

## December 2011 & January 2012 Newsletter



# CHRIST CHURCH

### JOURNEYS IN FAITH IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

#### FIRST SUNDAYS

December 4th

*11.30am for 30 minutes in the Hall*

Come and sit round the table over coffee and **discuss the sermon** with the preacher at the 10am service

January 1st

No meeting

#### THIRD SUNDAYS

December 18th

No meeting

January 15th

*11.30am for 75 minutes in the Church Centre*

**“Death – can we talk about?”** The second session in this ongoing series will be led by Joan Adam and Susan Macdonald and will focus on: **The changing face of living and dying from a life threatening illness**

#### FIFTH SUNDAYS

January 29th

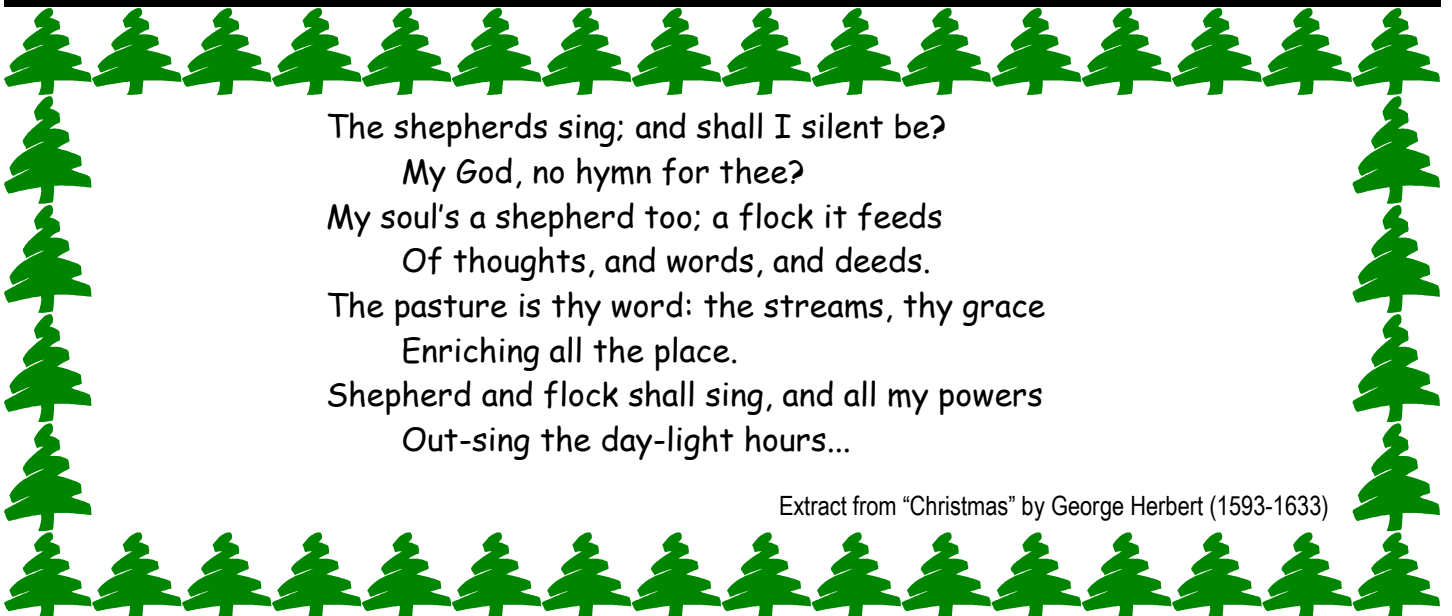
*11.30am for 60 minutes in the Church Centre*

**“The Herods – a dysfunctional family”** A talk by Professor Mary Smallwood with time for questions and discussion.

### COME AND BE. PRACTISING PRAYER TOGETHER.

This is a series of 6 sessions that began on Saturday 26 November. The next two sessions will be on Saturdays 7 and 28 January in the Church Centre, 10am to 11.30am.

Contacts: Jane Green (0131 447 9604) and Martha Pollard (07922 059504).



The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?

My God, no hymn for thee?

My soul's a shepherd too; a flock it feeds

Of thoughts, and words, and deeds.

The pasture is thy word: the streams, thy grace

Enriching all the place.

Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers

Out-sing the day-light hours...

Extract from "Christmas" by George Herbert (1593-1633)

## Revd Philip Blackledge introduces himself

A couple of thousand years ago, St Paul was writing a letter of introduction to the church in Rome. He took ten thousand words and sixteen chapters to do so - I promise I shall be more brief! Neither my credentials nor my verbosity match St Paul.

My name is Philip Blackledge, and I shall be arriving with you on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January, having celebrated my final services with my current congregations, St Peter's Linlithgow, and St Columba's Bathgate, on the previous Sunday (1<sup>st</sup>), and moving (snow willing) during that week.

My coming to Christ Church is a quirk of chance, fate, grace, call it what you will. My wife Katie and I adopted our wee son, Gavin, seven months ago. Having been in my current charge for six years (which makes me the longest serving Rector for many years), it seemed sensible to look for a move before Gavin started school. We had all but given up hope of finding a suitable place in Scotland (we were both very keen to stay in the Scottish Episcopal church if at all possible), when I learnt from Susan that Anderson was moving on. I was delighted at the interview to gain the impression of a church which values as highly as I do what I would call the fundamentals of our faith - kindness, generosity, a questioning mind, the capacity to love, and the desire to encounter Christ. The more I find out about Christ Church, the more keen I am to begin working with you.

I carry with me happy memories of Rectors of Christ Church past and present; I have worked with Susan on the Mission and Ministry committee since she took over the role of convenor from John Armes, and feel confident that we will not only work well together, but will both enjoy the experience. Sharing a sense of humour and a sense of optimism is a very good start. Jim Mein has been a pillar of support to me in my two present churches, living as he does almost equidistant between the two, and worshipping with us when he is not otherwise occupied with Interim Pastor work at other churches (or golf...). And Norman Wickham of blessed memory, was a friend and mentor to me when I was curate at the Cathedral, and I learnt more from him than he could possibly know.

I am aware that they were the Rectors of Christ Church, and coming to you as I do as an Associate, it means there is perhaps an uncertainty as to what I am to be when I am with you. Coming on the feast of Epiphany, there are several metaphorical options:

I would love to feel that I would be like the gift of gold - a fine ornament to your church, valued and valuable, incorruptible and shining. But gold seems rather unreachable and rich to represent my more earthly traits.

I know many priests would love to be as incense to their churches - wheeled out only on high days and holy days, safely within the domain of the chancel, never straying into the nave. Sadly those priests tend to exhibit yet more traits of incense, and tend to create a stink!

I would certainly hope I am nothing like myrrh - the embalming ointment of the church, here to perform the last rites!

So I will go instead to a more traditional and realistic image of a priest - I would like to be manure. I may be spread thinly, but I am really here to become a part of the good soil at Christ Church, and to help things grow.

My best wishes for a Happy Christmas, and looking forward to new beginnings in the New Year.

Pip Blackledge



Katie, Gavin and Pip Blackledge

### **FUNDRAISING FOR BETHANY NIGHT SHELTER**

The Christ Church team will be cooking supper for the night shelter on Christmas Day. To help fund the food they provide there will be a **Soup and Bread Lunch in the Church Centre on Sunday 8th January from 11.45am onwards.**

### **Easyfundraising.org.uk**

Do you or somebody you know purchase goods or services online?

If so, you can **raise funds for Christ Church** with very little effort and at no cost to yourself. Register with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) where hundreds of popular retailers have committed to **donate a percentage** of the value of online orders to good causes.

To register, go to **easyfundraising.org.uk**, register your email address and choose a password. Now, each time you purchase goods on the internet, **log into Easyfundraising** first. Choose the retailer from the list and you will be taken through to the retailer's website as usual.

Shortly after each purchase, you will receive an email confirmation showing the amount you have raised.

- You will not receive Junk email.
- Your details will not be passed on to retailers.
- No banking or credit card information is requested or required by [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)
- Christ Church will receive 100% of any donation.

## ***Our Rector writes...***

Dear Friends

### **Things seen and unseen**

Opposite this letter you will find a collage of some events in the life of our church community during September and October. Can you spot images of a group visiting Iona, Anderson and Rebecca's farewell service, our newly refurbished side chapel, the baptism of Rowan McGurk and the Beauty of Holiness Exhibition?

This collage is a visible snapshot of some of the important occasions over these weeks, but some other events during that period remain only in our memories – the Harvest Supper, the congregational away day to the Trossachs, the Come Together evening for people who have joined the congregation over the past five years, the Vestry party for its pendant committees to name but four. Perhaps you have photographs from some of these occasions you would like to share?

### **Advent**

*By the time this newsletter is published we will already be at the Second Sunday (of four) in Advent. This is the season when the Christian community waits, not idly, but with energetic longing and preparation for the great festival of the Incarnation – for Christmas.*

It is a short season, and too often Advent is here and gone and we scarcely know it's happened. As a congregation let us commit to truly entering into the spirit of the season. To be plunged back into the time of darkness, into the time of waiting for the light of Christ. And if we watch, and wait, and anticipate the Light which is Christ, we will not only see it coming but we will also hear it...we will hear from the darkness of hundreds of years of promise the faint voice of someone calling "I come".

Wishing you every blessing for this Advent and the coming Christmas season.

### **Susan**

Twitter - @secsem

Blog—myweavings.wordpress.com

*Having said farewell to Anderson Jeremiah, Associate Priest at the end of October and Margaret Raven, non stipendiary priest, at the end of November we now prepare to say farewell to Alex Baker, one of our non stipendiary curates, at the Carol Service on 18th December.*

"To all our friends at Christ Church,

Many of you know already that we are moving to Rachael's home county of Lancashire where Alex will continue his Curacy at St Matthew's Burnley, and a post at The Royal Preston Hospital. We would like to say a huge thank you for making our time in Edinburgh so wonderful and for providing us with so many happy memories. Memories that go back as far as 1993 when Alex moved into a flat on Holy Corner. For us, Christ Church will always be special, not least because we met for the second time (after the fire and police station episode) in the Rector's kitchen! As a community you have provided us with prayers, support and fellowship through university exams, illness, marriage and ordination and we really, really appreciate it. This is not goodbye, as we will come back to visit and would love to see all of you (perhaps not all at one time!) down in our rural idyll of East Lancashire, but instead farewell 'till we meet again. So take care, until the next time we meet...

*With love and prayers from Rachael and Alex Baker*

Our new phone number is 01200 415968 and address is Little Dudlands Farm, Rimington Lane, Rimington, Clitheroe, BB7 4EA."



## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Rector:

Revd Susan Macdonald, 4 Morningside Road, EH10 4DD  
susan@6a.org.uk 229 6556

### Associate Priest: (from 8th January)

Revd Philip Blackledge, 6 Morningside Road, EH10 4DD  
associate@6a.org.uk 228 2931

### Non stipendiary Curate

Revd Dr Elizabeth Koepping, 1 Bruntsfield Gardens, EH10  
[e.koepping@ed.ac.uk](mailto:e.koepping@ed.ac.uk) 229 3083

### Director of Music:

Dr Michael Green, 8/4 Colinton Road, EH10 5DS  
music@6a.org.uk 447 9604

**Factor:** Michael Herriot [factor@6a.org.uk](mailto:factor@6a.org.uk) 666 2359

### Young Church and Youth Ministry

Contact the Associate Priest (as above)

### Area Visitors

Contact the Associate Priest (as above)

### Pastoral Visitors

Contact the Rector (as above)

### Journeys in Faith

Contact the Rector or Associate Priest (as above)

**Verger:** George Scott

### Vestry:-

Chair: The Rector

Rector's Warden: Cecilia Stephens [r-warden@6a.org.uk](mailto:r-warden@6a.org.uk)  
446 0922

People's Warden: Elizabeth Pearson [p-warden@6a.org.uk](mailto:p-warden@6a.org.uk)  
229 8676

Lay Rep: Timothy Horne [layrep@6a.org.uk](mailto:layrep@6a.org.uk) 667 3969

Secretary: Jane Green [vestry@6a.org.uk](mailto:vestry@6a.org.uk) 447 9604

Treasurer: Kenneth Ramage [treasurer@6a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@6a.org.uk) 441  
1907

Elected Members: Jacqui Drinkwater, Hugh Goddard,  
Lindsay Graham, Howard Moody, Robin Morris,  
Rona Nussey

**Alt. Lay Rep:** Jane Green

**Gift Aid Secretary:** Hilary Vandore 662 0242

**Data Controller:** Michael Green [contacts@6a.org.uk](mailto:contacts@6a.org.uk)  
447 9604

**Protection of Vulnerable Groups Coordinator:**

Jacqui Drinkwater 229 5928

## CONTACTS FOR CHRIST CHURCH GROUPS

<b>Bible Reading Fellowship:</b>	Jill Gregory 447 3976
<b>Chalice Bearers</b>	Gill Davidson 445 3381
<b>Choir:</b>	Michael Green 447 9604
<b>Church Cleaning Services</b> (Holy Dusters)	Jenny Gibb 667 6378
<b>Church Flowers:</b>	Anne Mackenzie 667 4585
<b>Church Librarian:</b>	Jeni Grover 0799 9599219
<b>Garden Group:</b>	contact the Church Office
<b>Knitting Group</b>	Susan Macdonald 229 6556
<b>Mothers' Union:</b>	Janet Goody 447 6535
<b>Newsletter:</b>	<a href="mailto:magazine@6a.org.uk">magazine@6a.org.uk</a>
<b>Open Church:</b>	Elizabeth Chalmers- Watson 667 6125
<b>Readers/Intercessors:</b>	Joy Holmes 445 2092
<b>Quilters</b>	Jane Green
<b>Sacristans</b>	Janet Clarkson 445 1383
<b>Servers</b>	contact the Associate Priest
<b>Sunday One World Shop:</b>	Susan Rigg 447 5819

### Other contact information

**Eric Liddell Centre:** 15 Morningside Road,  
EH10 4DP 447 4520

Website: [www.eric-liddell.org](http://www.eric-liddell.org)

**Holy Corner Community Playgroup:** 228 2768

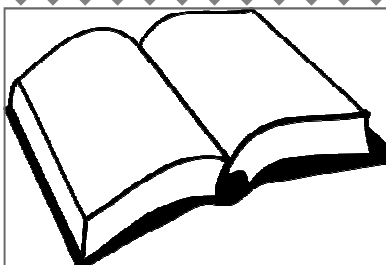
**Morningside United Church** 447 3152



## CHRIST CHURCH B WALKERS

December 10th Penicuik Estate 7 miles,  
Chris Rees and Alison Nice 01721 724369

January 21st St Andrew's Way: Edinburgh to  
South Queensferry 11 miles, (with opt out  
6 miles). Jill Gregory 447 3976



## BOOK

## GROUP

Tuesday 7 February 7.30pm

- ◆ There is no meeting in January. Over the
- ◆ holiday we are reading "A Spot of Bother" by
- ◆ Mark Haddon. Copies are available from Joan
- ◆ Maudsley 477 9865. The venue for February
- ◆ is 6d Oswald Road. All are welcome.

### **Please add the cost of a light bulb to your Christmas Shopping List!**

We'd like to save electricity by changing some of our light bulbs. Our top priorities are the bulbs that run hot—the spotlights and ceiling uplights—but we could also use more LEDs in areas where we need instant light. The bulbs we've chosen use between 30 and 80% less power for a similar light output.

The cost is approx £15 each, so please consider sponsoring the cost of one or more as a **Christmas gift to Christ Church.**

Please leave any donations, with the envelope marked "*bulbs*" in the Treasurer's pigeon hole in the church front porch or send directly to: Mr K Ramage, Treasurer, 32 Bonaly Gardens, Edinburgh, EH13 0EX

**Cash collections at our Christmas services will be divided equally among these three nominated charities:**

#### **Shelter Scotland** [www.scotland.shelter.org.uk](http://www.scotland.shelter.org.uk)

*every two minutes someone faces losing their home*



Every two minutes someone faces losing their home. **Shelter Scotland** housing advisers work together with families and individuals and liaise between them and the council, their landlord, their mortgage lender or their benefits officer. They will fight for the rights of each person and are their guiding light in what is a frighteningly dark time. There is a **free helpline** for people in crisis which answers over 12,000 calls a year Tel 0808 800 4444

#### **Contact the Elderly** [www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk](http://www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk)

##### *a lifeline of friendship*

There are currently 4 groups in Edinburgh, 3 of which visit private homes for afternoon tea once a month and the other visits museums and galleries. The groups are run by volunteers who drive / host tea parties. There is a Development Officer who supports each of these groups (along with another 16 groups in the east of Scotland ). Tel 0800 716543



#### **Samaritans Edinburgh and Lothians**

[www.edinburghsamaritans.org](http://www.edinburghsamaritans.org)



Samaritans are available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide. They are not a political organisation, don't make judgements and don't offer advice. Instead, they believe in the value of having time and space to explore difficult feelings. They also believe that being listened to in confidence, and accepted without prejudice, can alleviate despair and suicidal feelings.

Tel. 0131 221 999 National number 08457 909090

## SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

<b>4<sup>th</sup> December</b> 8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Holy Communion Sung Eucharist Creative Space – a service of music, readings and silence in the Centre
<b>11<sup>th</sup> December</b> 8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Holy Communion Sung Eucharist Service in the style of Taize in the Church Centre
<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b> 8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Holy Communion Sung Eucharist with Young Church Nativity followed by decoration of Christmas Tree Carol Service ( <i>followed by refreshments in the Hall</i> )
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> 5.00pm 11.30pm	<b>Christmas Eve</b> Children's Service ( <i>followed by refreshments in the Hall</i> ) Midnight Sung Eucharist
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> 9.00am 11.00am	<b>Christmas Day</b> Holy Communion Sung Eucharist with Carols
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b> 8.00am <b>No 10am service</b> 11.00am <b>No evening service</b>	<b>The Naming of Jesus</b> Holy Communion  Joint Communion service at Morningside United Church
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b> 8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	<b>The Epiphany</b> Holy Communion Sung Eucharist with licensing of Revd Philip Blackledge as Associate Priest Service in the style of Taize in the Church Centre

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO WEEKDAY SERVICES FROM MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER TO WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY INCLUSIVE**

### **Rector – Revd Susan Macdonald**

0131 229 6556 e-mail: [susan@6a.org.uk](mailto:susan@6a.org.uk). Day off Wednesday

**Christ Church office is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 11am.** Please contact Sally Fawcitt, Administrator on 0131 229 0090

e-mail: [admin@6a.org.uk](mailto:admin@6a.org.uk).

Bookings for Hall and Centre email [bookings@6a.org.uk](mailto:bookings@6a.org.uk)

Visit us at: [www.christchurchmorningside.co.uk](http://www.christchurchmorningside.co.uk)

### **THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS SUNDAY 22ND JANUARY.**

Please email submissions to [magazine@6a.org.uk](mailto:magazine@6a.org.uk) or leave material in editor's pigeon hole in church front entrance porch.