



December 2015

Mure Memorial Church



The Link

Mure Memorial Church is the known name of Glasgow : Mure Memorial,
Church of Scotland,

Scottish Charity No SC002220

Dear Friends,

It was on the 17th December 1843 that Charles Dicken's novel "A Christmas Story" was published, more often seen today as a film. In the story the wealthy business man Scrooge is asked to make a donation to the poor at Christmas time. He refuses saying that he can't afford to make idle people happy. His dead ex-partner then sends three ghosts to Scrooge. The first as Christmas past reminds Scrooge of the happiness he could have had had he made different choices. The second ghost of Christmas present shows Scrooge of the happiness first of his nephew, and then of his employee Bob Cratchit despite being poor, even with Bob having a disabled child named Tiny Tim. The ghost of Christmas yet to come takes Scrooge on a journey to his future –the sacking of Bob Cratchit, and without income Tim dies, and a visit to his own death and graveside where there is no-one to mourn him, but he is offered the opportunity to make it better if he can change his ways. The next day is Christmas Day and Scrooge wakens up as a different man, going to the Cratchit's to announce a pay rise for Bob, and Tim prays a blessing on him. Scrooge decides to live in a more positive and cheerful way and finds happiness for the future.

Having just listened to the Chancellor's Autumn Statement retaining tax credits for the low paid, and looking forward to Black Friday, when many of the big stores have massive discounts in the lead up to Christmas which leads to people fighting over the goods on sale, I can't help but feel we have learned very little in the 172 years since the book was written.

**Being rich does not bring happiness;
You can be happy with little - "enough
is as good as a feast"
True happiness comes with sharing,
And the poorest of the poor can ask
God for a blessing for the richest of the
rich.**

So let's use this Christmas season to check our priorities, to seek to bring happiness, not just to friends and family, but also those we know are there but simply pass them by. Let's reach out and bring a blessing on those who are different from us, those who are more needy than us. We do this not in memory of a book written 172 years ago, but in memory of a child born 2,015 years ago in a humble stable, visited by shepherds and kings, coming to bring true joy to all – Immanuel, God is with us.

Have a truly Joyous Christmas, and the Happiest of New Years.

Malcolm

May you have the gladness of
Christmas which is hope;
The spirit of Christmas which is
peace;
The heart of Christmas which is
love.

Ada V. Hendricks

VESTRY TIMES

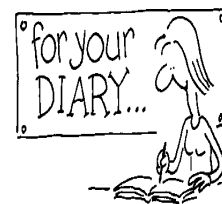
Monday 6.30pm – 7.30pm Mure Memorial
 Tuesday 10.00am-11.00am Mure Memorial
 (Thrift Shop and Café available at same time)
 Wednesday 6.30pm – 7.30pm St. Andrew's
 Saturday 10.00am – 11.00am St. Andrew's
 (Pop-In Café available at same time)

No specific appointment is necessary. 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.



Rev Malcolm
Cuthbertson

Our Assistant Minister, Rev Alex Stuart's phone number is **07901802967**



- Sunday 13th Dec Communion Sunday with services at 10.00 am and 2.00 pm
- Wed 16th Dec Baillieston Churches Together Ecumenical Carol Service in Mure Memorial at 7.30 pm
- Sunday 20th Dec Nativity Sunday Service led by the Sunday School Choir Carol Party 6.30 pm
- Thursday 24th Dec Watchnight Service at 11.15 pm
- Friday 25th Dec Christmas Morning Service at 11.00 am
- Sunday 27th Dec Morning Worship 10.00 am
- Sunday 3rd Jan Morning Worship 10.00 am
- Sunday 10th Jan Baptismal Service 10.00 am
- Sunday 17th Jan Morning Worship 10.00am
- Sunday 24th Jan Morning Worship 10.00 am
- Monday 25th Jan Men's Fellowship Concert with Cantabile 7.30 pm
- Sunday 31st Jan Morning Worship 10.00am



Jesus, God-with-us,
 what gift shall we bring to you?
 The angels bring their song,
 the heavens bring their star,
 the shepherds bring their wonder,
 the animals give their manger,
 the wise men bring their gifts.
 We bring our whole selves to you who has so
 fully and generously given yourself to us.
 Amen.

Flower Calendar

Thank you to everyone who has donated flowers for services during November



Nov 1st	Mary Martin
Nov 8th	Jack & Janette Hunt
Nov 15th	The Guild
Nov 22nd	The Mathieson Family
Nov 29th	Margaret Hutchison

The 2016 Flower Calendar is now available. Anyone wishing special dates should choose them. Thank you for your generosity.

Agnes Nicol

DOOR DUTY December

BEADLE: M Scott

Door & Collection

December 6th	December 13th
I Whitelaw	
R McLellan	
N Collins	Kirk Session
A Miller	
P McLellan	
J Smith	

December 20th	December 27th
M McLachlan	E Boyd
I Main	C Rodgers
J McVittie	A Stuart
C McChesney	D Rodgers
A Nicol	B Graham
S McKibbin	A Graham

DOOR DUTY January

BEADLE: R Getty

Door & Collection

January 3rd	January 10th
Jack Hunt	A Telfer
E Clark	G McDonald
M Brown	Alex Wilson
Jeanette Hunt	M McMillan
S Brown	P McDonald
A Kenyon	A Forrester

January 17th	January 24th
R Colquhoun	A Pollock
I Malcolm	C Scotland
S Blackwood	J Davidson
M McEwan	A Borthwick
E Colquhoun	J Crawford
J McLaren	C Turnbull

January 31st	
I Whitelaw	
R McLellan	
N Collins	
A Miller	
P McLellan	
J Smith	

DOOR DUTY February

BEADLE: G Leiper

Door & Collection

February 7th	February 14th
M McLachlan	E Boyd
I Main	C Rodgers
J McVittie	A Stuart
C McChesney	D Rodgers
A Nicol	B Graham
S McKibbin	A Graham

Some people think that Christmas time is gifts and grub and booze;
But the best bit is that Jesus came - God's Son in human shoes.



Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizens meet on Mondays at 2.15pm. We have a varied and entertaining programme. All are very welcome.

Our programme for December and January is

7th Dec Phil McFarlane – Singer

14th Christmas Lunch

No meetings over the holiday season

11th Jan Billy Laing - Singer

18th Bill Russell – Holiday Slides

25th Burns Afternoon tea with Alex Stuart

1st Feb Rev Malcolm Cuthbertson



Our meetings for December and January are

- Dec. 1 Ian Walker
- 8 Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner – Musical Christmas Card
- 15 Carols by Candlelight

2016

- Jan. 5 Holiday Slides – Bill Russell
- 12 Good Moves by Vitality
- 19 Malcolm
- 26 Scottish Night

Our Meetings begin at 7.30 p.m. and there is a warm welcome for everyone.

Men's Fellowship

Our group meets on Mondays at 7.45 pm in the Guild Room. We invite men from our congregation to consider joining us at our weekly meeting- if however you are not available every week we are happy to welcome visitors.

Our meetings for December and January are as follows;

- 7th Dec Evelyn McKechnie – Ecosse
Battlefields
- 14th Dec Clyde Gateway – “The Olympia”
- 11th Jan Tara Servick – Human Trafficking
- 18th Jan Jim Percival – St Kilda

The Fellowship are sponsoring a concert on Monday 25th January, featuring the singing group ‘Cantabile’. This group are well known and their programme features light music and songs from the shows. Tickets will be priced £5.00 and full details will be available early January.

Burns Evening 8th February

This year we are deviating from our traditional Burns Supper. The plan is to have a more informal evening featuring Rev Alex Stuart and including Bill Russell, Denise and Janet. The Junior Choir led by Elizabeth Russell will also appear. Light refreshments will be provided and further details will appear nearer the time.



Lodging House Mission

Many thanks to all who have made donations to the LHM during the past year.

Thanks are due to those who sponsored the Walk in Kelvingrove Park, the children and staff of the Sunday School and others for the support shown at the Harvest Service, and those who bought Christmas cards. We must record our gratitude to Garrowhill Primary School for their generous donations from the children at Harvest.

LHM will be particularly busy over the winter months as it is the venue for the official Glasgow Winter Night Shelter from December until March. There will be boxes available in the Church for donations of tins to LHM (and the Salvation Army) to help feed the homeless over Christmas.

Sweet Christmas



A girl called Mary heard a WISPA, from an angel (wearing a HALO) who said that she would be the Mother of God's son. But how could this be? She was not yet married to

Joseph. To have a baby now would be a TOPIC of conversation in the village. Joseph also heard of God's plan, but before the baby arrived, political events overtook them – Joseph had to return to Bethlehem for the census – it was miles away – a MARATHON (Snickers) journey, but Joseph thought the BREAK would do her good. When they arrived, Joseph tried to find lodgings, but CLUB after CLUB let them down – No room they all said. Eventually they were offered a little out house – it was there that the little baby was born. He was named Jesus, which means Saviour. He was laid in a manger, lined with hay and STRAW (Sherbet straw!)

That night, some shepherds, and DRIFTERS, heard TUNES in the sky. "Glory to God in the Highest". The shepherds decided to take a break (KIT- KAT) from looking after the sheep. Let's (GO?) and see what's happening in Bethlehem. When they were there they found the TRIO, Joseph, Mary and Jesus, who was lying in a manger. It was not at all a NICE place; smelly and dirty – not really a fit place for a maternity ward. They were however

UNITED in their wonder, they REVELled at the thought that this child was special. Could this be just as the prophets had foretold – was this the LION of Judah? It was getting late, AFTER EIGHT, in fact – so the shepherds returned to the hills – huffing and PUFFIN and singing praise to God as they went.

Meanwhile in a far country, some SMARTIES, wise men were busily scanning the GALAXY, when they saw a star near the MILKY WAY. Was it MARS? No it was a special STAR (bar) – signalling the birth of a King. They travelled long and hard and reached Herod's Palace – they were not embarrassed to HOBNOB with royalty. Herod was very interested – "A King has been born?" – He didn't believe them and called them ALL TEASERS, but just to make sure – he tried to FUDGE the issue by saying that he wanted to go and worship the baby – and told the wise men to report to him on their way back. The wise men travelled until they found Jesus and offered their BOUNTY, GOLD, frankincense, and Myrrh. Then God warned them in a dream that Herod was up to his TWIX again, seeking the child's life. So they took the TIME OUT to return by another route.

Now that's the familiar story – the CLASSIC tale, told at Christmas. It has little to do with reindeer and FLAKES of snow and robins and a baby in a clean crib

decorated with tinsel. The original story was not that NICE. Jesus was born a refugee, he was a threat, a danger – don't miss the meaning.

Jesus was born so that ALLSORTS of people might know God's love for them. Many people are looking for meaning and purpose – some kind of REFRESHER in life – a BOOST in difficult times. The Christmas Story really is cause for CELEBRATION, Jesus is no MINATURE HERO!



End of year Accounts

Treasurers of our church organisations are reminded that, as normal, accounts require to be audited for the year ending 31/12/15.

The accounts, when finalised, can be handed to Stuart McKibbin, Peter Malcolm or Alex Pollock

Thank you

The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when he gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son.



- Robert Flatt

Church Gift Day

The Finance Committee wishes to thank all those who contributed to the church funds at the recent Gift Day. We also thank the ladies who provided the refreshments – these were much appreciated by all who attended.

At the time of writing this report, the sum realised is £5550, which includes the element added under the Gift Aid scheme. Members of the committee are sometimes asked why it is necessary to request such extra donations from time to time. This is easily answered.

£100,000 is needed every year to run our church and many of the items of expenditure are outwith our control, thus presenting a challenge for us to meet our commitments. Our main items this year are

Ministries and Mission	£58969
Presbytery	£3162
Heating and Lighting	£7500
Insurance	£3327
Upkeep of Grounds	£1800
Property	£6387
Council Tax	£1200
Organist and Cleaner	£7260
Children, Youth and Family Worker	£4200

There are other smaller items which will, as usual, be detailed in the annual accounts and, of course, there is always the possibility of an unexpected expense for which we have not budgeted.

For example, we were faced with the need to replace our boiler in October to ensure that we have a warm church throughout the winter. To our surprise the ladies of the Thrift Shop and the Line Dancers offered to pay the full cost of almost £5000. We were extremely pleased (and, indeed, relieved) to accept this most generous offer and wish to extend our sincere thanks to both organisations for a wonderful gift which benefits the entire congregation and all our friends who make use of our buildings.

We hope this explanation is helpful to readers and illustrates the difficulties faced by the Finance Committee and Board of Management in monitoring and controlling our church's finances.

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Where has the time gone? How have we lurched into December already? Well, it appears that we have! Christmas plans are in full swing, and I suspect come the turn of the year I'll have aged considerably! There are various events going on, and it is proving just about

impossible to split myself to be in the various places I am wanted and sometimes needed! On the 10th December the Primary Schools SU Groups are going to Shettleston New Church for their Christmas Party. This is all the SU Groups in Primary Schools in the East End meeting, and that term is being loosely applied as it covers a massive area, including Robroyston near to where I live! On 15th December, it is the turn of the secondary schools groups to have their party, and this time we are off to Moodiesburn Church! What is classed as the East End of Glasgow certainly can be quite vast!



Within the church we are having a Christmas Party Reunion for the Holiday Club. We'll look at the Christmas Story, as well as having lots of games and crafts and singing. It promises to be an excellent afternoon! The Youth Fellowship are also busy with Christmas Plans, and are having a day out to go ice skating in Edinburgh!



Hopefully we don't have gale force winds and we can enjoy our adventures to the capital!

By the time you read this, I will have completed my course at 121 on Understanding Adolescents. This course has been fascinating, and whilst I don't claim to have all the answers, I am now appreciative of the fact that there is scientific reason for teenagers not getting up in the morning!

As I fast approach my first Christmas with you here at Mure Memorial Church, I want to wish each one of you a peaceful Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year when it comes.

Douglas Robertson
Children, Young People and Family Worker



World Mission Committee



A Life Changing Restaurant

Debitu Abebe lives in the beautiful town of Arbaminch, 500 km south of Addis Ababa. The town is part of the great Ethiopian rift valley which cuts the country into two. The climate is generally hot and humid throughout the year.

Debitu's family lived in a very small room only 3m x 3m. Their combined income from her husband's daily labourer job and from baking and selling injera was hardly enough to feed the family or send their four children to school.

In 2008, a neighbour told Debitu about the benefits of self help groups and encouraged her to join one. Debitu was skeptical about the idea of being able to change her life without any outside help but she decided to give it a go, and joined a group called Be'emnet, meaning 'By Faith'.

As well as saving money together, group members receive training on saving and loans, income generating activities and basic business skills.

With the first loan she received from her group, Debitu expanded her injera business and started supplying two local company canteens. But the companies then moved to another city, and the sudden loss of business affected her income in a huge way. She tried her best, but the amount of money she earned and the time and energy she spent did not match.

In spite of this struggle, she repaid the loan and took another one to start-up a mini restaurant in her one room house. She later received permission from the local government to build an extra room on land behind her house and used further loans to increase her capital and diversify her menu. She hired four people as cooks and waitresses and business is flourishing. Debitu has named her restaurant, 'Shempa Asha' which means, 'Life Changing'.

Debitu paid for her husband to get his driving licence and he left his daily labourer job and now works as an assistant for long distance drivers. Her children are well fed and receiving proper education and their house is now well furnished.

She says, *'You would not see my family as we are now if I hadn't joined the self help group. We could have divorced long ago because of survival quarrels. My self help group maintained my marriage and my family is not only surviving but also thriving.'*

With great enthusiasm, Debitu describes her self help group as a family, and she gives credit to the support of church facilitators and

the church. *'They always showed genuine encouragement for what I was doing, and the training they provided has helped me to be successful in my business'.*

Debitu believes that it is better to help and empower people to support themselves instead of making them dependent, and she says, *'If a person is stuck down a hole, it is much better to give them rope than to give them bread'.*



I would like to express my thanks to the Church Family at Mure Memorial who helped me celebrate the big '90' on Sunday 29th November.

A particularly big thanks to the ladies who organised, prepared, and served the food.

Thanks to all.

John Coutts



Mure Access Project

We have now been informed by Presbytery's Property Committee that we have been granted permission, in principle, to go ahead with our new Project. This will allow us to create new disabled access at both church and hall levels on the Grove side of the building. We also plan to install disabled toilets at both levels, replace the lift, which is no longer able to be repaired, and install a chair lift on the stairs. We will create a bigger, and much needed disabled parking area on the far side of the building. Toilets will also be installed in the vestibule at the main doors of the church, something we have discussed for many years, and a small kitchen facility will be created in the vestibule. Much of this work is essential if we are to comply with legislation relating to public buildings being compliant under the Disability Discrimination Act.

It is now up to us, as a congregation, to raise the money that is needed to complete the works. The figure which the Board has put on

the total project is £270,000. The committee has been very busy trying to source money from various grant agencies and have already made several applications. You have already heard about our appeal for votes for the Co-op local Fund.

We are also looking at various ways to fundraise, locally. We have Calendars and Christmas Cards to sell as well as shopping bags. There are envelopes now available if you wish to donate on a weekly basis. Another way of giving is through our "TEN for TEN" Scheme. We are asking people to commit to giving £10.00 a month (you can make it more if you feel able) for ten months by standing order. If you are able to sign a Gift Aid form and haven't already done so, please ensure you fill one in.

And here is another way you can help which Douglas has set up for us. Doing any On-Line Shopping? Well the church has a way in which you can raise funds for the MAP, and do your on-line shopping - all from the comfort of your house! You need to register at

www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for Mure Memorial Church. This will then ask you to download an application to the tool bar that will remind you each time you visit a supporting website. A full list of retailers is available on EasyFunding, but here is a small selection of retailers you could use; John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, Halfords, Argos, AA Breakdown

and JustEat, which covers many local carry out suppliers. There are lots more retailers and these deals last throughout the year, without costing you any more money!

If you can give your support by any of these means and want further information, please speak to any member of the committee. We will also be pleased to hear about any fundraising ideas which you may have. We ask you to keep the project and the committee in your prayers.

Thank you
From the MAP Committee

Peter Malcolm, Alec Pollock, Myra McMillan, Janis Smith, Alison Tedeschi, John Coutts and Janet Park

From the Link team

May we wish all our readers a
Happy Christmas and a peaceful
New Year



The Church of Scotland has created an online Advent calendar, which goes live on 1st December. Each day of Advent, one of our ministers shares a new film about the meaning and spirituality of Christmas. We hope you'll find their messages reflective and uplifting. If you sign-up now at <http://churchofscotland.advent-calendar.net/>, you'll receive an email alert when each Advent window is open and ready to reveal a new short film.

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 Post Box 35 in the Session Room

**Deadline for the next issue is
Wednesday 27th January 2016**