

Lest we Forget

At the end of November, I find myself considering not only the Armistice commemorations, but also the implications of the Great War for the future. I grieve, not so much for the millions of dead but for all their unborn children, all over the world, and all the missing generations into the future. What would Duns have been like if our soldiers had survived, lived here, and raised their families? What about Scotland, the entire UK, and of course Europe?

Perhaps our population is missing great scientists, philosophers, poets, artists: geniuses of any sort who would have changed the world for the better. The 20th century history of Europe is based on the losses and resentments of the Great War. The second war had its roots in the first war, the Cold War in the second war; the European Union also had its roots in the second war, and the troubles of Brexit in the history of the EU.

And what does God think? I am sure that God's grief is infinitely deeper than mine. God gave us free will; the best we can do is to decide to do our best for ourselves and for our community. Doing our best in a small way and a small place can change the world for the better. Any change for the better, however small, might make up for some of the things we have all lost, and for all the missing generations.

Jean Miller

11th December

Paul and Janet Starkey will be speaking at the Open meeting of Duns and District U3A in the volunteer Hall at 10.00 am for 10.30. Everyone is welcome. The topic will be Exploring the Middle East, past and present.

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

Regular Events

Contemplative Prayer: Contemplative Prayer Mondays at 4.30pm. Venues to be announced, phone for details 01361 883315.

Bible Study Group: 10.00 am at 16, Murray Street on Wednesdays.

Meeting Point: No meeting in December.

Sunday Services (10.30 am)

December 2nd: Advent 1 HC: **Rev Grace Redpath**
Jeremiah 33.14-16 Psalm 25.1-9 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13
Luke 21.25-36

AGM after the service

December 9th: Advent 2 All Age Comm: **Rev Bill Landale**
Malachi 3.1-4 Philippians 1.3-11 Luke 3.1-6

December 16th: Advent 3 Healing Eucharist: **Preb Bob King**
Zephaniah 3.14-20 Cantic: Isaiah 12.2-6*
Philippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-18

December 16th: **Carol Service at 5.00 pm**
Followed by mulled wine and mince pies

December 23rd: Advent 4: **Rev Margaret Raven**
Micah 5.2-5a Psalm 80.1-8 Hebrews 10.5-10
Luke 1.39-45[46-55]

Christmas Eve: 11.30 pm Midnight Mass **Rev Ken Walker**
Isaiah 62.6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3.4-7 Luke 2.[1-7]8-20

Christmas Day: All Age Communion **Rev Chris Martin**
Isaiah 9.2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-14[15-20]

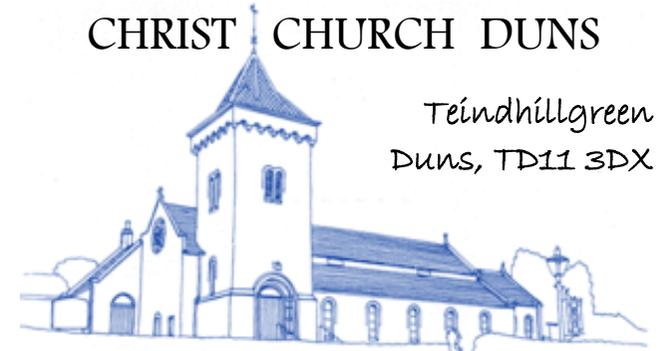
30th December: HC: **Rev Ken Walker**
1 Samuel 2.18-20,26 Psalm 148* Colossians 3.12-17
Luke 2.41-52



At this special time of year let us pray for our Church Family, our own families and friends and for the Community. Remember Marlene and David and Freda and Dick. We pray in particular for Dick Dennys who after two weeks in the BGH is now being cared for in the Knoll and for Monica who is in care and for all carers.

CHRIST CHURCH DUNS

Teindhillgreen
Duns, TD11 3DX



A Place for Peace and Hope

Seeking to be a family of caring people growing in the knowledge and love of God through Jesus Christ and expressing that love, with the help of the Holy Spirit, through our relationships with one another and our service and witness in the community.



Christ Church Contact Details

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Charity Number SC009385

Material for inclusion in the January newsletter should be submitted as soon as possible.
Remember that the BAVS printers have holidays!
Email: newsletter@christchurchduns.org

Vestry Update



Dear All

We are getting close to meeting our new Priest-in-Charge. Applications closed on 12th November and we have two strong candidates. Bishop John will join us for formal interviews on Saturday 1st December and the panel will comprise myself as Chair, two representatives from each of the other charges and two representatives from Christ Church. Vestry have nominated Julia Trotter and Jean Fraser to represent us on the interview panel. I know they will approach the task prayerfully and that the congregation can have absolute faith in their integrity and judgement. We will all have an opportunity to meet the candidates, chat to them and give our feedback and impressions to Vestry during the selection process. Candidate 1 will visit on Thursday 27th and all are invited for coffee and a chat in the Church at 10am. Candidate 2 will visit the charges on Friday 30th November and all are invited again for coffee and a chat in the Church, probably in the afternoon. Details will be emailed and posted on Facebook as soon as possible so keep a look out. We will do our best to communicate what's happening but please look at the various media we use. You may also join us for coffee in the Church at 10am on Saturday 1st just before the formal interviews. It is also planned to dress the Church for Advent on that day so its fine to pop in and out, we will be seen as a well loved Church and a vibrant congregation. The panel, vestries and Bishop John will end with a sandwich lunch and discussion about the candidates.

On Sunday 25th there is no service at Christ Church and we are invited to St Ebba's to join their Service of Celebration and Return with Bishop John presiding and a buffet lunch afterwards. Details on Facebook and meet at our Church at 10am if you want or can offer a lift.

Vestry would like to thank Mary Ramsay who has decided to step down for a while. We pray for you Mary and hope you will feel able to come back onto Vestry in the future. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for Christ Church.

We also thank Joan Wheadon who, for health reasons, has to step down from managing the rota. Thank You Joan for a very diligent and essential service to the Church. Please know that we are thinking of you and praying for you. Janet Starkey has agreed to prepare the rota from January to Easter and by then we hope to have our new Priest in post.

Finally, don't forget the AGM straight after the service on 2nd December. If you have any items for the agenda or outstanding reports please send them in to myself or Janet. We also welcome nominations from or for anyone who feels called to contribute to Church life through membership of Vestry.

With very best wishes to you all
Peter Estibeiro

The Christmas List

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book;
And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look.
For that is when I realise that their names are now a part
Not of the book that they are written in, but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime
And in that meeting they've become the Rhythm of the Rhyme.

And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,
I feel that I am composed of each and every name.
Even though you may not be aware of any special link,
Just meeting you has shaped my life for more than you may think.

For once you've met somebody, the years can not erase
The memories of a pleasant word or a friendly face.
So never think my Christmas greeting is just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas wish that is addressed to you,
It's cause you're on that list of folks I've met,
And are also one of those I prefer not to forget,
And whether I have known you for many days or few,
In some ways you have had a part in shaping things I do.

In every year when Christmas comes I realise anew,
The best of gifts that life can give is meeting folks like you.
So may the Lord of Christmas who for e'er and e'er endures,
Give his richest blessing to the heart of you and yours.

Anon.

Sent in by Jean Fraser

FOODBANK UPDATE

Dear All,

During October there were 34 referrals and 66 people were fed. These are the highest totals so far this year and indeed the highest since the Foodbank started in 2012. So there seems no let up and we had thought with children back in school the numbers would drop.

Thank you for all who have contributed generously to the Foodbank. Thank you too to the various churches that have given from their Harvest Thanksgiving services.

The Foodbank itself is in good 'health' but of course given the number of referrals that are coming in we need continuous giving to replenish the stocks.

At present we need the following items:

Jam; Coffee; Sugar

When giving boxes of TEA BAGS please ensure that they are of the medium size variety. (Large boxes or packets have to be split up into manageable proportions which is inconvenient for those working to put the food parcels together.)

A point to be made on the build up to Christmas. It would help the Foodbank enormously if DONATIONS or CHRISTMAS PRODUCE came in earlier rather than later. This would give the Distribution Team a better chance of getting such items to people in need prior to Christmas. Last year many Christmas Puddings were left unused as they came into the Foodbank too close to Christmas.

Charles

Afternoon Tea

Our afternoon tea, held to celebrate Scottish Autism's 50th birthday, was a huge success. We were overwhelmed by the support from Christ Church and want to thank you very warmly. It was truly heart-warming. You helped us raise over £3,200: an amazing amount!

Duns Autism Support Group

On Tuesday 4th September Lucy Ava Hughes was born. A first child for Katie and Scott and a first grandchild for Kate and Andy Lester. She was 8lbs 3oz, is totally gorgeous and is thriving and bringing huge amounts of joy to all of us.

Kate Lester

