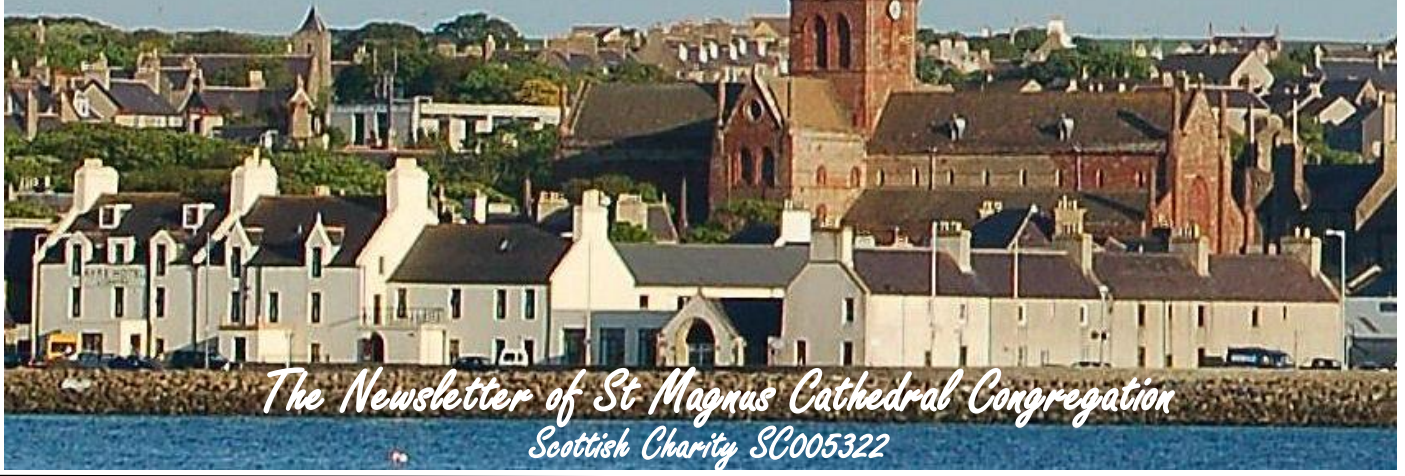


The Grapevine



*The Newsletter of St Magnus Cathedral Congregation
Scottish Charity SC005322*

Contacts

Minister: Rev Fraser Macnaughton, Tel: 873312 FMacnaughton@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral Minister: Rev June Freeth, Tel: 721449 JFreeth@churchofscotland.org.uk

Website www.stmagnus.org

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StMagnusCathedralCongregation/>

Scottish Charity SC 005322/CCL No 119086

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 3rd Dec | 11.15 am | ADVENT SUNDAY Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Lighting of The Grimstad Christmas Tree |
| Sunday 10th Dec | 11.15 am | THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT |
| Thursday 14th Dec | 7.00 pm | Loss service in the St Rognvald chapel |
| Sunday 17th Dec | 09.30 am 11.15 am 6.30 pm | Communion Service in the St Rognvald Chapel. THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS The Cathedral Choir |
| Tuesday 19th Dec | 7.30 pm | KGS Carol Service |
| Sunday 24th Dec | 11.15 am 11.00 pm 11.30 pm | THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT Community Carol Singing JOINT WATCHNIGHT SERVICE |
| Sunday 31st Dec | 11.15 am | THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS |

From the Manse



When Lindsay, our elder daughter was very young, I observed many times that she would wake up in the morning with a bigger vocabulary and better grammar than she had the night before. It was astounding to consider what had happened in her sleep – that she would wake up brighter than the night before. In the darkness of night, an inner light got switched on...

When have you been enlightened? When has the light bulb in your head switched on suddenly, illuminating fresh insight or wisdom?

It is the season of light. And of enlightenment.

Christmas is a season of lights. Jesus is identified in the scripture as the light of the world. The three wise men were led to the site of his birth by the light of a brilliant star. It's a season of candles and

colourful lights dazzling on houses.

And a season to become enlightened.... To notice and amplify the light that shines within us all, revealing inner wisdom and guidance for our lives.

Not that long ago, the world was dark at night. No light bulbs, to say nothing of computer and television and smart phone screens. Candles were dim by comparison. The second the sun went down, it was a very dark world indeed.

But for all the light we're able to produce and enjoy today, are we much more enlightened than people were a century or two ago? It's a brighter world, but are we that much brighter as a result? In some ways, perhaps we're dimmer.... Cutting ourselves off from direct human contact by our focus on screens... obsessing about unimportant stuff... lost in consumerism... out of touch with nature and the outdoors.... so many people not caring about their neighbours, not even knowing their names...

Our eyes are open, but do we really see? We need to be re-enlightened, so that we can appreciate the world with awe and wonder again. And that's the promise of Christmas. In her poem, the Magnificat, Mary said that her soul magnified the Lord. A little flicker of divine inner light, amplified by our attention, is enough to reveal what is going on inside of us, and guide us toward our best and highest aims. A little bit of oil in the lamp goes a long way.

At Christmas, we are delivered into the light of Christ-consciousness. A birth, and a re-birth. We celebrate a profoundly beautiful myth that takes hold of our souls, and leads us into deep compassion toward ourselves, toward those near and dear to us, toward the whole human family, and toward our precious earth and its ecosystem.

May your Christmas truly be an enlightening one!



CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS 2023

Christmas shopping solved again!

This year's Christmas gift card appeal is now launched and the form is overleaf. The Christmas appeal is now in its fourteenth year and has raised over £80,000 since 2009 to support frontline projects in Malawi. For those who it's new to, the concept is very simple and gives you the chance to send someone a "gift voucher" card, which will support our partner congregations in the Thyolo Highlands of Malawi. Simply choose how much you'd like to donate, fill in the form and we will send you a lovely Christmas card / certificate (with envelope) acknowledging the donation so you can gift it to a friend. Alternatively, we can post it directly to them saying that the donation has been made by you on their behalf. All forms must be received by Thursday 7th December and cards will be posted on Friday 8th December (two weeks prior to Christmas) unless you request them earlier, in which case we will send as soon as possible (from early November). If you wish to send outwith the UK please ask for the card to be delivered to yourself. If you want it to be sent to different people it would help if you could complete a separate form for each one (copies are fine) or make the instructions very clear. Please just call the number on the back of the

form if you've any queries ... and, as always - thank you very much for your continued support.



Orkney - Malawi Partnership



A donation has been made on your behalf by

Betty & Jeemie Smith

to support the work of our Malawian partners
in the Thyolo Highlands Presbytery

Projects prioritised by our Malawian partners this Christmas season include:
New classroom block, library and laboratory at "St. Magnus Secondary School"
start up of community college and bursary scheme
timber and iron sheets for three manse re-roofing projects
filing cabinet, laptop and printer for the Partnership Committee in Malawi
urgent repairs to more than 20 Church buildings damaged in last year's floods
ongoing installation of community boreholes providing accessible clean water
... amongst others



If you're ordering gift cards and completing the form overleaf you might notice that payment details have changed. This is because the old Orkney *Presbytery* no longer exists and the new *Parish* of Orkney won't be up and running until sometime next year. In order to maintain a proper and accountable paper trail all funds this year are being processed through the Stromsøy congregation account by Ian Cooper, Stromsøy Treasurer and former Treasurer to the Presbytery. We're delighted to have the continuity of Ian's involvement and are grateful to the Stromsøy congregation for facilitating this. It also means we are still able to claim Gift Aid on donations.

By the time you read this we hope and expect that the new St. Magnus Secondary School will be welcoming its first pupils. The roofing (left) was recently completed thanks to a generous donation from Stromness donors and the new desks amongst other items were paid for by a substantial gift from Westray supporters.

The Orkney-Malawi Partnership Committee currently comprises Sally Bartkowiak, June Freeth, Iain MacDonald, Catriona Matheson, Liz McVicar, Elma Moar and James Watson. For details about the Partnership Committee's work or how to donate to any project please speak to any of the above or contact Iain on imacdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk / 01857-677357.

If you'd like to support this year's Malawi Christmas Gift project,
(details overleaf) please complete this form
(separate details for each person if you wish us to post the gift cards)
and post or e-mail to the address below by **7th December**.

Your name :Your address :

.....

.....Postcode :
essential for Gift Aid

Your phone number (in case we need to contact you about this) :
your details won't be shared with anyone.

Amount you wish to donate (in whole pounds) : £
cheques should be made out to "Stronsay Moncur Memorial Church".

Name of person you wish the card(s) to be sent to :
just write "self" if you want it sent to you at the above address.

Address you wish the card(s) to be sent to :
if different from the address above.

.....

.....Postcode:

Number of cards you require if more than one :

Tick box if you want us to state the value of your gift on the card(s)?



Please tick as appropriate:

I wish the card(s) to be sent as soon as possible

or

I wish the card(s) to be sent on Friday 8th December



I have enclosed a cheque made out to "Stronsay Moncur Memorial Church" for the amount above

or

I have transferred the above amount to the Stronsay account number 00643707 / sort - 83 24 07 and marked it "Malawi"

I am a UK tax payer and I wish this donation to be treated as Gift Aid

Signature :Date :
if giving by Gift-Aid if giving by Gift-Aid

send to The Manse, Hilldavale, Westray, Orkney KW17 2DW
Further details from Iain on 01857-677357 or imacdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

Remember - deadline for forms is 7th December

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT

St Magnus Secondary School Update

The students have started using the classrooms.

The Builders are Plastering the outside walls today and start on drainage.

Students in two of our classes will sit for National Examinations next year and the Exam Board requires a secure room to store examination papers.

We have reached this far because of the assistance from St Magnus Cathedral, and many others.

Please inform them of the gratitude Thyolo Highlands Presbytery Management and now, parents that have sent their Wards to this school, have towards the assistance provided.

As soon we get a "Breather" and "Seed Capital" we shall commence constructing a Laboratory and Library; a very important component and requisite of every Secondary School.

Warmest Regards,

Kelvin Matola



A Year in Pictures by Ann Flint













We call you old in the Christmas pageants, perhaps
you were merely a young son, sent to unbolt the door.

We malign you as mean-spirited and cutting
as a sharp wind on a lonely night.

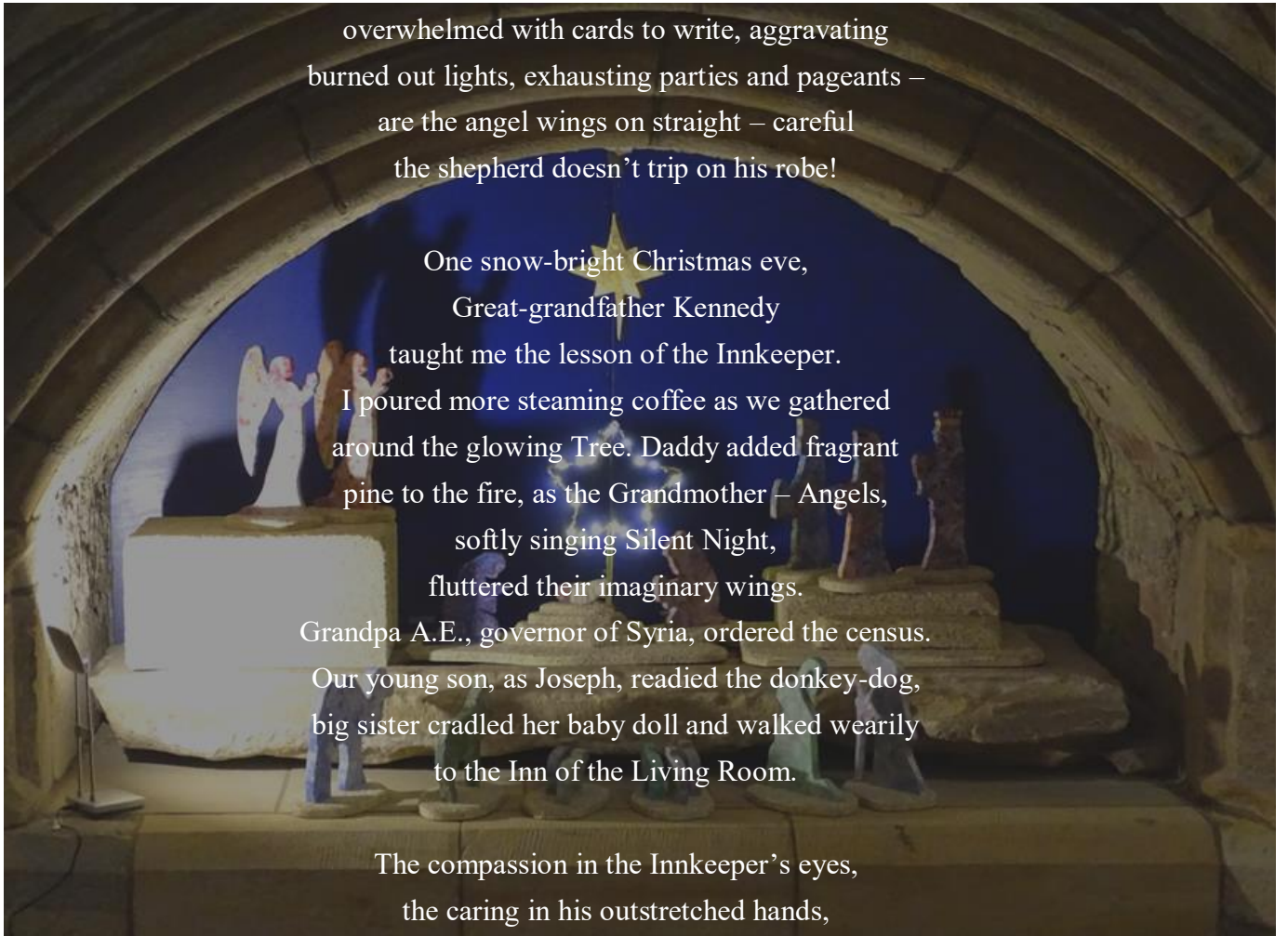
We accuse you of our locked hearts, there is
no room at the Inn of the Soul.

Frantic with preparation of food, frustrated
with stacks of gifts to buy, bills to pay,
overwhelmed with cards to write, aggravating
burned out lights, exhausting parties and pageants –
are the angel wings on straight – careful
the shepherd doesn't trip on his robe!

One snow-bright Christmas eve,
Great-grandfather Kennedy
taught me the lesson of the Innkeeper.
I poured more steaming coffee as we gathered
around the glowing Tree. Daddy added fragrant
pine to the fire, as the Grandmother – Angels,
softly singing Silent Night,
fluttered their imaginary wings.
Grandpa A.E., governor of Syria, ordered the census.
Our young son, as Joseph, readied the donkey-dog,
big sister cradled her baby doll and walked wearily
to the Inn of the Living Room.

The compassion in the Innkeeper's eyes,
the caring in his outstretched hands,
the tenderness in his voice –

No room in the Inn,
but come with me to the stable,
the animal's steam will warm you,
the hay is dry and sweet, there will be no charge.
You are my guests in this poor humble abode.





WISHING EVERYONE A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

3rd September Henry Christopher Watt, 25 Stromberry

Weddings

23rd March Rhiann Hutch and Oliver Crow
20th May Lauren Gilmour and Alex Dohrn
9th June Kayleigh Tait and James Davidson
10th June Laura Cogle and Steven Cunningham
8th July Claire Irvine and Raymond Moodie
9th July Hollie Hutchison and Alexander Bowser-Riley
21st July Jessica Rendall and George Low
22nd July Kaylee Flett and Adam Shaw
25th August Harve Symonds and Ryan Coltherd
21st September Catherine Hughes and Sean Fotheringham
28th October John Pickles and Amy Rendall

Funerals

Below is a list of funerals which were conducted by the Cathedral clergy in the Cathedral or the Funeral Home.

23rd March Gary Gibson, Transcona, New Scapa Rd
3rd April Anne Windwick, 14 Hordaland
9th September Dorothy Rushbrook, 'Strandahl', Nicolson Street
11th September Bertha Fiddler, 'Janore', Hornersquoy Lane
12th September Belle McConnachie, 15 Willowburn Rd
23rd September George Marwick, formerly Swannay House Birsay
13th October Rosemary Drever, 'Taracliff' Mount Drive
6th November Ann Eunson, Dunedin, Springfield Rd
17th November Hilda Firth, Edan, Berstane Rd