

# DECEMBER 2024



*'A Light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the Glory of Thy people Israel'*

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Milngavie

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**Regular meetings....10am, each week in the Church, or Garden Room**

*Sundays.....Sung Holy Communion*

*Tuesdays.....Prayer Group*

*Thursdays.....Said Holy Communion*

## **THE CHURCH MONTH....**

**Thu Nov 28.....Patronal Service at 10am Eucharist**

**Sun Dec 1.....Advent Sunday Eucharist**

**Sun Dec 22.....Carol Service**

**Wed Dec 25.....Christmas Day Eucharist**

**\*The Advent Study Group at All Saint's Church began on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov and continues on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>. It is in their Hall at 2pm. The subject is "Do Not Fear" by Rachel Mann.**

**\*St Paul's Christmas Tree Festival from 30<sup>th</sup> Nov to 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10am-4pm (Sunday 1pm -4pm). Refreshments and musical entertainment. Donations to Glas City Mission... Jackie Hogarth**

**\*The Ignatian Spirituality Centre Online Advent Retreat guideline is still available at :- [ignatian-advent-retreat-2024](#)**

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**.....'The Greatest Story Ever Told'.....  
.....a book and a film.....**

The first time I saw a pictorial record of the Biblical story was when my parents bought a copy of 'The

Bible in Pictures' in 1952, and it intrigued me how the the illustrators knew what the Disciples, Shepherds and Christ himself, looked like!

A moving-picture of the Christian Story first appeared in the 1965 film, lasting 3hr 15mins. I never saw it, but reviews spoke of it very positively. I wonder if it would have changed my perception of the events from what I had learned as a child.

We still love to watch Nativity plays by children, I think they add an extra dimension to our faith, and are a counterbalance to the artificiality of much of the advertising at this time. ANY THOUGHTS?

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## **Walking Group..Ardmore :-**



On Saturday 2nd, November, 14 of us and 2 dogs, Lucy and Ted, met to walk round Ardmore Point on the Clyde Estuary.



A damp mist prevented distant views but it was very atmospheric and a variety of birds were spotted by the eagle-eyed, including Cormorants, Canada Geese, Mallards, Little Egrets and a Heron. It was a still day with vibrant autumn leaves, yellow gorse and some beautiful dew-laden spiders' webs.



We enjoyed good conversation over a leisurely walk around the point, meeting the occasional walkers, dogs and even a couple of horse riders. At the end of the walk the mist



lifted, enabling us to see across the estuary to the land on the other side. Nearby, the Ardardan cafe provided a welcome lunch and staff were very helpful putting tables together to accommodate our large cheery group so that we could all sit together.

It was a lovely walk and we're looking forward to doing

it again in the spring on a bright clear day!

Thanks to Tim and Jane for organising the walk

.....**Report provided by Helen.....**

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### **Christmas in the Netherlands:-**

At one time the Dutch had a 4-day Christmas Church Festival so that they could attend Church on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, but this was shortened to two days. The demand for the two lost days' holiday made them celebrate also on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

St Nicholas (also known as Sinterklass), who was a Christian Saint, known for gift-giving, comes by boat to various ports (allegedly from Spain) in mid Nov, and visits schools, shopping centres, and hospitals, with gifts, even flying over rooftops, on horseback!

On 5<sup>th</sup> (or 6<sup>th</sup>, in some areas) he takes gifts to children, who leave shoes at a door or fireplace, for treats to be left for them Over the years it added a parade, on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and is the most popular of all Dutch holidays.

The religious Festival on 24<sup>th</sup> /25<sup>th</sup> is much quieter with decorations, a Church service and family meal. There may even be a Sunday School in the afternoon when the Christmas story and other tales are told. They also play games, watch TV, and eat traditional Dutch food.

Happy Christmas in Dutch is '**PRETTIGE KERST**'

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### **The saintly lady from a beautiful local Christmas-card-scene Church:-**



Schoenstatt (meaning Beautiful Place) is a homely little Church and Conference Centre close to the Clachan of Campsie. It was the first in the UK to be set-up by the German Bishops to help the German-speaking Scottish community after the war.

We got to know Sr Xavera, Deininger the founding Sister, when she came to talk about her hearing problems. Our German/English chats were full of humour. She was a saintly, motherly lady with a wonderful giggle, even when we discussed serious subjects.

She had joined the Movement in 1939, and in 1950 she served in South Africa, before coming to Scotland in 1962 to organise the little Centre, covering all of Scotland down

to Manchester, and the North of England.

She was an antidote to everyone who had images of teutonic efficiency. She went about her work with spirit and gusto, (along with Sr Vincentas, who was another totally-delightful person). Behind this indomitable spirit was an obvious deep sense of love for those she came to serve and for the people of Scotland with whom she lived and grew to know over 46 years.

Sister Xavera died on the 22nd March 2008 at 87.....a wonderful Christian human had left the world a much better place. If you get a chance to visit this little shrine, where she is buried, within a brief drive, please do so.

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### **Book Reading Club:-**

No meeting in Dec....but watch for the January one...date to be announced.

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### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

Rector.....Rev Andrea Hagenbuch

- andreahagenbuch@outlook.com

Vestry Secretary.....Helen Paisley

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Gardening Group:-Robin Milne

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Hall Lettings.....Robert Anderson

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Flower rota/Book Club.....Helen Paisley

- helenpaisley@icloud.com

In-Memoria Cabinet.....Robin Milne

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Walking Group.....Tim Rhead

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Tea/Coffee Rota.....Veronica Colin

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Newsletter Notes.....Harry Monroe

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St Andrew's Website:-

- <https://standrewsmilngavie.church.scot/>

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### **A prayer to take us into the New Year:-**

Gracious God, Who has been merciful to us in the past year, and guided and upheld us through all the years of our life: we ask you to pardon our sins and to make us abound in faith and love; fashion in us those virtues acceptable to Thee, and grant that we may serve Thee more faithfully in the year to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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