



DECEMBER 2011
JANUARY 2012

- 1 -

Mure Memorial Church



The Link

Dear Friends.

I've found this letter for the Christmas Link a difficult one to write. For all that has been written and said about Christmas, which you have taken in down through the years, how is one to be new or original or even entertaining? However sometimes in the midst of all that has been said, sung and written we might lose sight of the basics of the story – the fundamentals that are 'the reason for the season'.

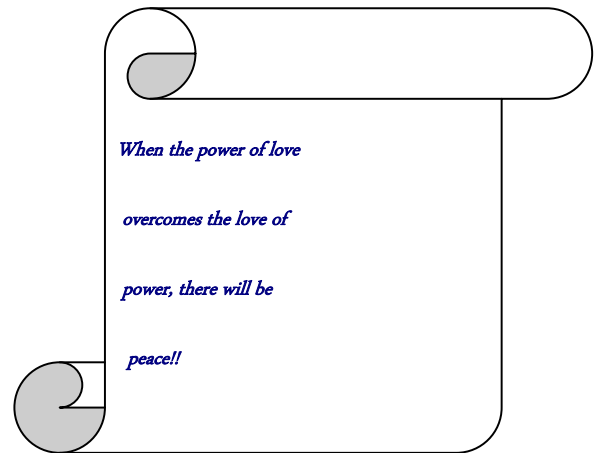
God became human, in the form of a helpless baby growing to become a man. Spirit become flesh, Love became a person, and the infinite chose to become finite and die. In this event humanity that was dirt and dust is given a dignity and a worth that raises us to divine status, as Jesus takes humanity back into the Godhead on his ascension. (Look up Psalm 8)

So what does that mean for us? Christmas reminds us that we are special. Christ's coming as a babe dignifies childhood and it is right we make it special for any child and all children. His humble birth gives a special place to the poor; his ministry a special place to the sick, the disabled and the marginalised. His death on the cross unites the divine with victims across the human spectrum from the downtrodden wife or mother or grandmother, to those in fear of their lives under unjust political systems. This event changed the course, and still changes the course of human history.

So in the midst of all the rushing, the festivities, the cards and the presents, let's celebrate the coming of the baby Jesus, who chose to become human that we might become more divine.

Wishing You and Yours a Joyful Christmas and a Wonderful 2012.

Rev. Malcolm Cuthbertson.



Funerals:

10th November

Betty McIntyre: We remember Andy, Colin and Eleanor in prayers.

16th November

Frances Gardiner: We remember daughters Janet, Audrey and Elaine in our prayers.

25th November

Mary Martin (Bargeddie): We remember the family in our prayers.

26th November

Robert Colvin : We remember Evelyn and the family in our prayers.

28th November

Tommy Melrose: We pray for daughter Lynne and her family.

29th November

Isa Brown: We pray for daughter Edna and the wider family.

Contemporary Proverbs

“Don't worry about what people say behind your back. They are people who are too busy finding faults in your life, instead of fixing the faults in their own life.”

“Don't wait for people to be friendly. Show them how.”

“If you didn't hear it with your own ears, or see it with your own eyes, don't invent with your small mind and share it with your big mouth.”

Future Services

- 11th Dec. Gift Service 10.30am
18th Dec. Nativity Sunday 10.30am
Carol Party with the Choir
6.30pm
22nd Dec. Schools Services
9.00am & 11.00am
24th Dec. Watchnight Service 11.15 pm
25th Dec. Christmas Morning Service
10.30am
1st January Ne'erday Morning Service
10.30am

Vestry Hours

The minister has established an office in the church to which he welcomes anyone who wishes to see him. The specific times he will make himself available are as follows:

Monday evening - 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Tuesday morning – 10.00am - 12 noon

Thursday morning – 10.00am – 12 noon

Thursday evening – 6.30pm – 7.30pm

At present this will be about simply turning up during these times with no specific appointment, which means you may have to wait a few minutes. Other times can be made available by arrangement, as can home visits. The minister's phone number is **07740868181**. Please feel free to pass the times and phone number to anyone who may request them.

MENS' FELLOWSHIP

December 2011 to January 2012

- Dec 5th Maxi Richards, Drug Abuse
Jan 9th Gillian McNeil, Laser treatment
Jan 16th City Chambers visit (afternoon)
Jan 23rd 36th Annual Burns Supper
(tickets £10) are on sale to all members of the congregation.
The speakers are: Malcolm Cuthbertson, Janet Park and Bill Russell
Jan 30th Alastair Borthwick

We would like to extend a warm invitation to all men of the congregation and parish to join us at 7:45 on Monday evenings.

J.Coutts (President)

Property Committee Update

The Property Committee and a great group of willing helpers are continuing to try to maintain the Church within our means. Things like light bulbs and so on aren't very exciting developments, but none the less it's this type of essential maintenance that takes time and money. Not everyone notices the Memorial Stone of Mure Memorial Miners' Church made of polished pink granite, but efforts have been undertaken to carry out some minor works to make it available to once again be seen by all. The information document, within a frame which had rotted, is now replaced and a new frame fitted. The stone is currently available to view in the main vestibule of the Church, on the right hand side. Many thanks to Anne Frew for taking charge of this.

Once again, if you are aware of anything amiss from a maintenance point of view, or want to know more about an issue, feel free to speak to a member of the Property Committee, or even place an entry in the Property Maintenance Book in the Church Office. Don't worry if it's already something we know about – the more eyes that see, hopefully the better looked after the property will be.



Flower Calendar



Thank you to everyone who has donated flowers for our Sunday services during the month of November

<u>November</u>	
November 6th	Doreen Boyce
November 13th	J McLaren
November 20th	Guild
November 27th	



O welcome little Christmas Guest

Dear Jesus from above

Upon Thy face, so pure and mild

We see God's smile of love



CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE LINK

If you have an article, news item or announcement for the Link, please either email details to link@mure.org or place a copy of the information in the folder outside the Vestry

PLEASE NOTE

Deadline for the next issue of The Link is January 25th

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family bible to her brother in another part of the country. *"Is there anything breakable in here?"* asked the postal clerk *"Only the ten commandments"* said the lady.



As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped, "Didn't you get my email?"

DOOR DUTY – December 2011

BEADLE: M Scott

Door & Collection

December 4th	December 11th
J Hunt	A Kavannah
J Hannah	A Telfer
M Brown	Alex Wilson
Mrs Hunt	L Strachan
Mrs Hannah	M McMillan
A Kenyon	A Forrester

December 18th	December 25th
L Kennedy	
I Malcolm	
S Blackwood	
C Robertson	
E Colquhoun	
J McLaren	

DOOR DUTY – January 2012

BEADLE: R Getty

Door & Collection

January 1st	January 8th
	A Pollock
	C Scotland
	J Davidson
	A Borthwick
	J Crawford
	C Turnbull

January 15th	January 22d
C Stewart	W Millar
R McLellan	A Walker
N Collins	J McVittie
J Greenshields	C McChesney
P McLellan	A Nicol
J Smith	E Nimmo

DOOR DUTY – February 2012

BEADLE: G Leiper

Door & Collection

February 5th	February 12th
E Boyd	J Hunt
C Rodgers	J Hannah
A Stuart	M Brown
M McKellar	Mrs Hunt
B Graham	Mrs Hannah
M Martin	A Kenyon

A thought for the New Year ;

*When one door closes, another opens,
but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the
closed door that we do not see the one which has
opened for us.*

Alexander Graham Bell

*If you live close to God
And his infinite grace
You don't have to tell;
It shows in your face.*

The Boys' Brigade



All of our sections have been very active since the start of the session.

The Company Section has introduced cookery to our Badge Work and so far we have enjoyed pancakes and burgers on a Friday night. After an absence of a number of years we entered the National Table Tennis competition and had a resounding 8-1 victory in the first round. We are looking forward to our visit to Laser Quest at Christmas.

Top Ten Praise Items

On the evening of Sunday 13th November, we gathered together to sing our way through the top ten choices from our recent poll of hymns and praise items which were as follows

- 1st. In Christ alone
- 2nd. To God be the glory
- 3rd equal. Incredible
How great Thou art
- 5th. Look forward in faith
- 6th equal. Oh to see the dawn
Make me a channel of your
peace
- 8th equal. I, the Lord of sea and sky
What a friend we have in Jesus
Amazing grace
Shine, Jesus shine
Just As I am

This is the third time the congregation have voted for their top ten in the space of twenty years and it is interesting to compare the choices from ten years ago and twenty years ago.

In 2001 our top ten were:

- 1st equal. O love that wilt not let me go
I, the Lord of sea and sky
- 3rd equal. How great Thou art
My Jesus, my Saviour
Make me a channel of your
peace
Love divine all loves excelling
- 7th equal. Be still for the presence of
the Lord
Thine be the glory
Dear Lord and Father of
mankind
- 10th equal. Will your anchor hold
I need Thee every hour
To God be the glory
Just as I am
All things bright and beautiful

In 1991 our top ten were:

- 1st. O love that wilt not let me go
- 2nd. What a friend we have in Jesus
- 3rd. By cool Siloam's shady rill
- 4th. The King of love my shepherd is
- 5th. Guide me O Thou great Jehovah

- 6th. Love divine all loves excelling
- 7th. Will your anchor hold
- 8th. Thine be the glory
- 9th. Praise my soul the King of
heaven
- 10th. Make me a channel of your peace.

Thank you to everyone who took time to vote this year. If your choices didn't make it into our Top Ten, we will try to use as many as possible in our Sunday services in the coming months.

Janet Park

From the Windows Committee

Do you have a favourite recipe?

Why not submit it for consideration for the new Mure Memorial Cook Book? All proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards the window fund. Look out for the boxes at the doors of the church and pop your recipes in.



"Thank you"

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for cards, flowers and best wishes I have received since my short stay in hospital. This was most appreciated.

Margaret Getty



Presbytery Report

As we dealt with our order of business, a motion was brought that we should have time for discussion about same sex marriage and send a response to the Scottish Government for consideration in their consultation process. It was pointed out that the Law Department of the Church of Scotland was about to produce a response on behalf of the Church which would be sent to the Government. The motion did not receive the support of Presbytery. We had a very informative conference session on what could be treated as restricted funds and how to avoid tying up money, which could not then be used for other purposes, because it had been given for a specific project. We also learned more about how our Ministry and Mission Payments are calculated and what should be included in and excluded from the income base which is used for the calculation. It was suggested that all this information would be helpful to Congregational Treasurers and it was agreed to make this available. Under Vacancy Business we dealt with the demission of the Revd Dr James Torrens from St Rollox. Dr Torrens addressed Presbytery and explained, with great sincerity, that he has decided to demit office because he felt that the decision of the General Assembly on same sex relationships and the Ministry is wrong. In his opinion the church is trying to be too inclusive and, in the process, is moving away from his understanding of Biblical teaching. A letter of demission has been received from the Revd Alisdair MacLeod-Mair of Baillieston St Andrew's. Representatives of Presbytery will meet with him and, if he decides to abide by his decision, his demission will be dealt with at the December meeting of Presbytery. The convener of the World Mission Committee introduced Susan Clark who will be going to serve as a Female Project Councillor and Advisor in Lahore with the Church of Scotland. She will leave on 12th January and at the moment is learning to speak Urdu. The Christian community is very

much a minority and we should pray for Susan and her work. It was suggested that congregations who do not have a mission partner might consider partnering Susan. At the October meeting, the Property Committee had reported that Shettleston Old was seeking permission to carry out stonework repairs to a crack in the chancel and other major structural works to stabilise the building. The General Trustees had asked for a full Quinquennial-type survey which reported a very insecure condition of many high level stones and risk to persons close to the church building. This would involve a very high cost of rectification. Because the property is classified as Category 3 under the Presbytery Plan, the committee did not recommend approval of the work. A letter of dissent and complaint had been lodged by the congregation. In light of this, the Presbytery Property Committee had reviewed its decision not to grant consent for the work, but had decided that its decision stands.

The congregation stated that their insurance premium of £1,400 would increase to £14,000 if they were not allowed to carry out the necessary work within a month.

The Superintendence Committee had approved a year-end report from the Assessor Elders appointed to Glasgow Cathedral but was having difficulty in forwarding it to the Minister and Kirk Session on procedural grounds. A further visit may be necessary to explore fully the nature of the ongoing difficulties.

Janet Park



This is Christian Aid's letter acknowledging our Harvest Donation

Many thanks for your kind donation of £871.12 towards the work of Christian Aid. Your response to our emergency appeal is greatly appreciated.

Your gift to our East Africa food crisis appeal will be used immediately to support our partners responding to the emergency there. Our staff in the region are reporting cases of malnutrition in children and adults, and people begging for water on the side of the road. Even animals which are normally resistant to drought such as camels, donkeys and goats are suffering. Due to lack of water, some schools and hospitals have been forced to close and people are travelling for miles to collect drinking water.

Christian Aid's East Africa food crisis appeal has enabled our partners to scale up their efforts to relieve the effects of drought in Northern Kenya.

Some areas have not seen rain for 4 years and water tanking and distribution are vital. This water makes the difference between life and death.

Women in particular face very difficult choices as water sources are scarce. Many are mothers caring for their children in these extremely difficult circumstances. They are responsible for cooking, fetching water, cleaning and collecting fire wood.

The women are forced to save water for the essentials like drinking, cooking, and for many they have not been able to wash themselves or their children properly for months. Thanks to your donations we can continue to provide a vital lifeline for these communities.

Once again, thank you so much for your continued support of our work with and for the poorest communities on earth. With your continued help, we can make a difference.

Alternative Christmas Story



And there were in the country children keeping watch over their stockings by the fireplace. And lo! Santa Clause came upon them; and they were so afraid. And Santa said unto them: "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people who can afford them.



For unto you will be given great feasts of turkey, stuffing and pudding and many presents; and this shall be a sign unto you, ye shall find the presents, wrapped in bright paper, lying beneath a tree adorned with tinsel, coloured balls and lights.



And suddenly there will be with you a multitude of relatives and friends, praising you and saying, 'Thank you so much, it was just what I wanted.' And it shall come to pass as the friends and relatives have gone away into their own homes, the parents shall say to one another, 'What a mess to clear up! I'm tired, let's go to bed and pick it up tomorrow. Thank goodness Christmas only comes once a year!'. "



*Dear Friends,
My mother Mamie and I would
like to express our gratitude to
you for your support, cards,
flowers, prayers and for being
there for us in our sad loss of my
brother*

*."Friends are the ones we can be
weak with"*

Sincerely,

Agnes and Mamie



Poinsettia

Also known as the Christmas Star and Christmas Flower, it is said that this winter flower's association with Christmas comes from a Mexican legend. The story goes that a child, with no means for a grander gift, gathered humble weeds from the side of the road to place at the church altar on Christmas Eve. As the congregation witnessed a Christmas miracle, the weeds turned into brilliant red and green flowers.

*Many thanks for the lovely flowers
which I received on Sunday, 20th
November, also to say that I will be
moving house to Stirling within the
next few weeks.*

Yours sincerely

Janet Forsyth



The carol party will be held in the church on the 18th December at 6.30 pm. Tea Tickets, priced £1, can be obtained from members of the choir. Come along and enjoy sharing in an evening of Christmas music with the Junior and Senior choirs, who will be accompanied by Bill and the Orchestra.

Lodging House Mission

The children of the Sunday School received a certificate of thanks for their donation of food from the Harvest Service.

Thanks to all who have bought Christmas Cards, our total currently stands at £83.

I continue to have £1 meal vouchers, which can be given to homeless people; they can then exchange the voucher for a meal at LHM.

There are copies of the 2011 Annual Review at the front and rear of the church. Please take a copy.

The Annual Carol Service takes place on Tuesday, 20th December at 2.00 pm in the LHM Church. All are welcome.

Finally, thanks to all who have contributed in any way this year towards the work of the LHM.

THE GUILD

Our programme for December and January is:

6th - December Senior Citizens' Party
with The Greenhill Male Voices
13th December Carols by Candlelight
10th January -Holiday Slides -Bill Russell
17th January -A New Hunger
24th January- Scottish Night
31st January -Rev Malcolm
Cuthbertson

New members can always be assured of a warm welcome and an entertaining evening.

*A Happy and Peaceful Christmas
to all from The Guild*

*God give you blessings at Christmas
time;
Stars for your darkness, sun for your
day,
Light on the path as you search for the
Way,
And a mountain to climb.
God grant you courage this coming
year,
Fruit for your striving, friends if you
roam,
Joy in your labour, love in your home,
And a summit to clear*



From the Link team

May we wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Remember - this is your magazine and we would welcome your input for future editions.

Church Flowers :

Thank you once again for your generosity of donations to the flower fund 2011.

My thanks to Anne Stuart who faithfully arranges them every week, also to the ladies who help deliver them:

Doreen Boyes, Anne Scott, Sheila Blackwood, Jackie MacLaren, Moira Scott and Ella Tran.

The new 2012 calendar will be at the front of the church from Sunday 4th December.

Anyone wishing to donate flowers on a special date can add their name to the calendar

May I wish you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Agnes Nicol



Merry Christmas Everyone!