



St Margaret's Parish Church, Glenrothes

December 2020

Dear Friends,

Christmas is just around the corner and many of us will not be celebrating in the usual way. Some folk started to put up their decorations early this year, in the hope of creating a little festive joy in a year that has been painful for so many.

In response to the easing of restrictions for 5 days between 23 and 27 December, families are making decisions about who to spend Christmas with and also keep everyone safe, especially those in the older age groups. Is it a Zoom Christmas dinner this year or a limited gathering of 3 households? Will anyone be left out and what can be done?

Looking out for others – or LOVE IN ACTION - is what the very first Christmas is about. God was so concerned about human beings that He was born as a baby. It was cold and draughty in the basement of the house in Bethlehem where animals were usually kept in winter. Family was a long way away in Nazareth.

Mary and Joseph had to make do with whatever they had or were given. Perhaps this year is an opportunity for us to reclaim what that first Christmas is really about.

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS for you and me that we might know how much God loves us so that we can share love with others, especially those who need it most.

The first visitors were shepherds and Wise Men who knelt before Jesus. The entrance to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem has a very small doorway about 4 foot high and to enter you have to bend down. Or you will bang your head!

This Christmas why not join us in worship for any of the Advent or Christmas services?

Eileen



Service Times:

Worship services are being held in Church at 10am with restricted numbers and enhanced safety measures in place. All services can also be joined live on Zoom using the codes:

Meeting ID: 871 7204 3700

Passcode: 090012

Dial in via a landline telephone
0131 460 1196

Advent services:

Sunday, 29th November 10am

Sunday, 6th December 10am

Sunday, 13th December 10am

Sunday, 20th December 10am

Watchnight service

Thurs 24th December 11.30pm
(only on Zoom)

This will be a Candlelit service. Have a candle ready to light in your home.

Christmas Day Reflection on Church YouTube and Facebook

Sunday, 27th December 10am

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Margaret.Glenrothes>

YouTube: St Margaret's Church, Glenrothes

Christmas Collections will go to Glenrothes Foodbank. Contact Jo Wylie on 630560 if you'd like to donate but can't come to church.

Advent Café Church

The Glenrothes Covenanted Partnership will be hosting an "Advent Cafe" during the advent Christmas period. This will incorporate all 6 local churches and communities.

We want Advent Cafe Church to be interactive, informal, with craft making and discussion time. We especially want to encourage families connected to the churches to participate, including those who would, in normal circumstances, have been coming to Toddler groups, Monday Club, Messy church, Primary school clubs, Brownies/Guides, Boys Brigade and Youth Clubs.

To this end, we have agreed to host Advent Cafe Church on FOUR Monday evenings starting on 30th November and ending on 21st December. Each one will begin at 6.30pm, a family friendly timing, where children are welcome to dip in and out as they please.

We will be focussing on the strangeness of Christmas this year and making Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. All ages are welcome to attend. Bring paper, pens and crayons to draw candles, and some refreshments.



Zoom details

4 weeks from Monday November 30

Meeting ID 87628118479

Passcode 032166

Telephone from landline
01314601196

Poinsettia Sunday



This year we can't have many plants in church on 7th December. Instead, we are asking you to buy a plant any time in December. Give it to some one along with a card and the message "Peace and Blessings from all at St Margaret's Church"

The Big Quiz

A social event for you!

We're having a quiz night! It will be on **Friday 18th December at 7pm on Zoom.**

Meeting ID : 870 7515 0997
Passcode : 332047
Telephone: 01314601196

- Keep that evening free so that you can join in.
- It is sure to be a fun filled evening.
- You will need to bring your own paper, pencil and, of course, refreshments.

Looking forward to seeing each other, socializing in our own homes.



St Margaret's invites families on Sunday 20th December between 1.30 & 3.30pm to **follow the Nativity Trail for the Christmas Story.**

The trail, suitable for all ages, will take about 20 minutes. It starts at the noticeboard in front of the main church. Come along at any time in the afternoon. (Maps available at the start or can be downloaded from the church facebook page / church website). Craft activities can be accessed at each stop along the way.

Blythswood Shoeboxes

Buying gifts to put in shoe boxes was a challenge this year! But despite the difficulties, we managed to collect 23 boxes to be sent to Eastern Europe. We also collected a magnificent sum of £57 for the appeal. Thanks to all who were able to donate.



24 Hours of Prayer

For a number of months we in St Margaret's have committed ourselves to having 24 hours of prayer on the 1st of each month. Many of us have chosen a half hour over the 24 hour period to pray for our World, our Nation, our Church and our local area – **PRAYER CHANGES THINGS.**

Walking the Camino

I'd like to thank everyone who supported me and gave me lots of encouragement when I walked the Camino de Santiago – **virtually** – this year. I just walked, but, at the same time, thanks to those who sponsored me, I was able to raise over £1000 for our church funds.



Each day I walked around 5 miles, so it took just short of 100 days to complete the 480 miles. I finished my walk at Balmerino Abbey.

Liz Rollo

Church Services

You can now come along to church each Sunday at 10am or join the service at home on Zoom. Geoff and Hannah (or their substitutes) do a great job making things run smoothly so that, whether at home or in church, everyone has the same experience.



Before entering church, hands are sanitised and contact details noted. Inside church, seats are 2m apart, facemasks have to be worn and there is no singing otherwise things feel very "normal"!

Food from our harvest table - having been left untouched for 3 days - was donated to the Glenrothes food bank. In addition, money was collected – a fantastic £461 – which was donated to the refugee camp at Lesbos, Greece, where Callum King is working. Callum came to St Margaret's some time ago and told us about his work.

We celebrated Communion on the last Sunday in October. Those at home on Zoom brought their own bread and drink. Those in church were supplied with containers with wine and bread. Here's Betty, ready for the service.



