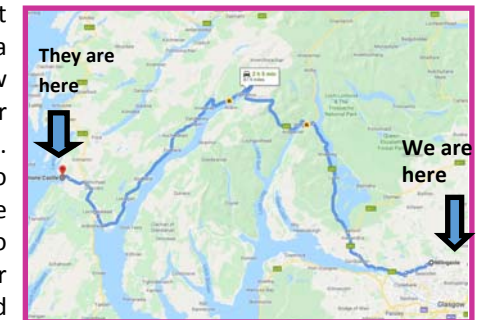
Dear Friends

A warm thank you for all the treats you gave us when we left St Andrew's for pastures new! The books, the picture of the fish banner, and the cheque, all have given us great pleasure, and were very much appreciated. Also of course, the lunch - it was great to see so many of you, and to share a meal together, as we have done so often. St Andrew's is really great at fellowship!

It was hard saying 'goodbye' - well not goodbye, rather 'au revoir'. You are a very special church family, and I know we shall not be able to find another anywhere near as loving and spirit filled. Worship led by Andrea, is a joy, with so many beautiful voices; sharing the peace together brings smiles to everyone's faces. And the space for silence, after the sermon, and intercessions, is both deep and moving. We miss the church family that has

been our spiritual home for more than twenty years.

But, we are not far away, a 2 and a half hour journey, and once the lighter evenings come, we look forward to many visits from all those who'd like to see where we live. I know there are carpets of snowdrops, primroses and bluebells throughout the deciduous woodland which surrounds us, so choose your month!



The Duntrune estate, owned by the

A Letter from Ormiston's

Malcolm clan, is opposite Crinan, on the west coast of Argyll. If you stand at Crinan looking across the sea loch to the opposite side, the castle you see is Duntrune.

Just behind the castle is the cottage that used to be the home of the boatman to the Laird, and, since his name was Ormiston, the cottage is known as Ormiston's.



I noticed that the rooms downstairs were somehow smaller than those upstairs, even though from the outside they looked the same.

Then I realised that downstairs the walls are 15 - 18 ins thick, being built 300 years ago, whilst the upstairs' walls are normal, a later addition. So it looks like a house, but is called a cottage.

It has two log burners downstairs, so we are both comfy and cosy. At the moment, the wild rhododendrons are being cut back, they had got enormous, so George is having a great time having bonfires.



We look across Crinan Loch, a beautiful peaceful scene, and just 5 mins walk away is a walled garden, built in the 50's and pure delight throughout the year there is always colour. Well worth a visit in itself!

We are enjoying being here, and of course, near to Wendy and family. Jonny, our eldest grandson, has been an enormous help with all the heavy lifting that seems to be needed when you move. The pace of life is so much slower, and we feel very relaxed.

We look forward to seeing visitors in the spring.



Sending love and blessings -
Liz and George

From the Organ Bench



As our penitential season of Advent approaches I thought that I should highlight that during Advent we shall use hymns and carols exclusively from A&M up until and including Christmas.

We shall then use CH4 from Epiphany until Candlemas when we shall use the material in A&M set for that service. This is in place of previous years when we have used several carol books whereas A&M has the carols and hymns appropriate to the seasons in one book.

Please therefore make use of the red A&M books for the month of December and ask sidespeople for music copies either full music or top line only which are available at the back of the church.

The recently installed Bossendorfer grand piano will be used for appropriate hymns where written for piano accompaniment rather than organ and we are very grateful to Penny and Geoff Haydock for the use of the instrument for a period. The vestry hope that the piano may be used as outreach to young musicians for chamber or other concerts, there being no concert venues

in Milngavie nor Bearsden with an in-house instrument.

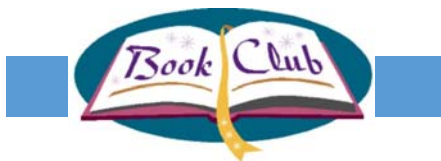
Robert has kindly prepared service booklets for our 140th Patronal Festival Service on Friday 29th November at 7.00pm where we shall have visitors for this special anniversary service and Fraser has kindly agreed to be the Preacher.

Service books have also been prepared for our 'Where shall Wisdom be found' choral service on the first Sunday in Advent including all required music.

Further, a special Seasonal Service book has been prepared for Advent II, III and IV together with a separate insert for Reflection and these may be taken home for use during the Advent season.

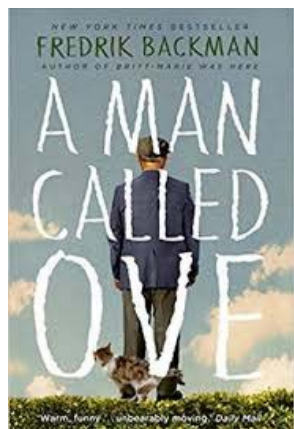
WGR.





On 27 November, Caroline hosts the meeting when the book to be discussed will be Frederick Backman's 'A Man Called Ove'

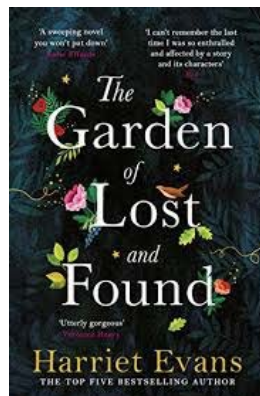
The book is about a grumpy old man called Ove, who wakes up every day determined to end his life because he is all alone after passing away of his wife, but each day something or the other happens which makes him to postpone his resolve....



American version starring Tom Hanks, to be released in 2020.

The next book on the reading list is 'The Garden of Lost and Found' written by Harriet Evans.

Nightingale House, 1919. Liddy Horner discovers her husband, the world-famous artist Sir Edward Horner, burning his best-known painting The Garden of Lost and Found days before



his sudden death. Nightingale House was the Horner family's beloved home - a gem of design created to inspire happiness - and it was here Ned painted 'The Garden of Lost and Found', capturing his children on a perfect day, playing in the rambling Eden he and Liddy made for them.

One magical moment. Before it all came tumbling down...

When Ned and Liddy's great-granddaughter Juliet is sent the key to Nightingale House, she opens the door onto a forgotten world. The house holds its mysteries close but she is in search of answers. For who would choose to destroy what they love most? Whether Ned's masterpiece - or, in Juliet's case, her own children's happiness.

Something shattered this corner of paradise. But what?

For discussion on the first Book Club meeting of the New Year in January

Dorcas



In response to a number of requests Gail repeated candle making for our October session which delighted everyone who missed it in September.

We turned out a variety of candles in different shapes, sizes, colour combinations and with a few added drops of essential oils each one also had its own aroma. The preparation, presentation and supply of all materials by Gail was much appreciated.



We were delighted to reduce the average age of the group in November by welcoming Sophie McVey who came to show us how to make Christmas wreaths using pompoms. This was a modern and possibly more enduring twist to a traditional decoration with a colourful array produced by the group.

Our thanks to Sophie for all her hard work preparing prototypes to bring along and for leading this session.



There will be no Dorcas session in December as the third Saturday will be the Christmas lunch and a few of our regulars will be joining us again this year.

Dorcas will resume again on the third Saturday in January 2020 when Vee will be showing us 'Brusho painting'.

Caroline

Let's think about Trident



Margot and I recently attended a meeting on the subject "Let's think about Trident" at St Andrews Church hall, Bearsden, organized by the Justice and Peace Groups from St Joseph's Milngavie and St Andrew's and New Kilpatrick Churches, Bearsden.

Over 100 people came to hear representatives from the five main political parties, the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church.

Each party rep gave a five minute presentation; the Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats supported the retention and renewal of Trident with a strong emphasis from Labour and the Lib Dems on negotiating disarmament.

The SNP and the Greens were in favour of dismantling Trident as soon as possible on the grounds that nuclear weapons are morally and legally unacceptable because they are

indiscriminate. They also said that nuclear weapons are a huge waste of money, that there is a risk of accidents, and they are of no practical benefit in a world where the main threats come from terrorism or cyber attack.

After an interval, there were presentations from a Catholic priest and a former Moderator of the General Assembly from the Church of Scotland. The priest said that church had always been against the use of nuclear weapons and in recent years was moving against their possession but had not quite reached that point yet.

The minister explained that after many years of debate, the General Assembly had condemned both the possession and use of nuclear weapons. There was then a question and answer session, which revealed that both Labour and Lib Dem reps were personally opposed to the UK continuing to have nuclear weapons.

The audience listened to all the speakers with respect, but from the applause it was clear that a large majority were against the retention of nuclear weapons.

The meeting was very well organized and they hope to have more meetings on topics relating to justice and peace.

Tim

Vestry



Summary notes from the Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on Monday, 4 November 2019:

Prayer Ministry— Feedback showed that this ministry is appreciated so we will continue as before with it taking place at the back of the church during communion.

Talent Auction — A lot is already happening which will be on going over the coming months.

140th Anniversary Patronal Festival 29th November— Preparations are underway with a special booklet compiled by Robert. Invitations have been sent to our ecumenical friends.

Recycling Bins — It was agreed to have a recycling bin positioned in the hall porch.

Milngavie Choir Concerts/Piano — After discussion of practicalities, it was agreed that we accept the loan of a baby grand piano kindly offered by Geoff and Penny, which will be moved in time for the Milngavie Choir Memorial Concerts at the weekend. As well as enhancing the church as a venue for musical events, it will also facilitate a wider range of music in worship.

Advent — The idea of Quiet Day was popular though it may need to wait until January/February. Carol Marple who recently organised an Art and

Prayer day for the Wild Goose/Iona Community might be able to provide input. We will also ask Steve Parratt to bring a selection of Advent reflection books that could be ordered from the Faith Mission Book shop for individual reading.

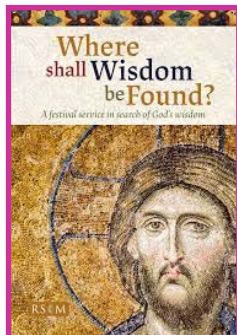
Ethical Policy:

Green Energy - Gail reported that we are still awaiting feedback from the Utility Aid Energy Consultant who will provide options for us.

Organic/Free Range dairy/meat —In consultation with Clare, we agreed to aim to use free-range organic products for the Christmas Dinner on Saturday 14th December though there are some cooking practicalities to consider. It was decided that the church would subsidise the extra cost rather than raising the cost of the £10 ticket.

Gavin's Mill — asked if we could have a Fair Trade stall once a month on a Sunday morning. Instead an article promoting Gavin's Mill in the magazine was suggested with the possibility of having a stall at a church event rather than on a regular basis.





RSCM Advent services 'This is the Wisdom' is the theme for the first Sunday in Advent. RSCM material will also be used on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of Advent, which will introduce some

changes from our normal pattern of Advent service. It was decided to hold a Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 5pm. Gordon has already planned hymns for Epiphany and Candlemas!

Association of Milngavie Churches: Carols in the Precinct - 4pm Christmas Eve, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Mon 20th January 2020 at 7pm at Baldernock, Next Association meeting at 2pm Thursday 16th Jan 2020 in Friendship House.

Charitable Giving - Tim passed on appreciation from ELPIS for the Harvest Donation & also from the Mission Aviation Fellowship for the £180 donated as part of our charitable giving. Tim asked us to be thinking of charities to support for when we next meet in January.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 13th January 2020

Memorial Cross

This is to let you all know that the memorial cross dedicated to Lt Robert Wallace Lees is being re-brassed at Hayes and Finch in Liverpool. The process will also enable the engraving to be depicted more clearly.

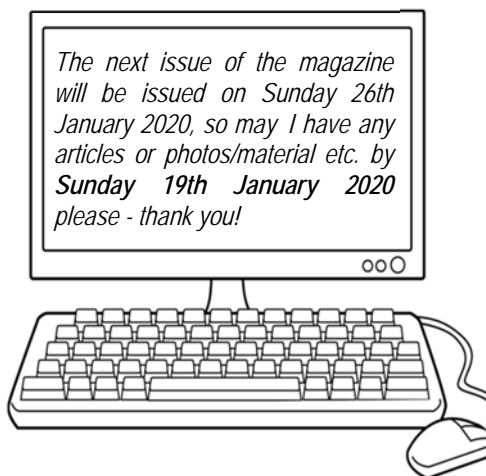
The entire cost is being met through a donation from one of our members who wishes to remain anonymous.

The cross represents not only Lt Lees' death but is a memorial for all the other service men and women who have died over the years.

Just so you all know that it has not been stolen! **Gordon**

Magazine Material

The next issue of the magazine will be issued on Sunday 26th January 2020, so may I have any articles or photos/material etc. by Sunday 19th January 2020 please - thank you!



St Andrew's December Rota

Date	Depute Warden	Eucharistic Assistant	Readings	Reader	Intercessor	Coffee	
Sunday 1st December Advent Sunday	Clare	Steve McV	Readings for special Advent service	As in booklet	Andrea	Marie	
Sunday 8th December 2nd Sunday of Advent	Robin/Helen	Robert	Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13 Matt 3:1-12	Wilma	Fraser	Helen/ Robin	A&M throughout Advent Advent reflections and Christmas
Sunday 15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	Steve McV	Fraser	Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10 Matt 11:2-11	Stephen P	Andrea	Clare	
Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent	Veronica	Steve McV	Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7 Matt 1:18-25	Stephen H	Helen	Liz	
Christmas Day	Stephen H	Robert	Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20	Olive	Andrea	Veronica	
Sunday 29th December 1st Sunday of Christmas	Mark	Wilma	Isaiah 63:7-9 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matt 2:13-23	Pamela	Liz	Gail	

If you are unable to attend please arrange for a swap, thank you.

Music	1st December	8 December	15 December	22 December	Christmas Day	29th December
Hymns	Service book	38,34,30,600, 50	348,330,38,34, 41	75,602,51,566,45	61,761,87,90 78	72,71,68,60, 66
Setting		Macmillan	Macmillan	Macmillan	Grayston Ives	Grayston Ives

St Andrew's January Service Rota

Date	Depute Warden	Eucharistic Assistant	Readings	Reader	Intercessor	Coffee	
Sunday 5 th January Epiphany	Stephen H	Steve McV	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matt 2:1-12	Margot	Andrea	Mary	
Sunday 12 th January The Baptism of Christ	Veronica	Robert	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matt 13:13-17	Tim	Stephen P	Clare	
Sunday 19 th January 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Clare	Fraser	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	John	Andrea	Veronica	All hymns from CH4 excepting Candlemas A&M
Sunday 26 th January 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Robin/Helen	Wilma	Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matt 4:12-23	Helen	Gail	Helen/Robin	
Sunday 2 nd February Presentation of Christ in the Temple	Robert	Steve McV	Malachi 3:1-5 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2: 22-40	Stephen p	Andrea	Marie	
Candlemas							

If you are unable to attend please arrange for a swap, thank you.

Music	5 th January	12 th January	19 th January	26 th January	2 nd February
Hymns	201, 325,474,305,323	334,201,308,191, 235	459, 30, 553,559 ,130	290(iii),PFS 27, 465,769 ,360	110, 112, 113,844,826
Setting	Mass of St Thomas	Mass of St Thomas	Mass of St Thomas	Mass of St Thomas	Grayston lives
Anthem	A&M 97				A&M 677.

SERVICES CALENDAR DECEMBER/JANUARY 2020

DAY	DATE		SERVICES
SUNDAY	1 DECEMBER	ADVENT SUNDAY	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY	5 DECEMBER		10AM SAID EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	8 DECEMBER	2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY	12 DECEMBER		10AM SAID EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	15 DECEMBER	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY	19 DECEMBER		10AM SAID EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	22 DECEMBER	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
TUESDAY	24 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS EVE	5 PM CAROL SERVICE
WEDNESDAY	25 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DAY	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	29 DECEMBER	1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	5 JANUARY	FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY	9 JANUARY		10AM SAID EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	12 JANUARY	THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY	16 JANUARY		10AM SAID EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	19 JANUARY	2ND SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY	23 JANUARY		10AM SAID EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	26 JANUARY	3RD SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY	30 JANUARY		10AM SAID EUCHARIST