

# Schaw Kirk

DRONGAN & RANKINSTON



DECEMBER 2011





Dear Friends,

Way back in the 1960s we were all told that new technology would give us extra leisure time, more time to spend with our families and more time to enjoy our hobbies. It was a nice Ideal, but In reality new technology has brought its own problems.

My E mail ‘in box’ is full of E mails informing me that I have won a competition, inherited a fortune or even that I have been chosen by the president of Biumba to receive £1000,000. and then there is sister Maria from Tonga who wants to donate £1000,000 to our church, if only I send her my bank details.

At Christmas time we seem to hear more lies than at any other time of the year, They tell us that life will only be perfect if we wear this particular aftershave or perfume and Christmas will only be perfect if we shop at a particular shop. We know that its not true but we still seem to fall for it.

I am reminded of an E mail I received recently entitled **“This is all true.”**

a. In Shakespeare’s time mattresses were fastened to the bed with ropes. and so hence we have the term..

**Goodnight sleep tight.**

b. Many years ago, In English pubs if the folk got a bit rowdy the barman would shout ‘Hey watch the pints and quarts.’ Today we say **watch your Ps and Qs,**

c. The Romans washed themselves with a sponge on the end of a stick, if you picked up the sponge end if the stick

by mistake, rather than the stick end, then you got **the wrong end of the stick**.

d. The practice of the brides father giving the new son in law a cask of mead on his wedding day meant that the next few weeks was the **honey moon**.

e. and finally, if you fed a visitor the scraps from the shoulder of mutton then you were showing them that they were not welcome, in other words you were giving them **the cold shoulder**.

I'm not sure if any of these are true but they certainly sound more convincing than Sister Maria of Tonga and her £1000.000 donation.

With all this false information bombarding society, how do we know what is true ?

Well we can be certain that the Christmas story is true, Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem, he was visited by the wise men and the shepherds, and Herod murdered the little children, all historical facts. At a deeper level it is true because it is the truth of God breaking into our world in the form of a little baby, Because of Jesus Christ we can be certain that God loves us. We can be certain that God wants the best for us, we can be certain of our salvation, no ifs or buts. This is the truth.

I hope that you have a lovely Christmas and a very happy and peaceful new year and over the period, try not to get a hold of the wrong end of the stick, watch your ps and qs, have a good night and sleep tight and if you are just married enjoy your honeymoon. But do all of this in the knowledge that God loves you. Of that we can be sure.

*Rer Dave Whiteman*



## HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY

**Founded in 1961** as the World Wildlife Fund (now simply called WWF), WWF has celebrated its 50th anniversary this year.

A global organisation active in over 100 countries, WWF is the world's leading environmental organisation, addressing global threats to people and nature such as climate change, the peril to endangered species and habitats, and the unsustainable consumption of the world's natural resources.



### *Carols by Candlelight*

#### **Choir Practice**

evenings have intensified recently as the members prepare

their annual selection of old and new carols to be preformed at the popular 'Carols by Candlelight' evening on Thursday 15th Dec. The event will be made complete with a host of Christmas goodies spread out at the interval for your consumption. Tickets are on sale from any Choir member.



Following a highly entertaining appearance here on 24th October by the Camps group, it is hoped to arrange a follow-up concert sometime in the early part of the

new year. The presentation by the concert party was a full mixture from well known musicals and was very well received by those present and shouldn't be missed next time around.



## WHERE DID CHRISTMAS TREES COME FROM?

There are two early stories that mention fir trees. The first involves St Boniface, who went to Germany in the 8<sup>th</sup> century as a missionary and found people sacrificing a child to their god under an oak tree. Boniface was appalled, and rescued the child. He then chopped down the oak tree and found a tiny fir tree growing nearby. He gave this to the people and said: “This is a symbol of life. Whenever you look at this tree, remember the Christ-child who is the one who will give you life, because he gave his life for you.”

The second early fir tree story involves Martin Luther in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is said that one year he decided to drag a fir tree into his home and to decorate it with candles. He used it as a visual aid, telling people that the candles symbolised Jesus as the light of the world, and the ever-green tree symbolised the eternal life that Jesus gives to us. Many of the people who followed Luther were struck by the idea, and took up the custom.



## CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED!

A middle-aged woman posted her Christmas wish list on the refrigerator for her husband to read. She requested *‘something that will make me look sexy and beautiful.’* To her surprise the husband gave her an exercise bike as a gift!



This year Santa will make his visit to the Schaw Kirk on Friday 2nd December at 7.00pm carrying his bag of parcels for those boys and

girls who are aged up to and including Primary School. Also on hand will be the usual stalls. Christmas Teas including the essential Mince Pie will be available in the Lesser Hall while you await the result of the Christmas Hamper. The actual contents of the hamper in themselves are more than the stated £80 so it's well worth spending the odd 50p for a ticket.



## **SOUP LUNCH CHARITIES**

As you know, in the Schaw Kirk we hold a Soup Lunch following the morning services on 6 months of the year when the proceeds are donated to nominated charities. This normally takes place on the first Sunday of the months — March, April, May and September, October, November.

We would appreciate nominations from members of our congregation as to which charity/ies they feel could benefit from the proceeds of these lunches. Please give this some thought and speak to May McKelvie.

Charities that benefitted this year were : Homeless -  
Cystic Fybrosis : Christian Aid : Cleft Lip & Palate :  
Disaster Emergencies Committee : Hollybush House  
[Combat Stress]



## TELL IT AS IT IS

After a very long and boring sermon the parishioners filed out of the church saying nothing to the Minister. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who was known always to comment on the sermons.

"Minister, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!"

The Minister was thrilled. "No-one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why."

"Well - it reminded me of the Peace of God because it passed all understanding and the Love of God because it endured forever!"



## CATCHING UP

Mr Andrew Spowart, Organist & Choirmaster at the Schaw Kirk from the late 50's to early 60's before his full time employment took him south, has been in

contact with us during the summer months, remembering old times and catching up on the new and asks that his best wishes be passed to all, especially those who will still remember him. Andrew now lives in Guildford, Surrey, in the south of England.

Good King Wenceleslas went to the pizza parlour  
and ordered a pizza.

The assistant asked Do you want your usual?  
Deep pan, crisp and even?

# MISSING

## the guest of honour

*"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?"*

There's a story that runs like this: there was a mayor of a small town who had brought in so many improvements to local life that over several years he had transformed the town. And so the community decided it was high time to pay him tribute.

The party was held at the local town hall, and all agreed it was a great celebration. The decorations were superb, the music was loud, the room crowded and noisy. The food was delicious, and the wine flowed. It was the best party the town had ever had.

Over coffee the next morning in the local cafe, someone wondered aloud if the mayor had enjoyed it. No one knew. In fact, as the day wore on, people began to realise that actually, no one had even seen the mayor there that night. Later they discovered that the mayor had been waiting at home all evening, waiting for the lift that he had been promised into town. But people were so busy preparing for the party, that no one had remembered him. And so he had missed the party in his honour. Apparently no one had even noticed his absence.

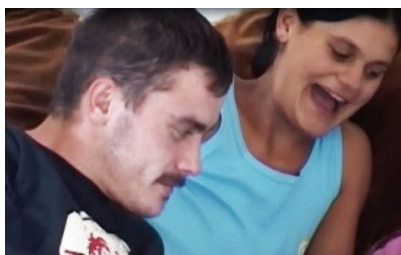
It sounds a lot like Christmas. People get together to celebrate, the food is great, the music warms the heart - but has anyone seen the guest of honour? We sing about him, we act out nativity plays about him, but in reality, the season has become about US. Our menus, our travel plans, our presents, our decorations. At what point in the proceedings do we give ourselves time to notice whether HE is among us, or not?

## A ROMANIAN RETURN

Last year the churches at Coylton, Drongan, Dalmellington and Bellsbank raised more than £8,000 for the Smiles Foundation.

Following this, a group from those churches visited Romania and, were involved in many projects, including the painting of a shipping container and paying £3,000 to have it converted into a home.

Last month the Whiteman family returned to Romania to revisit the projects previously funded and, among the gratifying stories and discoveries from last year's efforts was their delight in discovering that a young family, Csaba and Eva Kovari, who had been allocated the container to home conversion now have an added pleasure in their life with the birth of a new-born son named Csabi. The couple express a heartfelt 'Thank You' to the people of South and East Ayrshire. Life for them is so much better now.



## REMEMBRANCE

A huge thank to all who have supported the talents of Jean Burns' craftwork since she produced a felt poppy and declared all proceeds from its sale would be donated to

Hollybush House [Combat Stress]. Interest in her originally designed Poppy was instant and, with the assistance of May McKelvie in sales and distribution, has realised the sum of £179. She already has orders for next year when the project will be repeated



## CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations?

Or is it at the beginning of Advent which starts 4 weeks before the 25<sup>th</sup> December and is a special time for us to use to get ready for the birth of Jesus?



The word Advent means 'coming' and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare, not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today.

So perhaps the question isn't when does your Christmas start, but when does it finish?

## CHRISTMAS EVE

24<sup>th</sup> December is Christmas Eve and the answer to each of these questions starts with the letters EVE. Answers below.

1. What EVE is equal?
2. What EVE is a swamp in Florida?
3. What EVE is a happening?
4. What EVE is a dried flower?
5. What EVE is the end of the day?
6. What EVE is the world's highest mountain?
7. What EVE never loses its leaves?

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**What goes red, white, red,  
white, red, white?**

Santa rolling down a hill.

**What did the snowman and  
his wife hang over their baby's  
cot?**

A snow mobile.

**What's brown and sneaks  
round the kitchen?**

Mince spies.

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Answers: 1 even 2 Everglades 3 event  
4 everlasting 5 evening 6 Everest  
7 evergreen

★ HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

"Peace on earth,  
goodwill to all"...

Mouse Makes

glue

Goodwill to all

OUR SAVIOUR  
IS BORN!

...Listen  
to the  
angel's call.

A **saviour**  
has been born  
this day,

The **light** of the  
world to show us  
the way!

Peace on earth

To make the decoration: Colour and cut out.  
Fold along dotted lines. Glue to form a cone.  
Add ribbon and hang from the tree.

# *Celebrations at Christmas*

**Sun 27th Nov Advent 1 - 11.30am**

**Fri 2nd Dec Santa Night - 7.00pm**

**Sun 4th December Advent 2 - 11.30am**

**Sun 11th Dec Advent 3 - 11.30am**

**Thur 15th Dec Carols by Candlelight - 7.30pm**

**Sun 18th December Advent 4 Nativity Service - 11.30am**

**Sun 18th Dec Afternoon of Carols - 2.30pm**

**Mon 19th Dec Quiet Service in Coylton Church - 7.30pm**

**Sat 24th Dec Christmas Eve**

**\* Coylton Church Christingle Service- 5.30pm**

**\* Rankinston Watchnight Service -7.30pm**

**\* Schaw Kirk Midnight Service -11.30pm**

**Sun 25th Dec Christmas Day Service -11.00am**

**Ecumenical Service**

Tuesday 20th December  
in St Clare's, Drongan  
with St Clare's and Coylton  
Parish Church at 7.30pm



*We wish the Peace and Joy of  
Christmas to be with you  
today and always.*

**Charity No: SC 030714 (Church of Scotland)**

**web site : [www.dronganschawkirk.co.uk](http://www.dronganschawkirk.co.uk)**

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