



Advent and Christmas Services
Theme: Who Is This Child?

Sunday 11th December

11.00am Service of Words and Music for Christmas and the Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Sunday 18th December

11.00am "The Angry Hotel Man" - a presentation of the Christmas Story by the children and the Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve

6.30pm - Christingle Service - especially for the children

11.30pm - Watchnight Service
(soup served afterwards in the hall)

Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day

11am - Celebration of Christ's Birth.
Please bring along a gift which you have received

Sunday 1st January 2005

11.00am - Family Service suitable for all ages



Saunday 29th Januray - Communion - 11.00am

www.grantonparish.org.uk

Kirk
OUTLOOK
Granton Parish Church **December 2005**
www.grantonparish.org.uk

Christmas Issue

Advent - a time of
preparation



Advent and Christmas
Services

Burns Night

Granton Parish Church

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“Sharing the love and knowledge of God
to create a better and fairer world for all“

The Mission Statement of Granton Parish Church



Website- www.grantonparish.org.uk

The on-line version of Kirk Outlook has web-links to many related sites, providing an opportunity to find out more about articles. Remember to pass on our web address to anyone that you know who has moved away from the area. New material, including many news items, added regularly so if you haven't visited for a while why not have a look.

Kirk Outlook

Articles and information for inclusion in Kirk Outlook should be passed to the editor, Chas Macintosh at 8 Fraser Crescent, telephoned to 552-2240, emailed to KO@grantonparish.org.uk or faxed to 07092 158687 - deadline for March issue is Sunday 13 February out on Sunday 27 February

DECEMBER ISSUE OF LIFE & WORK

Music of the season

Music critic Michael Tumelty examines the enduring qualities of Christmas music and why it continues to touch the soul. The Rev Douglas Galbraith highlights some old and new carols which have been included in the recently published CH4.

Try and try again

Fame Academy finalist Lemar travels to Ethiopia with Christian Aid and tells John McKie about the impact of the emotional trip.

The day the earth shook

John Hayward reports on the effects of the recent earthquake in Pakistan. A consultant development worker he is also the Liaison Officer for a group of organisations including the Church of Scotland working with the Church of Pakistan.

Desert Padre

The Rev Louis Kinsey, a Territorial Army chaplain, describes his deployment with British troops serving in Iraq.

Eldership

This month's page for elders includes an account of how a Glasgow church began an after-school club. Sheilah Steven, national organiser of elder training, writes about young people and how they may be more integrated into the life of the local congregation.

**AND LOTS MORE...LIVELY
LETTERS, BOOK REVIEWS,
TRAVEL, CROSSWORDS AND
COMMENT...ALL FOR £1.50**

What really matters about Christmas?

Some years ago, when a Bishop's doubts about the virgin birth of Jesus hit the headlines, a clergyman was interviewed on the BBC's 'Breakfast Time' about what it all meant.

The interviewer had one great objection to what the Bishop was saying. He put it in the form of a question to the clergyman: "If Jesus wasn't born to the virgin Mary does that mean we'll have to stop sending Christmas cards and giving presents?"

For this BBC presenter, as for many others in Britain today, what *really* matters about Christmas is the cards and the presents. If Jesus wasn't really born as the Bible says, that would be a nuisance - but only because it would take away the justification for the ways in which we celebrate his birth! It might even mean one or two bank holidays less.

In fact if Jesus hadn't been born as the Bible says the implications would be much more serious. It would mean that God has not come into this world to put right what we have spoilt. It would mean that we have no way of getting to know God.

It would mean that we have no chance of anything but judgment and condemnation when we die.

Christmas is worth celebrating, not as an excuse for cards or presents or holidays, but because Christmas assures us that God hasn't written us off - that he loves us and has a plan for us.

Parish Register



Funerals

2nd March 2005
Robert Russell
 217/3 West Granton Road

3rd March 2005
Kenneth Mackenzie
 3/1 Wardieburn place South

3rd March 2005
Agnes Ness
 18 Granton Mains Avenue

3rd March 2005
Elizabeth Shaw
 28 Pilton Place

21st March 2005
Catherine Duff
 16 Wardieburn Place West

22nd March 2005
Helen Dignan
 3 Granton View

26th March 2005
Andrina Cox
 67 Pilton Avenue

9th April 2005
Robert Macdonald
 21 Lennox Row

4th May 2005
Jenny Pace
 147/1 Lower Granton Road

6th May 2005
Mary McGovern

17th May 2005
George Shanks
 Ferryfield Nursing Home

1st July 2005
Hugh King
 22 Wardie Cres

6th July 2005
Agnes Liston
 9/3 Royston Mains Place

14th July 2005
Brian Ainslie
 24 Granton View

15th July 2005
Mary Smith
 148 Granton Road

23rd July 2005
William Webster
 94 Boswall Parkway

2nd August 2005
Jane Williamson
 Bonnington Nursing Home

4th August 2005
Peter Hildersley
 8/3 Wardieburn Terrace

7th August 2005
Margaret Steer
 39/4 Granton Place

12th August 2005
George Carstairs
 50/2 Granton Crescent

26th August 2005
David Kerr Lawrie
 Muirhouse Way

23rd September 2005
Robina Bird
 39 Boswall Terrace

23rd September 2005
Ruth Walker
 30 Grierson Crescent

13th October 2005
William Campbell
 50 Boswall Parkway

20th October 2005
John Kerr
 6/1 Wardieburn Street East

Kirsty's Coffee Morning

Every Thursday from 10.00 – 11.30

Quiet Time

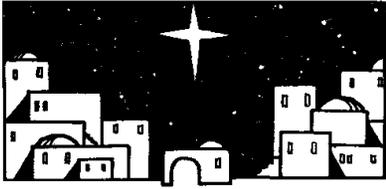
Every 2nd week at 9.45 - 10.15 on Thursdays. This is a chance to take some time out during the day and spend some time reflecting on life the universe and everything!

In Brief

Here at Granton Parish Church we offer a range of social and spiritual groups covering all ages where you can mix, enjoy fellowship and grow within our community. Please feel welcome to join us at any of our groups. Unless stated otherwise these groups meet in the church/halls.

December

Sunday 11th	Service of Words and Music for Christmas	11.00am
	Traidcraft	After the service
Wednesday 14th	Traidcraft at Lunch Club	12 noon
Friday 16th	K4K Outing to the Panto	
Saturday 17th	K4K Party	
Sunday 18th	Nativity - "The Angry Hotel Man"	11.00am
Wednesday 21st	Lunch Club Christmas Lunch	12 noon
Saturday 24th	Making Christingles in the hall	10.00
	Christingle Service	6.30pm
	Watchnight Service	11.30pm
Sunday 25th	Celebration of Christ's Birth!	11.00am
January	(Alpha Course starting this month)	
Saturday 21st	Burns Night	
Sunday 29th	Communion	11.00am



of Science at America's Westmont College wrote a book called *Science Speaks*. In a section called "The Christ of Prophecy", he looks at the Biblical evidence for Jesus using scientific methods. At one point he calculates the chance of 48 of those 300 prophecies being fulfilled in one man as 10 to the power of 157.

To illustrate, take an electron, a small particle inside an atom. If you lay them end on end at the rate of 250 a minute, it would take 190,000,000

years to make a line one inch long. At the same rate, a cubic inch of electrons would take

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why don't we actually celebrate Jesus as opposed to celebrating Christmas?
”

Notes from the Minister

Preparations

Dear friends,

No sooner is one Christmas over than another arrives. It doesn't seem that long ago since we were all hustling and bustling down the street for that one last present, one last bargain. Nor I bet have you forgotten the parking nightmares in Edinburgh of the long Autoteller queues for money. Christmas these days is a large operation.

Did you know that shops order their Christmas cards in January based on the previous December's spending? Or that many stores get their Christmas wares in during the summer months? We would be amazed if we knew all the preparations

which take place for Christmas.

Yet these preparations pale in comparison to those God made so there would actually be a Christmas. Right back to Abraham God was arranging things so Christ would come. He chose Isaac the youngest son, not Ishmael the oldest. Then Jacob, once again the youngest, not Esau. Later on he chose David, Solomon and so on right up till Mary the mother of Christ. On top of that there were over 300 other prophecies which someone would have to fulfil to be the Messiah, 300 which Jesus did fulfil in his time on earth.

In 1958 Dr Peter W. Stoner, Professor Emeritus

The Boys' Brigade is currently in the middle of a review of the Awards Programme for all Sections, so new material has been rolled out for us to use this Session.

New Juniors Programme

The new Junior Programme has been completed and we have introduced it this Session for all new Boys in the P4 Age Group. However, the Boys in both P5 and P6 will continue to work on the 'Going for Gold' awards. While both schemes culminate with a Gold Badge, the new Programme has only 4 Badges, beginning with a Target Badge then Bronze, Silver and Gold. We are using the 'Activity Zone' material covering Body, Mind, Spirit, Community and Creativity to give the Boys a wider choice of activities.

We have started the Session with two Groups (Polar Bears and Lions) and the Boys will be taking part in competitions throughout the year towards the prize of Best Group.

Company Section –

If you know of any boy wishing to join, or if you have a skill or interest that you would like to share with the boys, please contact Alan on 0131-551 3176

Challenging?

The Company Section Awards are currently still under review, but while we have not yet changed any of our Badges, there has been a new 'Seniors Challenge' award introduced. Therefore you may have seen Boys performing Magic Tricks, gargling the National Anthem or designing their own Pizza. Meanwhile, the younger

Seniors are also working towards this Award.

Stripped for Action!

Our Company Football strips desperately needed replaced this year. With the help of the Congregation, we had a successful Coffee Morning in October that raised over £240, which helped tremendously towards these new strips. While the team now

Boys Brigade

Brigade Bugle

Alan Summers - Company Captain

Boys were finding out about Citizenship and Health & Fitness for their Interests Badge.

Presidents Badge Presentation

Having presented Mitchell Rennie with his President's Badge in May, we were delighted to be able to also present Darren Jempson with his President's Badge at our Annual Enrolment Parade in November, after he had completed his Leadership Options. Other

looks very smart, we will have to work on their football skills as we have lost our first two games in the Open (Seniors) 7's league.

All that remains is for me to thank the congregation for their continued support and interest in the Company and to wish you all a Merry Christmas.



We are slowly but surely moving towards the end of the first half of the Session, (doesn't time fly!!)

Following our Opening Social, with music from the Senior Southern Light Singers, Dr. Russell Barr brought much mirth with his amusing story of his early years in the ministry.

Because of a cancellation we had a "do it yourself" evening to which members contributed - very much enjoyed.

We hadn't known a great deal about the Mansfield Murals until Mrs Kate Love brought us up to date to date with the work which is being done to restore this building and its artwork - very near to home and therefore easy to visit.

One of our church members - Derek Young - reassured us as to the treatment we would receive should we have to call an ambulance.

We've had a "Fun Night", followed by a visit from our Minister, Norman, and are looking forward to hearing about Christmas in other lands, then a visit from Rev. Douglas Nicol, recently our Interim Moderator.

This "first half" will finish with the Christmas Social - always an enjoyable evening, with the promise of the festive season to come.

Ladies Fellowship First Half Report!

Fellowship Secretary Jessie Macdonald

We'll restart on 10th January., when our speaker will be Elsie Moir, who will share with us the story of life in West Pilton.

Lots more interesting subjects to come in the new year. As always, a warm welcome to any one who hasn't yet joined us - Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm in the West Hall.



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We've had a "Fun Night", followed by a visit from our Minister, Norman
”

If you would like to know more about the Ladies Fellowship speak to Jessie on 552 2200

190,00,00 x 190,000,000 x 190,000,000 years to count. Professor Stoner said that if we took all those electrons and marked one of them, then jumbled them all up and asked a blindfolded man to find the one we had marked, that that was the same chance as one man fulfilling only 48 of the 300 biblical prophecies concerning Jesus.

Now considering Jesus did fulfil all 300 prophecies how is that for preparations! It makes all we do for Christmas pale in comparison. It also begs the question that if God went to so much trouble to make sure Jesus did all that he had to do, why don't we actually celebrate

Jesus as opposed to celebrating Christmas?

Shortly we are all going to have the chance of celebrating another year since Jesus came. As part of that we will be giving people who have perhaps drifted away from the church over the years a chance to come back again. I along with the Session and others hope you will take this opportunity.

Have a Happy Christmas

Your Minister & Friend

Norman.

A Note from the Choir



As I write, we have only just begun our rehearsals for this year's Christmas services.

It was a bit surreal listening to O Come All Ye Faithful just as the last fireworks were dying down! Already things are coming together nicely and we look forward to singing some lesser known Carols as well as joining with you in all

the old favourites. Please come along and join in on the 11th December at 11am for the Service of 9 Lessons and Carols.

It was great to welcome some of the church's newest members to the choir; I hope they have fun and make many friends. We're also delighted that one or two of our former members have agreed to help out and share their experience with the younger members. This will be of tremendous benefit and we look forward to a boosted male section this year.

As always, anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us. You don't have to be able to read music, so there's nothing to stop you coming along, making a great sound and having fun.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Sharon





Notes from our Parish Assistant

Holiday in America

Our Parish Assistant, Marilyn Steele reflects on a wonderful holiday

The last time I wrote for Kirk Outlook I was preparing and looking forward to my holidays in America. I have been and gone as they say!!! My holiday is now just a distant memory. But I would like to share with you some of those memories and thoughts I have of the trip.

This year we did quite lot of traveling and sightseeing- beginning

with a trip to Memphis in Tennessee and one can't go to visit Memphis without going to Gracelands - that was the home of Elvis Presley. If you are or were an Elvis fan then it is the place for you, his music and memorabilia is all around you. Looking around at the many people who were in awe of the surroundings I heard many comment on how close they felt to 'king'.

Worship the 'king' was the order of the day - that is if you are a fan (which incidentally) I am not.

My thoughts wander to another King - Jesus, He is the King you and I and millions of others around the world worship and feel close to. The King whose birth we shall soon be celebrating, and who is not just a memory, but is with us here and now.

My next stop was Nashville - "Music City" as it is known - and is the home of "The Grand Ole Opry" We visited the Ryman Centre, which, was originally a Methodist

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I hope you will all have a joyful and peaceful Christmas. But please remember in your prayers those who will have neither.
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diarrhoeal diseases etc....often many of these illnesses are running concurrently which obviously can make it more difficult to treat successfully. However a lot of patients go home better after treatment which obviously is great.

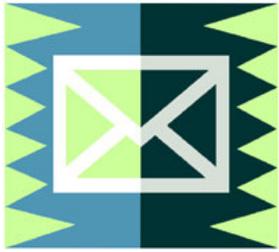
Life is very basic. The 'wards' are mud huts and the beds are a plastic sheet on the ground with a blanket on the top. At night the in patients attach a mosi net to a

stick in the ground and sleep outside. At night there is a 'mist' that hangs over the tukuls alongside the airstrip. It looks like a beautiful mist that hangs low in the valleys in the UK on a fresh morning! It is smoke from the fires where they cook.... Like I said, it is all a bit surreal at the moment. So much to take in both culturally and work wise but it is amazing. Man alive!!!!

Lots of love Viv xxxx

**GRANTON PARISH CHURCH
 CONGREGATIONAL BOARD
 BURNS SUPPER**

**ON SATURDAY 21st JANUARY
 2006 AT 7.30pm
 TICKETS £6
 FROM SANDRA SUMMERS
 PHONE 551 3176**



Email from Africa

Vivienne Monaghan worshipped with us over the summer months and is now off to Africa with Medecins Sans Frontieres. She has been assigned to a mission in southern Sudan, initially on the project for 9 months.

She is a nurse in a mobile team, which consists of herself and another English nurse, providing healthcare to the rural population in eastern upper Nile. The majority of the nine months will be spent living in a tent whilst "accepting" the snakes, scorpions, frogs, mosquitos and flies!

Viv will be sending back regular reports to us - here is the first.....

November 16 2005 Pieri - Suthern Sudan

Well, what can I say?... "Oh my word!!". One week ago I was in autumnal Scotland wrapped up warm, and in a couple of days I was transported to what feels like a completely different world!

I have already attended security briefing meetings at the UN and a large staff meeting at the hospital where I was introduced and applauded! I thought 'hang on a minute pet, you haven't seen if I am going to be useful yet!'

At the moment I am sitting in a mud hut swatting at the flies whilst attempting to write this email. I am now in a small community called Pieri (one of my 'base' sites) which is in the Eastern part of the upper Nile. My job as an outreach nurse is to travel to outlying villages and supervise the running of basic health care clinics which we have set up. Myself and my colleague will walk or fly to these villages dependent on distance and season. The tribe that live in this area are called the Nuer tribe. They are very tall and thin and appear to be very friendly. They constantly call out greetings and it can take quite a while to walk from the compound to the hospital as there are a great deal of hands to shake and greetings to call and answer

to. I arrived on a small plane yesterday to be greeted by an inquisitive crowd and some cheery MSF staff in their MSF tshirts!

The MSF team that I have met so far are great and they gave me a lovely welcome. We celebrated with cheese sauce fresh vegetables and sangria last night!

I have my own mud hut 'tukul' with a mossie net to keep away the scorpions, mossies and snakes etc! Spent last night listening to the african drums in the distance and awoke early to the myriad of birdsong. Chuffing amazing.

This morning I spent some time in the hospital seeing patients with a condition called kala azar (spread by a sandfly) that had come for their daily review. I then spent some time with Ness (the hospital nurse) and Dr Andrew! I have seen patients already with many things that I have only ever seen in text books. It is unreal. At the moment I feel like I am wandering around on the edges it is all so surreal. A lot of people here are very sick with malaria, TB, kala azar, pneumonia,



Church. Every Saturday families would gather bringing their supper with them and sing and worship God. It was the place where Country and Western music started and still is performed. Many famous entertainers began their singing careers there. Although it is no longer used as church it has not changed its original features.

Then we went to Florida and no I didn't encounter any Hurricane's - in fact we left before Wilma arrived!!! We visited Sea World and that was fabulous - the Dolphins and the Killer Whales demonstrating their gifts and talents and their wonderful relationship with humans was a sight to behold.

Also seeing so many different species of fish and sea creatures reminded me

again of God's wonderful world and of His creations, and there were many. Yes! We did go to Disney World - or Magic Kingdom to give it its correct title. Great as it was, it was not a patch on Sea World, for me there is nothing to beat God's creation.

As we are fast approaching that time of year which some of us dread and other get excited about, I hope you will all have a joyful and peaceful Christmas. But please remember in your prayers those who will have neither.

Take care of yourselves
God Bless
Marilynn

LUNCH CLUB

Elizabeth Hansen

All going well and noisily at lunchtime on a Wednesday. We have welcomed some new faces both young and old with open arms during the last couple of months. At this point we are preparing for our Christmas lunch where a first class meal will be served for £6 per head, including a welcome sherry, a mince pie and an After Eight to finish.

We are missing one of our main helpers (and our scribe!) at the moment. Evelyn Stewart has been unwell for some weeks and we are missing her very much.. Our love and get well wishes are sent from all staff and our customers.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Lunch Club Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday 21st December at 12 noon – after which the club is closed until 11th January 2006.





Kirk 4 Kidz

K4K News - Stuart Mitchell K4K co-ordinator

Kirk 4 Kidz has been busy since the restart after the Summer, working on activities and producing artwork relating to the theme of each individual service. The artwork produced is excellent and will be displayed in Church from time to time – please take time to have a look as the Kidz really do appreciate the congregation taking an interest in what they do. At this point I would like to thank all the K4K teachers and additional helpers for all their efforts during my recent long holiday.

We hope after Christmas to restart our use of the stage room facilities for the older Kidz – this is important as it will allow us to undertake a different range of work and activities with them. Each Sunday we will start and finish worship together and move as in the past into different age groups for the teaching and activity based part of the programme. This will mean calling on (on an ad-hoc basis), members of the congregation, who have completed child protection training to help in a supervisory capacity. If you are interested in helping, please speak to myself or Norman, we'd love to hear from you. Child protection training can be arranged for anyone who wishes to undertake it.

It is pleasing to note that numbers have remained very healthy throughout the year. This is very encouraging and I would like to thank all the teachers for their hard work in making this the case. I would also like to thank the parents who bring their children along in the face of an ever growing list of possible

distractions. That said, we are as ever always keen to welcome even more Kidz and look forward to doing so as we move towards Christmas and beyond.

CHRISTMAS STUFF

Talking of Christmas, we will as ever be producing a "Nativity Presentation" and this year the Kidz will be performing "The Angry Hotel Man" which proved to be a hit when we first performed it a few years ago. We will also have our Christmas party for the under 7's and a trip to the EPT pantomime for the over 7's. Details are still to be sorted out but likely dates are Friday 16th for the Panto and Saturday 17th (afternoon) for the party.

That's all our news for now.

Until next time – take care

God Bless.

THE ANGRY HOTEL MAN



Traidcraft

There will be an extra opportunity to Christmas shop for Fair Trade goods On Sunday 11th December after the morning service and on Wednesday 15th December at the Lunch club.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses

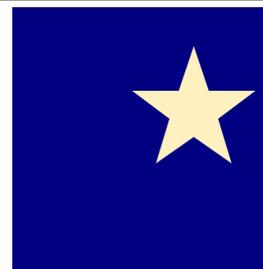
Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around. Anon

**Burns Night
Saturday 21st
January**

Details on page 11

Christmas play

At a rehearsal for a Sunday school Christmas tableau, the teacher carefully lined up four little 'cherubs'. Each carried a huge cut-out letter. As they stood side by side, the letters would spell out "STAR". A slight mix-up occurred, and those present in the church auditorium nearly fell out of their pews as the four little performers took their places – in reverse.



**Knock, knock
Who's there?
Wenceslas.
Wenceslas who?
Wenceslas train home?**



**Knock knock
Who's there?
Wayne
Wayne who?
Wayne in a manger.**