

FOODBANK UPDATE

During October we delivered 13 parcels which catered for 20 adults and 1 child. We are maintaining an average output since the Eyemouth Foodbank started in July.

Though the Foodbank remains extremely well stocked, the following items are urgently needed:

Small Jars of Coffee and Small Jars of Sugar

There is a further request regarding 'giving' leading up to Christmas. Based on previous experience, people are very generous during December. Last year many donations came in around mid December. There was so much food given that it was impossible to deliver the quantity to people. The result meant waste! We need to remember too that in recent months there has been a reduction in referrals.

The request from the Foodbank is: **that all donations relating to Christmas should come in no later than the end of the first week in December - that will be MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER.** Clearly after the 9th December any other food supplies will be gratefully received.

Thank you very much for all your support.

Every blessing.

Charles

As we approach Christmas, let us pray for those less fortunate than ourselves - the homeless, the poor, the hungry, the lonely, the bereaved, the housebound and those in care or in hospital—blessings at Christmas:



May the blessing of joy abide within you;
May the blessing of peace rest within you;
May the blessing of love flow through you;
May all the blessings of the Lord be yours at Christmas and in the New Year.

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

Regular Group Events

Bible Study Group: New session begins after Christmas

Contemplative Prayer: Mondays at 4.30pm. Tel 01361 883315.

Sunday Services

1st December 10.45 am: 1st in Advent Aline Hay
Reserved sacrament or morning prayer

Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 112 Hebrews 13:1-8 & 15-16
Luke 14: 1-14

8th December 10.45 am. Rev Chris Jones
All Age service followed by AGM

Deuteronomy 30:5-20 Psalm 1 Philemon verses 1-21
Luke 14: 25-33

13th December 7.00 pm Manderston Carol Concert
In aid of BECG

15th December 9.00 am Rev Chris Jones
Eucharist (spoken service)

Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-11 1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15: 1-10

22nd December 10.45 am Rev Chris Jones
Crib All Age Carol Service

Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16: 1-13

24th December 11.30 pm Rev Chris Jones
Watch Night service

Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm 96 Titus 2.11-14 John 1.1-14

25th December 10.30 am Rev Chris Jones
Christmas Day Eucharist

Isaiah 9.2-7 Psalm 98 Titus 3.4-7 Luke 2.1-14

29th December 10.45 am Rev Chris Jones
Shared Service at Duns (Harvest) with Eucharist

Deuteronomy 16:13-17 Psalm 96 Galatians 6:1-10
John 4:27-38

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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Material for inclusion in the next newsletter should be submitted as soon as possible and by 5.00pm on Tuesday, 24th December at the latest.
Email: newsletter@christchurchduns.org

A Message from Chris

As we enter the season of Advent we can so often, and too easily, find ourselves propelled forward and far too quickly for our liking. Everything around us: from TV adverts, to magazines, shop windows, children and grand-children, all hurry us toward Christmas. Even the planning of church services, decorating the church and preparing for all the services can all propel us toward Christmas. And, on top of this, Christmas has been defined over the last few years, as simply one day; Dec 25th, Christmas Day. After which we'll find the good old Creme Egg for sale in our shops (if not already!).

If, so far, you're in agreement, then you'll also agree that all of this has meant that we tend to find (or make) less and less time during Advent to pause, to reflect upon and to prepare ourselves for the coming of Emmanuel – God with us, and all that that means. And even when we do find a moment to pause, the images around us tend to shape our understanding such that we see God as somewhat 'cotton-wooled' (if I can put it like that). We see Jesus meek and mild, all wrapped up, confined to a crib, somewhat sanitized: he the child, we the adults. And here sits an interesting power dynamic, for we can tend to have the expectation that Jesus is there for our good, to make our lives better (with ourselves defining 'good' and 'better').

But cast your mind back to that very first Christmas. Two people looking to the future with all of the usual hopes and dreams, their life plans and priorities in place: to get married and have a family, to build the family business, to settle down and see the family grow up. And then.... Emmanuel – God with us, and life is interrupted; an unexpected pregnancy: and suddenly there are now social, religious and cultural challenges to face, plans are changed, priorities rearranged (you might like to read the full account in Matthew 1: 18-25). All of which reminds us that our preparation for Christmas is not so much about our being able to create that 'feel good factor', as the

adverts would try to persuade us. Rather it is about our putting all of those things to one side and allowing God to interrupt, to challenge, to re-order our plans and priorities; to remind us that we are his, not the other way around.

And so, as we enter Advent and look forward to Christmas and the New Year, then I would encourage you, in the midst of all of the commercialism, to have the courage to stop, just for a moment, and pause, to even come to one of the many Church services that will be on over this time, and be willing to allow Emmanuel – God with us, to interrupt your routine, and to change your plans and priorities; to remind you that he came to offer us everything that we long for, and yet so often don't find amidst the light and sparkle of our man-made Christmas.

CATERING FOR THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT MANDERSTON 13/12/19

We are looking for people to help to make some nibbles We were going make them quite simple e.g.

Smoked salmon on bread **Pâté on savoury biscuits**
Celery filled with cream cheese **Mini sweet mince pies**
Sausages (plain and some with honey)

We are catering for around a 100 people so if each church made 120 various nibbles that would be lovely. The above are just ideas so please feel free to make whatever you want! It would be a great help to have a list of what everyone is making so all offers of help to Sandra Grigg by the 4/12/19. Many thanks

Tickets for the Manderston concert are strictly limited and we encourage people to book their tickets early from Joan Noble 01361 882386

It would be good if people felt able to give to the Bumper Christmas Hamper, and put their donated goods in Christ Church Kitchen.

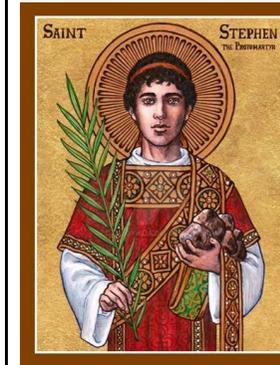
Aberlour Gift Cards

Those wishing to give gift cards please have them to Church by 15th December or earlier so that they can be delivered before Christmas. Thank you.

THE FEAST OF STEPHEN

*Good King Wenceslaus looked out
On the Feast of Stephen.....*

We have all sung the carol—but what do we actually know about St. Stephen?



The only first-hand source of information comes from the Acts of the Apostles. His name occurs for the first time on the occasion of the appointment of the first deacons.

Dissatisfaction concerning the distribution of alms from the community's fund having arisen in the Church, seven men were selected and specially ordained by the Apostles to take care of the temporal relief of the poorer members. Of these

seven, Stephen is the first mentioned and the best known. He distinguished himself among the early converts as an admirable Christian, with qualities of humility, patience, gentleness and great charity. He was also a great orator and after the death of Jesus he spent his time preaching the message of the Gospel and participating in the conversion of Jews and of Gentiles. The conflict broke out when the Jewish priests, who had challenged Stephen to a dispute, came out completely discomfited. Wounded pride so inflamed their hatred that they suborned false witnesses to testify that "they had heard him speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God". Stephen was arrested and dragged before the Sanhedrin (the Jewish Supreme Court). The accusations against him left him unperturbed, and he replied calmly with a recital of the great mercies of God towards Israel during its long history, and ended with a reminder to them that they had condemned the Just One, sent by God to be their deliverer, as they were about to condemn him, Stephen.

He was sentenced to death by stoning, which according to Jewish Law, required his hands to be bound and for him to be thrown over a cliff. More stones were then thrown upon him. According to Acts, the mob were then encouraged by Saul of Tarsus (the future St. Paul). His is the first recorded case of Christian martyrdom.

He is often depicted in art with the palm frond of a martyr and one or more stones and sometimes also with a copy of the Gospels (to denote his great learning). The most famous church dedicated to him is the magnificent St. Stephen's cathedral in Vienna, which dates from 1167.