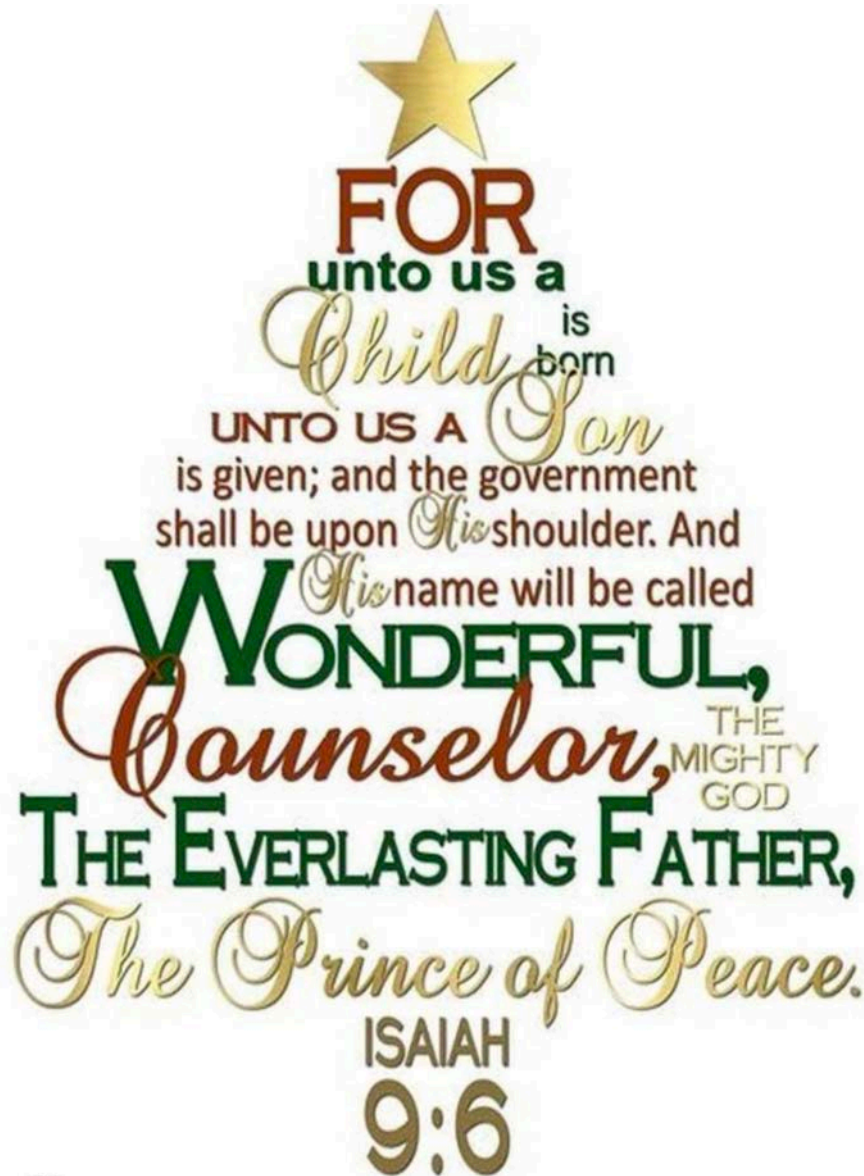


DECEMBER 2023



Living our **faith** by our **actions**  at the heart of the **community**

Parish Register

DEATHS

Mrs Isobel Devine, Glendoune Road, Clarkston

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" John 14:2 N.I.V.

PULPIT DIARY

DECEMBER

3rd December	10.30	Gift Service followed by Advent Communion
10th December	10.30	Worship with Sunday Club Nativity
	2.00	Time to Remember Service
17th December	10.30	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
24th December	10.30	Family Worship
	6.30	Children's'Christmas Eve Service
	11.30	Watchnight Service
25th December	10.30	Christmas Day Service
31 st December	10.30	Family Worship

JANUARY

7th January	10.30	Worship & Sunday Club/JAM
14th January	10.30	Worship & Sunday Club/JAM
21st January	10.30	Worship & Sunday Club/JAM
28th January	10.30	Worship & Sunday Club/JAM

LIVE STREAMING OF WORSHIP

The technical equipment in the Church Sanctuary allows streaming via You Tube on Sunday Mornings.

Anyone wishing to view the service should click on the link, which is emailed to the congregation each week from the church office. The service can also be found by searching on You Tube. Once in 'You Tube' simply type in 'Greenbank Church Morning Service' and select the correct service. Please note that with live streaming there is about a minute's delay before the service is transmitted from the church to people at home. Please be patient if it is a little later than 10.30am before the service starts.

For those who do not have a computer and are unable to attend church there is an option of using their telephone to listen to the service. Simply dial 0141 815 1166 at 10.30am if you wish to listen to the service live; alternatively, you can listen to a recording of the most recent service from the Monday until the Saturday of the following week. When you dial to hear the most recent recording you will firstly hear a message from Jeanne and then some music. Wait until the music stops and then, when asked to do so, press '1' on your telephone keypad.

SATURDAY BOOK CLUB

We are still reading Karen Armstrong's book "The Case for God" and we are looking at Chapter 6 which is entitled, "Faith and Reason".

Our next meeting is on Saturday the 2nd of December in the creche room just off the Hall of Friendship at 10am or at 09:45 if you would like to join us for breakfast. Remember to bring a mug if you want tea or coffee. New members are very welcome and we would be pleased to see you. If you have any questions or would like to know please get in touch with Ronnie McNeill on 01415776503.



Dear Friends,

The Season of Advent marks the beginning of the Christian Year as we celebrate on the 1st Sunday in Advent (3rd of December) and the Sundays thereafter. Taken together, they lead us towards Christmas Day. The Season brings to us all the opportunity to anticipate the coming of the Christ-child. It is often a time when many of us are busy and there is much to do. In the midst of the busyness of it all, it is good for us to be still and to reflect on the significance of the Season.

One of the great hymns of the season is an ancient one which anticipates the coming of the presence of God into our world:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Although the words are drawn from another time, I believe they still resonate today. There is an honesty about them that we can identify with as they draw on the reality of the loneliness and sorrow which are part and parcel of human experience. Although this is so, the words do not leave us there. Rather, they speak of a hope and a promise. The hope that God shall come and the promise that this will be so:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

In this Season of Advent, let us join with all who are heirs to the promise of God and await the coming of the Son of God into our world. Where there is loneliness, may the presence of God be known. Where there is sorrow, may the presence of God bring comfort. Where there is darkness, may presence of God bring light.
Yours sincerely,

Rev Dr John L McPake
Interim Moderator
Greenbank Parish Church

OFFERING INCOME

Dear Friends,

I wish to thank all those who continue to support the church, whether by standing order, direct payment into our bank account, weekly freewill offering or putting money in the offering bag each Sunday.

Offering income is essential to the work of the church and any increases in offering income to Greenbank are always welcome. You may also, or instead, make a contribution to the Greenbank's Restricted Fabric Fund.

I recognise that some of us may not be able to increase their offering which makes it all the more important for those who can, to do so. For those are unable to come to church for whatever reason, but still wish to contribute financially, you may contribute by any of the above methods.

For a standing order form, or details of the church's bank account to make a direct payment, please email me at alistairsmith@ntlworld.com or write to me at the address below and I will be happy to assist. You may also post me a cheque and/or your freewill offering contribution to the address below. My address is 26 Stewart Drive, Clarkston G76 7EZ.

Thank you all for your continuing support.
Alistair Smith, Treasurer.

LEGACY FUND

Thank you again to all those who continue to contribute to our Legacy Fund.

Pledges can be, and have been, made for any amount of money you can afford, and spread over a few years by standing order if that suits you better. Alternatively, a one-off payment by bank transfer or cheque can be made, and you can also donate to the project online by logging on to our church website, following the link to the Legacy Project and clicking the red "Donate Online" button.

Spare pledge and bank standing order forms are available from myself or the Church Secretary, should you require any. Please remember that **every donation**, of whatever size, is both needed and warmly welcome.

Alistair Smith, Treasurer
Tel: 0141 571 2676 Email: alistairsmith@ntlworld.com

GIFT SERVICE – SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER

The Sunday Club would like to invite everyone to please donate a gift to help brighten up what might otherwise be a rather bleak Christmas, for some children, young people and families in our city. In the past we have had a terrific response to this request, for which the organisations and recipients are extremely grateful.

As before Gifts are collected for 3 groups:

1. NEW BORN BABIES & MUMS - the QEUH Children's Hospital Neo-natal Unit cares for young, homeless or vulnerable mothers: gifts of new new-born clothes for the babies (including hand-knitted items) and toiletries for Mums are requested, no second-hand.
2. CHILDREN ages 8 to 12 – CHURCH HOUSE in Bridgeton – specifically games and arts/crafts are requested.
3. YOUTH ages 13 to 18 – SACRO (Scottish Council for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders) please donate gift cards. Supermarket gift cards would be particularly welcome e.g. Asda, Tesco, Morrison's, Sainsbury's, due to the variety of goods available, and also as sadly some young people will need them to buy food.

Please bring your new, unwrapped gift (gift cards in an unsealed envelope please) to church on Sunday 3rd December, or put in the box in the Link Building from Sunday 26th November. We thank you, once again, for your support and generosity. Your help will make a big difference to others.

Prayer Diary

Our God, Heaven cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ
(excerpt from In the Bleak Midwinter by Christina Rossetti)

In a world when we are still so far away from living together in peace, the true message of Christmas is more important than ever. As Christmas draws close, pray that the door of hate can be closed and the door of love opened. Where so many people are hungry or homeless, give humble thanks for all that we have and where people are lonely, give thanks for friends and family.

*And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."
*(From Christmas Bells by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)**

As we head into winter, pray that the weather will not be too severe. We have already had some storms, hurricanes, flooding and landslides. Pray that nations involved in conflicts can be brought to the table to seek peaceful solutions. Pray too that the focus on the climate emergency will not slip.

On a lighter note, I hope you will be able to come along to at least some of our Christmas services and enjoy the fellowship of the season.

It's the day before Christmas and all through the house
The puppies are squeaking an old rubber mouse.
The wreath that had merrily hung on the door
Is scattered in pieces all over the floor.
The stockings that hung in a neat little row
Now boast a hole in each one of the toes.
The tree was subjected to bright eyed whims
And now, although special, is missing some limbs.
I catch them and hold them, 'Be good,' I insist.
They lick me then run off to see what they've missed.
And now as I watch them the thought comes to me
That theirs is the spirit that Christmas should be.
Should puppies and children yet show us the way
And teach us the joy that should come with this day?
Could they bring the message that written above
And tell us that, most of all, Christmas is love.
(A Puppy's Christmas- unknown)



I wish you a merry and peaceful Christmas and a new year full of what you hope for.

Gillian Foy (Prayer Promotor)

What's On

FLOWER LIST FOR DECEMBER / JANUARY

	Communion Table	Centenary Chapel	Side Windows
3 rd December	Marie Forster	_____	_____
7 th January	Bert McCrum	Ray Stewardson	_____
21 st January	Calder Watson	Helen Howard	_____
28 th January	Jane Livingston	Jan Millar	_____

A member of the Flower Committee will contact you during the week prior to your date.

* The new sheets for 2024 flower list are on the windowsill in the Transept. Please put your name against any date that you would like to donate flowers for the Church.

With thanks,

Elizabeth Cross ([638 5162](tel:6385162))

**ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO
GREENBANK OFFICE AT: office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk
& JILL LIDDELL AT: liddell.jill@gmail.com BY SUNDAY 14th JANUARY PLEASE**

THE GUILD

The Guild continue to have enjoyable meetings on Wednesday afternoons. Numbers are down a little from previous years due to the fact that some of our very faithful members are sadly unwell or for various reasons just not able to attend. We send them our warmest wishes and want them to know they are not forgotten.

Our sincere thanks go to the volunteers who set up the hall for us ensure the heating is on.

Our Christmas Lunch takes place at Cathcart Castle Golf Club on 6th December. This is always a happy event. Our meetings resume on 10th January 2024 when new members will be made most welcome.

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

Clarkston Community Choir are busy rehearsing for performances around Glasgow next month, including appearances at Princes Square ([2nd December, 4:30pm](#)), Langside Church ([3rd December, 7pm](#)) and St Enoch Centre ([10th December, 2:30pm](#)). They are delighted to be helping raise money for Maggie's and Quarriers at these events, as well as donating the proceeds of their final performance - at Greenbank Parish Church, [7:30pm 15th December](#) - to Medicinema and The Occasion Theatre. This concert features the choir alongside a fantastic orchestra of local musicians performing festive favourites, as well as our special rendition of *The 12 Days of Christmas!* Tickets cost £5, and are available on the door or from choir members.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you need prayer for yourself, a loved one or a friend, requests can be sent to the Prayer Promoter, Gillian Foy via the church office at office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk Those for whom prayers are requested will be prayed for throughout the following month by members of the Prayer Group.

Anyone who would like a copy of the prayer list, in order to pray for those on it, should contact Gillian Foy, Prayer Promoter [0141 638 6245]

Young People's Page

A Christmas legend

Three trees shivered in the cold moonshine, a date palm, an olive and a dark green pine.

They whispered together, saw a light in the sky, paused, secrets forgotten, heard a new baby's cry.

They stood in the yard near the child's manger bed. "What can we give him?" the gentle pine said.

The olive gave oil to soothe his small feet. The palm promised dates, all sticky and sweet.

"But what about me?" the poor pine tree cried. "I can't think of a thing, I've tried and I've tried!"

Hearing her cries all the stars tumbled down to light up her branches like a bright golden crown.

Then the pine tree stood tall so the baby could see on that first Christmas Day, his first Christmas tree.

Moira Andrew



Mince pies used to contain real minced beef. The mince pies that we eat now have lots of fruit and spices in them, but 200 years ago they were made from real minced beef.

Candy canes were invented to keep kids quiet in church. In 1670, a German choirmaster (a person who leads a choir) asked a sweet shop to make sweets (in the shape of a shepherd's hook) for the children at his church to keep them quiet during the Christmas festivities.

Christmas used to be banned in Scotland. Christmas was banned in Scotland by a minister called John Knox (who believed that only dates written in the bible should be celebrated - Christmas Day was not one of them). Christmas officially became a public holiday in 1958 (a public holiday is a day where you do not need to go to work). Instead of Christmas, Scotland had the festival of Hogmanay that they celebrated on New Year's Eve.

In Sweden, they leave a coffee for Santa instead of biscuits and milk. Seeing that Father Christmas gets to eat a lot of sweet things on his journey around the world on Christmas Eve, Swedish children leave him some coffee to give him more energy and to warm him up!

The world record for a Christmas tree is 221 feet. The Douglas fir was cut and put on display in 1950, at a shopping mall in Seattle, USA. The tree is as tall as 12 giraffes standing on top of one another! Thankfully, no giraffes had to stand on top of each other to measure the tree - they just used an extra-long measuring tape!

The song "Jingle Bells" was sent into space. Christmas carols are a popular tradition, but 'Jingle Bells' is out of this world! It was the first song to be sung in outer space when astronauts aboard the Gemini 6 spacecraft sang the carol in 1965.

The smallest Christmas card ever made is invisible to the human eye. Scientists at the University of Glasgow created this amazing Christmas card. It's so tiny that you have to use a microscope to see it.

NATIVITY WORD SEARCH

JOSEPHVQJDI EOB I OTWI SESRXDLUDCX RVD MKAFXCERZRZV L HAREGNAMMUZE MI J QNVSEHANEKI HSV EMGERL CQBGGZPCP SYENRUOJ ECSNERE UGLX EKCMFZF NHPE SQUQDZ YTFYI STH DONKEYYNQSZCKKS VWTGTWRUUISIRQL YTI VITANKHAYAKF FHZJ DZMHRRYMTKR VWFRANKI NCENSEG RDAVIDMEHELHTEB	NATIVITY MARY JOSEPH JESUS MANGER SHEPHERD STAR DAVID INN DONKEY HAY BETHLEHEM JOURNEY ANGEL WISE FRANKINCENSE MYRRH SHEEP CAMEL
---	--

Hi Everyone,

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Sunday Club and Jam are focused on providing a Nativity Service in person this year BUT we will need some help from the Congregation with the singing of our songs this time. I'm sure you will all know the songs and enjoy helping out the younger members of the congregation celebrate the Nativity Story. The children are looking forward to performing in the church in person this year and we hope that you all enjoy the event. There will be some audience participation required on this occasion.

During the Service on 17th December Sunday Club be undertaking our Party and JAM will have their breakfast out. As always, we hope you enjoy all the activities and crafts we have on offer over the next few weeks.

Sunday Club & Jam Team

Dates for December are: -

Sunday 3rd December – 1st Sunday in Advent - **Gift Service**

Sunday 10th December – Sunday Club & Jam Nativity in Church

Sunday 17th December – Nine Lessons and Carols Service (Sunday Club Party in Halls)

Sunday 24th December – Family Service Sunday Club/JAM on holiday)

Sunday 7th January – Sunday Club/JAM returns from holiday and meets each Sunday during January thereafter.

SANTA ADVENT CALENDAR



To make:

1. Cut Santa's face from white craft paper. Add texture with colored pencil.
2. Cut pink cheeks, eyes, and nose from construction paper; glue to the face.
3. Cut the hat from red and white craft paper; glue to the face.
4. Glue a large cotton ball at the point of the hat.
5. Cut a long beard shape from white craft paper.
6. Write the dates of the month leading up to Christmas on the beard.
7. Hang the calendar and set a bowl of cotton balls and a bottle of glue nearby.
8. Every day until Christmas, glue a cotton ball on the date so by Christmas Day Santa has whole bushy beard!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Unless you are drifting around in your superyacht around the International Date Line, the people that live on the Kiritimati atoll in Kiribati are the first to bring in the New Year. That is at 10am on Sunday 31st December Glasgow Time. There are 38 time zones at this time of year, so New Year's Eve is celebrated at 38 different times. When India enters 2024, half of the world's population is already into the New Year.

This is because a lot of people live in Asia. About 25% of the world's population will enter 2024 at the same time when the clock reaches midnight in China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Western Australia. 26 hours after the first bottle of bubbly popped, Baker Island toasts the New Year. Kiribati is already into the second day of the year before Baker Island leaves 2023. Happy New Year to everyone everywhere.

News and Updates

CHRISTMAS CARD DROP OFF

Last year we organised a very successful system which allowed us to send Christmas cards to each other so, as postage is now very expensive, we are going to do it again this year. Between Sunday 3rd December and Sunday 17th December you may drop off your Christmas cards to people **who are likely to be able to pick them up from the church** in the Crèche Room (Room C) just off the Hall of Friendship. There will not be a delivery service.

Please add the name of the recipient and, if possible, their address to the envelope to ensure it goes to the right person and place it by surname in the correct alphabetical pile. You will also be able to pick up any cards addressed to you from the same place up until Sunday 24th December.

BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB

At Bushido we have a great mix of female and male students of all ages. It is really pleasing to see a number of new females (all ages) joining recently. We have also great female coaches and Karate is an activity/sport that has seen the greatest percentage increase in female participation in Scotland.

We held daytime classes during the October school week where we had great attendance and as part of the coaching, we used different methods including showing videos on techniques and competition.

Over the last few months, a number of our students have trained while on holiday at another club and recently our very own Douglas and Hilary Carswell trained at Moutier Karate Club in Bourg St Maurice (France). They had a great training session and were made very welcome. - They presented Sensei Sylvain with a Bushido Top and shortbread for the club as a reminder of their visit.

Bushido Karate Club would like to wish everyone at Greenbank a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and we thank you for allowing our club to be part of Greenbank.

Best wishes

John

Bushido Karate Association Chairman

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who supported A Very Merry Christmas Clarkston and the Christmas Fayre. From those who baked, served and produced handmade items, to the organisations who held a stall, we are very grateful to everyone who gave up their time and showcased their talents. We hope that you enjoyed the chance to relax amongst friends at our Christmas Fayre, and send you best wishes for the festive season.'

GOOD NEWS FOR EVERYONE

You may remember that earlier in the year, many of us were able to receive a commemorative copy of New Testament Psalms and Proverbs. These very attractive pocket-sized blue books were issued by Good News for Everyone (previously known as Gideons) to commemorate the Coronation on 6th May of HM King Charles III. Greenbank was very fortunate to receive many copies - this came about as one of our church members has a neighbour who is involved with Good News for Everyone. The copies proved very popular, and were issued throughout our congregation and at community events. Only two now remain. They are on the table in the Centenary Chapel should you wish one.

At our meeting in September, Greenbank Kirk Session agreed that it would be fitting to make a donation to Good News for Everyone, in support of their work in spreading The Word, and in appreciation of their kind and thoughtful gesture towards us. A donation of £150 was made recently via our treasurer, Alistair Smith, which was received with gratitude.



Donations for the LHM

Donations can be put on the trolley in the Link building on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9am-12noon; Sundays 9.45am-11.30am. UHT milk is particularly requested. Clothing, toiletries and bedding are not required at the moment.

Envelopes are also available for donations of money. Please complete your details on the envelope (so that Gift Aid can be claimed if relevant and your donation can be acknowledged) and either hand to me, place in an offering bag during the service or post in the letterbox at the entrance to the church halls. Please do not leave these envelopes on the trolley with the other donations. All donations are very much appreciated.

Volunteering to help Greenbank help LHM

Would you like to join the rota in 2024 to deliver the donated items to the LHM on a suitable day during the week? If you would like to help, please speak to me at church or give me a phone.

Christmas Cards will be on sale in the Fraser Hall for the final time this year on Sunday 3 December. There are six new designs this year and each pack of 10 cards costs £4.50. Some older designs are still available at £4 per pack. Packs of notelets are also on sale at £3 for 10. It would be really helpful if you brought the correct money. Thank you.

Forthcoming Events at the LHM

- **The Christmas Show** takes place on Wednesday 6 December at 1.30pm. Capacity is limited so please book by contacting the LHM.
- **The Annual Christmas Service of Carols and Readings** takes place on Wednesday 13 December at 2.30pm with a guest speaker and Mission Voices.

Liz Smith (571-2676)

GOOD NEIGHBOUR DISTRIBUTION

It's now over a year since we started sending out most magazines by e-mail. This has resulted in a big saving, environmentally and financially. It has also meant that we need fewer distributors and that most visitors have fewer calls to make. Thanks to everyone who has made this possible.

We are keen to make sure that everyone who wants to read the magazine gets it in the form that suits their circumstances. I have a few observations that might be helpful in ensuring this.

- We do a large print edition for those with sight problems.
- The spare copies placed in the transept windows are meant for visitors or to take for a friend. (If you've been taking those rather than letting me know you need a paper copy, please do tell me, or let the office know.)
- Second class postage to send out the magazine is now £1.55 so if you get it posted to you but are a regular church attendee let me know and we can work out some way for you to pick up your copy in the church.
- If you have given the church office your e-mail address, but haven't been receiving the magazine, please check your junk or spam folder.
- Remember that the magazine is e-mailed with the Order of Service nine times a year.
- Anyone who would be willing to deliver four magazines in Eaglesham, please get in touch.

Liz Allan (lizabeth.allan4417@gmail.com or 0141 644 1725)

REMEMBRANCE

Again this year Greenbank showed full support for Poppy Scotland in the days leading up to Remembrance Sunday. The war memorial in our church vestibule was draped with a net of hand knitted poppies; the front of the church was illuminated red through adaptations to the church floodlights; and beautiful large poppies were spray painted onto the grass area in front of the church. Thanks to Mark, Derek, Susan and Ian who helped make this possible. Please also see the message below from our contact, Clare, at Poppyscotland, thanking us for supporting "Light Up Red" and the 2023 Scottish Poppy Appeal.



Hi

I'm getting in touch to let you know how much everyone at Poppyscotland appreciates your support for Light Up Red and the 2023 Scottish Poppy Appeal.

We're delighted that you were able to light up this year as we know it means a lot to our Armed Forces community to see this very visible expression of support across the country, and it also plays an important part in increasing local and national awareness of the Appeal. This year saw more than 160 locations taking part, covering all parts of Scotland from the Northern Isles to the Borders.

Many thanks once again for your support.

With very best wishes,

Clare



GIFFNOCK SOUTH CONCERT SERIES

The Giffnock South Concert Series presents monthly concerts in the sanctuary at Giffnock South Parish Church, featuring a huge variety of solo performers and chamber groups from around Glasgow and beyond. Concerts take place on the first Saturday of each month from 1-2pm, and tickets cost £5 (available on the door, under 18s free). The next event on 2nd December will feature the Haver Quartet, a string quartet that will perform a programme of classical and folk music featuring their own original arrangements alongside popular works by Dvorak and Haydn.

Richard Scholfield

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