

## Saltcoats North Parish Church Record

June – July 2012

### Minister's Letter

#### COMING DOWN THE AISLE

It is a beautiful day with the sun shining warm upon the face.

It is a precious moment in my life.

It is a special occasion for all who are involved.

The Church bells are ringing. You ask for whom the bell tolls? It tolls for me!

And for the others too! It is God's call to worship. It has the authority of the Imam's haunting call to prayer from the minaret, but it also has the tender appeal of the lover's invitation to intimacy.

The Church door is wide open and the welcomers are waiting with open arms and affectionate hearts to embrace me into the fold.

The organ music stirs the soul and says that we are entering a holy time and place.

The sun is filtered through the prism of the mosaic of multi-coloured stained-glass windows. The plush red carpet is rolled out before me down the aisle. The worshipping congregation is ready to receive me into their midst. I am already in their hearts.

The Minister, the man of God, is standing on the chancel steps, waiting for my arrival. It is as if he is on a rung of Jacob's Ladder at the meeting place of Heaven and Earth, time and eternity, things visible and things invisible.

There is a momentary pause....a timeless moment...when in a flash my whole life, and my eternity, seem present. There is no past, present, future...just this moment, right now, this!

In mere seconds, eternal truths, permanent realities, deepest feelings, are experienced. In a world of froth and bubble, sometimes there is absolute substance. Amidst the absorptions in relative trivia and mediocrity, occasionally we experience what is true, real, abiding, significant, life-changing. There are epiphany moments when the penny drops and we cry "Eureka!" or "Hallelujah!"

Then we are glad that we came to the House of God; we rejoice in the worshipping fellowship, we appreciate the joy of living on planet Earth and the hope of eternal Heaven. Suddenly and surprisingly, the things we thought we believed, we now KNOW to be so. The truths we intellectually assented to, are now felt to be true.

The congregation is singing "Jesus loves me" – the familiar children's hymn – but now it dawns with new light...the penny drops...it is profoundly true! It says it all:

Jesus....Loves....Me!!! Jesus...Himself....He...really loves....wants....me...even me, just as I am, warts and all, me! He loves me right now! He HAS always loved me....and He WILL always love me! He will never not love me! He died for me! He rose for me! He went to prepare a place for me in Heaven! He wants me eternally!

He had me in mind before He created the world! He created me. He created me out of sheer love....over-flowing love. I am His Adam and Eve. He did not want to be God with out me. He

did not want splendid isolation, He wanted fellowship.... friendship with me! Why me? Not because I am so lovely but just because He is so loving. Just me? No, not just me, His love would embrace every single person, but He loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love. He loves each one of us uniquely, particularly, personally.

I never really realised all this before now, but suddenly it all seems so clear and obvious. Now I feel His love, now I know He loves me. He wants to baptise me, He wants to marry me, He wants to ordain me, He wants to take me home to live with Him forever. He wants me to come down the aisle and put my hand into His hand, He wants me to put my life into His hands, quite simply He wants ME!

He also wants me to have HIM! He wants to give me His love, His gifts, His life, HIMSELF! He wants me to be His child, and He wants to be my Father. He wants me to be His bride and He wants to be my Bridegroom. He wants to be my...our... Covenant Partner.

So what can I say? What shall I do? He wants to capture me and liberate me. He wants to woo me and wow me. He wants to whisk me down the aisle, to sweep me off my feet, to blow my mind, to win my heart, to sail me across new horizons, to stretch my soul, to help me grow, to make my joy complete, to give me life in all its fullness. When I hear “Jesus Loves Me” and when I KNOW that Jesus loves me, I can only reply: “I love you too, Jesus”

*Alex B Noble*

## **PRAYER SUGGESTIONS**

**PRAISE** - Father, Son, Holy Spirit (Trinity)  
Creator Provider Sustainer Redeemer Guide Judge King  
Shepherd Father Saviour Lord God of Nature God of History  
Only God Perfect Holy Good Wise All-powerful All-knowing  
Unique Loving Patient Kind Forgiving Long-suffering Merciful  
Gracious God of the Macrocosm – planets God of the Microcosm – tiny  
cells/atoms God of the whole world Personal to each one of us

**CONFESSION** – Our personal sins of word, thought or deed.  
Sins of commission and omission  
Sins of individuals, families, groups, congregations, communities, countries,  
the world, the human race in every age  
Pride Greed Lust Rage Dishonesty Waste Idols Abuses  
Neglect Distrust of God Hurting others Injustice Division  
Corruption Conflict Pollution Human Trafficking Sweat Shops  
Child Soldiers Modern Slavery Stealing Tax Evasion Persecution  
Domestic Violence Sectarianism Irresponsibility Bad Neighbours

Assurances of Forgiveness: “As far as the east is from the west, so far will I remove your sins and I will remember them no more”.....”Though your sins be as crimson I will wash you whiter than snow”....”Your sins are forgiven...rise and walk”....”Father, forgive them for they know not what they do”...etc.

**THANKSGIVING** – Life Time Today Health Food Luxuries Family

Friends Home Congregation(s) Job Freedoms Material  
Blessings Fellowship Prayer Bible Church Hobbies  
Scenery Birds Animals People Flowers Music Sport  
Good News Emergency Services NHS Hospices Medicines  
Inventions Holidays Books Technology Transport TV/Radio  
Computers Visitors  
Love Peace Joy Hope Understanding Imagination Feelings  
Strength Help Wisdom....all the blessings which come from Jesus

**INTERCESSIONS** – Those who are ill Those who are bereaved Special Needs  
World Individual Countries Current News Items World Leaders Global Warming  
Poverty Injustice Corruption War Natural Disasters Aid Workers Charities  
Domestic Violence Drugs Addictions Mental Illness Terrorists Soldiers  
Emergency Services Social Workers NHS Business United Nations Family  
Friends Enemies Persecuters Minorities Homeless Refugees  
Prayers for Self  
Saltcoats North Parish Church Members Elders Minister Kirk Session Congregational  
Board Organisations North Parish Schools Nurseries Groups using the Church  
Prayer Meeting Adult Christian Education Broadcasting Special Services Bereaved Ill  
Lapsed Members Non-Members Core-Members Church leaders Fraternal Presbytery  
General Assembly Church of Scotland Other congregations in town Church Administration  
Church Music Worship Mission Service Christian Education Finance Fabric Christian  
Aid Scottish Bible Society Missionary Partner Arran View Nursing Home South Beach  
Residential Home NHS locally Carers Housebound Baptismal Parents Wedding Couples  
Enquirers New Members New Leaders People who serve the community Saltcoats The 3  
Towns

**SALTCOATS NORTH PARISH CHURCH**  
**Parish Record – August 2012**

**MINISTER’S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

This particular month is very much dominated by the Olympic Games in London. I hope you all enjoy it and that it inspires us all. It is lovely to see the world at play rather than at war. It is inspiring to hear the behind the scenes stories behind the athletes on our screens. We love to see fit young athletes performing personal bests and giving amazing performances of strength, speed, dexterity, co-ordination, endurance. We see many of the best things in human character.

So, I hope that we will all be inspired to get up from the couch, and become SPIRITUAL ATHLETES, striving for excellence, being the best we can be for Jesus. May we all keep improving our personal bests in body, mind and spirit. May we each strive to be athletes, scholars and saints (A.S.S.es for short). If we admire the Olympians, let us try to be like them. They do it for medals, we do it for Jesus.

Here is a little piece which I first picked up as referring to golfers, but it could apply to any sport and indeed I quote it because it applies to Church involvement too!

Once upon a time there was a man who claimed that he was a golfer. But when the local golf club staged a competition, from time to time, he never won it....

....in fact he never entered it. He used to say:

“You don’t have to win competitions to call yourself a golfer.

You don’t even have to enter them to call yourself a golfer.”

And even when ordinary club members, on ordinary days, went out to play rounds of golf together, he never played with them. He used to say:

“You don’t have to play your golf with other people to be a golfer.

You can play golf by yourself any time.”

However the fact was that he never did play golf even on his own. He used to say:

“You don’t have to go round a golf course to be a golfer.

You can be a golfer sitting at home following the golf on TV.

Being a golfer is a mind-set; it is in your blood; it is a way of life.

It doesn’t mean always having to swing clubs round a course, or mixing with other golfers (who can sometimes be a bunch of hypocrites when it comes to scoring cards.”

Other than all that, he was a real golfer....well at least he thought he was!

However we know better. We know that real golfers play golf. We also know that real Christians worship, privately and publicly, alone and together.

*Rev.Alex.B.Noble*

## **PARISH RECORD**

### **BAPTISM** “In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit”

17. 6. 12 Sophia David 7 Hillcrest Drive, Stevenston

### **WEDDING** “Those whom God has joined”

4. 8. 12 Kevin Ramsay and Annette Young 5 Adams Avenue, Saltcoats

### **FUNERALS** “In the sure and certain hope of resurrection”

6. 6. 12 Ian Black 12 Corrie Crescent, Saltcoats  
12. 6. 12 Annie Rennie Arran View Nursing Home formerly 55 Old Raise Road  
5. 7. 12 Bill Clugston 56 Dalry Road, Saltcoats  
5. 7. 12 John Montgomery 7 Ivanhoe Drive, Saltcoats  
18. 7. 12 Joanne Talbot 8 Munro Place, Saltcoats  
21. 7. 12 Ian Gardiner 68 Fleming Crescent, Saltcoats  
27. 7. 12 Bobby Wells 8 Dippen Place, Saltcoats  
1. 8. 12 Carol Livingstone St Andrew’s Drive, Ardrossan

## **NEW MEMBERS**

### **By Profession of Faith**

17. 6. 12 Ovi David 7 Hillcrest Drive, Stevenston  
17. 6. 12 Stephanie Craig 7 Hillcrest Drive, Stevenston  
17. 6. 12 David Rainey 18 Harris Court, Dreghorn  
17. 6. 12 Lorna Robertson 18 Harris Court, Dreghorn  
17. 6. 12 Gemma Rainey 72 Stevenston Road, Kilwinning  
17. 6. 12 Megan Rainey 72 Stevenston Road, Kilwinning

### **By Resolution of the Kirk Session**

17. 6. 12 Netta McWhirter 19 Harley Place, Saltcoats  
17. 6. 12 Ruby Blythe 6 Middlepart Crescent, Saltcoats

## **NEWS**

Saltcoats North Parish Church’s Craft Fair and Fun Day was a great success in terms of both fun and funds. A great day was had by all and it raised £1300. Thanks to everyone who put in a lot of work before, during and after it and special

thanks to Moira Smith and her Social Committee and helpers. The money raised is to pay for the Christmas Dinner.

The Social Committee raised a further £101 from the prayer tree at Easter time.

Next is the Sponsored Walk.

Roseann McLean has been reappointed as our Presbytery Elder. We are very grateful to her for agreeing to do this on our behalf.

The Strawberry Tea was held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. Thanks again to Amanda Rainey and her team of helpers.

Recent radio programmes by Mr Noble have included: "The Queen at her 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee", "Judith Huggett the Hospital Chaplain", "Fathers' Day", "Stealing", "The Secret of Happiness", "Dora and Marie the Quilter Sisters", "Dancing", "New Testament Parables"

and "Spiritual Olympians". August's programmes are: "Sports Coaching", "Thinkers",

"Orators" and "Be-ers". (The last three are part of a series of people who have changed the world by their thinking, their speeches or just by being themselves).

The Annual Thanksgiving Gift Day on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May raised £1,888. Thank you all very much. It was also a special day because it was Pentecost Sunday and included the Sunday School and Youth Prizegiving. We thank the young people for their contribution to the life of our congregation all year. We also thank the Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders for the very important role they play in the spiritual nurture of our young ones.

Every year the Presbytery of Ardrossan holds a special communion service for all the elders in our thirty congregations. This year it will be held in Dalry Trinity Parish Church on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 11 am. All elders are invited to attend this special service.

Our annual Stewardship Month runs from mid September to mid October.

The first two Sundays in September are special occasions. Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> is Bible Sunday, and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> is Prayer Sunday.

The Christian Aid Week door to door collection raised £1,380. We thank all those who supported the cause and especially our intrepid volunteer collectors. We thank Moira Smith for organising it all. The Palm Sunday Soup and Sweet Lunch had raised £340 so in total we have raised £1,734 for Christian Aid. Well done.

\*\*\* The next series of New Members Classes for anyone enquiring about becoming a Church member begin on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 7-9 pm at the Manse, 25 Longfield Avenue. At that meeting subsequent arrangements can be made.

You come and hear about things, and ask any questions, and only then do you have to decide whether you want to join or not. No pressure. Bring a friend if you want. Members can come as a refresher course. Please make all this known to anyone interested. If you would like to come but cannot manage this first night, please let Mr Noble (604923) know of your interest and other arrangements can be made.

Look out for two new groups as part of our Church life this coming year. There is a new branch of the national organisation Weight Watchers starting up. It is led by Lisa McLaren who is our elder Margo Northcote's daughter-in-law. It meets in the church's small hall on Saturday mornings, 9.30-11.30 am, starting on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August.

The other new group starting up this year is "Funky Fun", a music group for children up to four years old. It will involve singing, dancing, playing musical instruments and some puppets. The leader of the group is Carron McGivern. The Funky Fun begins on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September and will run from 10 – 11 am every Tuesday thereafter.

\*\*\*We would like to encourage every member of the congregation to pray together on Thursdays 10.30-11 am. We would also like to encourage every one to engage in adult Christian education. Reading the Bible, Praying, Growing in Faith, Meeting Each Other,

Learning from Each Other, Maturing as Disciples and Growing Closer as A Team are all absolutely essential aspects of discipleship. So please consider giving the Prayer Time and the Manse Groups a try. We vary the days and times to give everyone a chance to come. Those who come decide what we do. It is a relaxed, fireside, friendly format.

The first series of 5 Manse Groups begin on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 7-9 pm in the Manse; the next series will be on Thursdays starting on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Most groups in the church will be starting up again after the schools go back – watch out for specific details. As far as we know....the Prayer Group and the Choir begin on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September; the Guild and Country Dancing begin on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September; When up to speed the full programme is as follows:

Sunday 11 am Worship with Creche, Sunday School, Youth Group, Tea

Monday 10-12 noon the Office is open

The Girls' Brigade: 5.30 pm Explorers, 6.30 pm Juniors/Brigaders

Our weekly radio broadcast: the Holy Half Hour on 3TFM

Tuesday 10-11 am Funky Fun (a music group for children 0-4 years old) (new group)

4.15-5.45 pm Julie Carson Dance Classes

6 pm Zumba

Wednesday 4-7 pm Kelly McCrorie Dance Classes

7.30 pm The Guild

7.30 pm Scottish Country Dancing

Thursday 10.30 am Our weekly chance to pray together  
7 pm Choir Practice  
7 pm Junior Badminton  
8 pm Senior Badminton  
Friday 10-12 noon the Office is open  
6pm/7pm/8pm Dog Training Classes  
Saturday 9.30 – 11.30 am Weight Watchers (this is a new group just starting)



**SALTCOATS NORTH PARISH CHURCH**  
**PARISH RECORD – SEPTEMBER 2012**

**MINISTER’S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

This month of September sees the kick-off to a new season of Church activity. After all the summer holidays, we are gradually getting all our groups started up again. We also have three new groups in the Church – three very different groups – Weight-Watchers, Funky Fun (music and movement for the under five year olds) and A.A. Alcoholics Anonymous. We have something for everyone e.g. Zumba, Badminton, Dog Training, the Choir, the Guild, The Girls’ Brigade, Dance Classes, Scottish Country Dancing, adult Christian education (Manse Groups) and the opportunity for us all to pray together on Thursday mornings. For all our diversity, we are united under one roof and are all part of the life of Saltcoats North Parish Church. Our aim is to glorify and please God. We are disciples of Jesus. We are the family of God, working together to build the Kingdom of God right here, right now.

So will you be part of it? What part can you play? Every piece of the jig-saw is needed and valued. Just one little loose screw can make the engine grind to a halt. We each have a role to play. God designed it that way. The Carpenter of Nazareth seeks joiners. Will you jump on Jesus’ bandwagon?

It is a privilege and honour as well as a pleasure and deeply satisfying to be part of Jesus’ continuing ministry in our parish today. Let me briefly suggest 10 reasons why you and I should get involved more and more in God’s work:-

1 Jesus calls us just as He has called disciples in every time and place. When He calls we follow obediently. He doesn’t ask, He commands. It is His will that we “love one another as He loves us”, that we “bear one another’s burdens”, “be our brother’s keeper” and be Good Samaritans”. He commissions every single disciple to “go into all the world and preach the Gospel, teaching etc.”

2 We need other people to help us. We need fellowship to support us. Alone we are like an isolated coal out of the fire cooling down, but back together we regain our glow. Alone we are as useless as a single jig-saw piece, but together we each become vital pieces in the whole. Individualism is a destructive modern heresy; Christians value corporate living.

3 Other people need us. God made it that way. It is very rewarding and a great joy to be able to enrich other people’s lives. It is a real privilege to be welcomed into other people’s hearts and to be allowed to be fellow pilgrims on the journey of life with them.

4 When we join the Church we take vows including: “I promise to join regularly with my fellow Christians in worship on the Lord’s Day”. We should keep our promises to God.

5 It should be a natural impulse for us to want to get involved in the Church family life. If it is not a natural desire, passion even, then we should maybe ask ourselves what is wrong with us.

6 The more you put into Church life, the more you put into anything, the more rewarding it is.

7 Christians, having been “ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven”, have “the attitude of gratitude”.

Having been “born again” we are full of new life in Christ and want to love, forgive, help others.

8 Our whole outlook, attitude and philosophy of life is to be Christlike and minister with others to others in order to build up the Body of Christ.

9 Long before David Cameron spoke about “The Big Society”, Jesus came announcing “The Kingdom of God”. We want to bring people to know and love Jesus and know the joy of that.

10 Our great desire is to make God smile, What makes Him happy is to see His children being happy and bringing happiness to one another.

So will you play your full part in God's service? God will richly bless you if you do.

*Rev Alex B Noble*

## **PRAYER PAGE**

We invite you to pray with us together as a group on Thursdays 10.30 – 11 am. Besides that, we can also pray together in the sense of each of us privately using this same monthly prayer sheet.

### **Day of the Month**

### **Pray For**

- 1<sup>st</sup>** The people in our North Parish area  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** Saltcoats North Parish Church members and friends  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** The Kirk Session and Congregational Board, The Christmas Dinner Committee  
**4<sup>th</sup>** The Minister: Rev Alex Noble and his wife Patricia  
**5<sup>th</sup>** The Cradle Roll, Creche, Sunday School, Child Safeguarding, Children in the Parish  
**6<sup>th</sup>** The Youth Group, Young People in the Parish  
**7<sup>th</sup>** The Girls' Brigade  
**8<sup>th</sup>** The Schools: Mayfield, Dykesmains, James Reid, Auchenhavie, Ardrossan, St. Matthew's  
**9<sup>th</sup>** The Guild, Badminton, Dog Training, Alcoholics Anonymous  
**10<sup>th</sup>** Dance Groups: Julie Carson's, Kelly McCrorie's, Zumba, Scottish Country, Funky Fun  
**11<sup>th</sup>** Prayer Group, Manse Groups, Church Library  
**12<sup>th</sup>** Sunday Services, Special Services, School services, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Ordination  
**13<sup>th</sup>** The Office, Gleam Team, Work Party, Parish Magazine, Flower Ministry, CD Ministry  
**14<sup>th</sup>** Church Music: the Organists, the Choir, other musicians  
**15<sup>th</sup>** Church Buildings: Church Officer, Fabric Convener  
**16<sup>th</sup>** Elders and their Districts  
**17<sup>th</sup>** Mission: Elders/Members Lives, Parish Visitations, 3TFM Broadcasting, Welcome Packs  
**18<sup>th</sup>** Our Missionary Partner, Helen Scott out in Malawi  
**19<sup>th</sup>** Christian Aid and the Scottish Bible Society  
**20<sup>th</sup>** Those who are ill, bereaved, in need, the Card Ministry  
**21<sup>st</sup>** Stewardship of time, talents and money for God's work, the Treasurers, FWO/Gift Aid/plate  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** Saltcoats Fraternal, Other Congregations, Town Carol Service, Good Friday Walk of Witness  
**23<sup>rd</sup>** St. Cuthbert's, New Trinity, the Presbytery of Ardrossan, the Church of Scotland  
**24<sup>th</sup>** Homes: Arran View, South Beach, Beild Housing, Seabank, Abbotsford, 3 Towns, Caledonia  
**25<sup>th</sup>** Health Care: NHS, GPs, Nurses, Carers, Centres, Dentists, Hospitals: Crosshouse, Ayr, Irvine  
**26<sup>th</sup>** Housebound and Home Communion people  
**27<sup>th</sup>** Visitors, Enquirers, New Members, New Leaders  
**28<sup>th</sup>** Wedding Couples, Baptismal Parents  
**29<sup>th</sup>** The Community: Shops, Snap/Focus Centres, Wardens, Police, Postmen, Council Workers  
**30<sup>th</sup>** Saltcoats Town and the Three Towns, Ayrshire, Scotland, Britain, Europe, World  
**31<sup>st</sup>** All or some of the above.

**SALTCOATS NORTH PARISH CHURCH**  
**PARISH RECORD – OCTOBER 2012**

**MINISTER'S LETTER**

Dear Friends

The Congregational Board in response to a Church of Scotland national initiative has designated the month from mid-September to mid-October, Stewardship Month. We are therefore promoting prayerful consideration about our use of our time, talents and money in God's service.

Even though we each have 24 hour days, some of us have more time to give than others! Apparently the average person in the UK spends 30 hours per week watching TV! Think what a rich life we could have if we switched it off more! If we cut out wasted time and used time more wisely we could really make a difference in our lives and other people's lives and so serve and please God.

All of us have varying degrees of talents and resources and opportunities to use them. But each of us has some God-given talents, resources and opportunities to use them. It is beautiful how doing yourself a favour, doing favours to others and making God happy all go together. When the ability, the desire and the opportunity come together we have lift off, life in all its fullness.

Stewardship is about looking after things, maximising possibilities, tender loving care, being responsible, serving God the Creator and Giver of all the good things which we steward. We help God to bring up His children, we work with Him to improve the environment, we join with Him in standing up against injustices and we are privileged to be used by God in the spreading of the Gospel and the building up of the Kingdom of God on Earth. Can you catch the vision?

Now let's be specific. Probably the easiest measure of people's beliefs is money. Do they put their money where their mouth is? Not always; but they put their money where their heart is! If we think something is very important, we don't begrudge investing a bit of time, talent and money into it. Some people spend themselves on Football, Concerts, Family, Holidays, Collectables, Home Entertainment, Gadgets, House Furnishing etc. etc. How about you? What's your thing?

How about God? How much of yourself do you invest in Him? How much of your time, talents, money, indeed of your whole being, do you spend on Him? For instance, would you give God as much as.....a gift from a pound shop (£1).....stand God a pint (£2).....buy Him a fish supper (£5)...

..treat Him to a meal out (£10).....take Him to a football match (£20)....or a concert (£30)?

Take it further....we do not give God things. He gives us everything. We are like four year olds who borrow money from dad to buy mummy her birthday present. Whatever we "give" God is only a returning of things to the Giver of them in the first place. But oh the joy on the faces of mummy and daddy and little child and God when the economy goes full circle with everyone in on the action!

So let us count it all joy to spend our whole lives in serving God with all the time, talents and money which He gives us. Wise use of these is good stewardship and pleasing to God the Giver of them.

Yours sincerely,

*Rev Alex B Noble*

## **SALTCOATS NORTH PARISH CHURCH** **FINANCIAL STATISTICS**

It costs about £1100 per week to run the church. Costs include the minister's stipend, heat and light, insurance, maintenance, organists, contributions to the wider work of the Church etc.

We raise about £650 per week in offerings and about £450 per week by things like fund raisers, hall hires, funerals, one off donations, advertisers in the magazine etc.

We have about 300 members. 70 give by Gift Aid envelopes. They alone contribute over half of our total annual income. They are all tax payers and the taxman gives the church (like charities) 25p for every £1 which the Gift Aiders give. Another 70 people, presumably not tax payers, give by Free Will Offering envelopes. The remaining 160 members give without envelopes in the offering plate or do not give anything. About 100 of our members do not attend, but there are non-attenders who give offerings and even non-members who give money.

The Church of Scotland is currently making a loss of £500,000 per MONTH! The UK Government is borrowing all time record amounts monthly. Greece and Spain and other Eurozone countries are drowning in a sea of debt. Individuals in Britain are on average £30,000 in debt. Rangers and other businesses are going bust. In this climate, we are all facing austerity and seeking to raise funds. So far Saltcoats North Parish Church has never been in debt, but recently we have suffered the loss of a number of very good givers who have passed away. So we thank every one of you for all that you give and ask each one of you to keep reviewing how much you can give.

From the Congregational Board.

## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

**North Ayrshire Cancer Care** – has booklets detailing their good work. Copies are available at the front door of the church. Some of our members do a great service as volunteers. If you would like to help or if you need help then contact: 01294 – 552223  
[www.northayrshirecancercare.org](http://www.northayrshirecancercare.org)

**Sensory Impairment Services** – if you need help because of your eyes or ears phone 01294-476000

**Macmillan Cancer Support** – improves the lives of people affected by cancer. They provide practical, medical, emotional and financial support and push for better cancer care. Contact: 0808 808 00 00 [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk) Irene Wilson, Room 23A Main Corridor, Crosshouse Hospital Tel: 01563 – 825726 e-mail [Irene.wilson@aapct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Irene.wilson@aapct.scot.nhs.uk) or visit Saltcoats Library on Tuesdays 10-2 pm or Fridays 10-2 pm.

## **PRAYER PAGE**

### **Some Prayer Suggestions**

- PRAISE God for**
- His love, goodness, holiness, perfection, mercy, patience, wisdom etc
  - Creating world of Nature
  - Being the God of History
  - Giving us our “daily bread” + luxuries....looking after world/us
  - Revealing Himself through prophets, Bible, Jesus
  - Guiding and leading us
  - Being our God, Shepherd, Father, Friend etc.
  - Forgiving us and helping us to be better

**CONFESSION** ...our personal sins  
...what’s wrong in society and the world  
...the times we break your rules and break your heart

- ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**
- “Father forgive them, they know not what they do”
  - “Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be washed whiter than snow”
  - “As far as the east is from the west, so far will I remove your transgressions from you and I will remember your sins no more.”
  - “Your sins are forgiven, rise and walk”

**THANK God for** - life, this new day, health, food, family, friends, home, the congregation, freedoms, opportunities, talents, experiences  
scenery, animals, birds, flowers, other people, people who help us,  
hobbies/interests, music, sport, entertainment, technology  
love, joy, peace, hope, strength, guidance, help...all the blessings which come from having Jesus.

- ASK God for**
- Those who are ill in hospital/at home, living in nursing homes, terminally ill
  - Bereaved, separated, far from home, lost jobs, had heartaches, addicted, abused, disabled, poor, oppressed
  - Families especially where there are strained relationships
  - All those dealing with people in need – hospitals, emergency services, social workers, aid workers, carers (professionals and family members), schools, support groups, charities, the local community
  - Nations of the World especially those in the news right now
  - World leaders, international charities, the United Nations
  - Our Scottish, British and European Governments
  - Saltcoats North Parish Church, Fraternal, Presbytery, Church of Scotland, World-wide Church.
  - Christian Aid, Scottish Bible Society, Missionary Partner (Helen Scott)
  - Core Church members, lapsed members, non-members, new members

**SALTCOATS NORTH PARISH CHURCH**  
**PARISH RECORD – NOVEMBER 2012**

**MINISTER’S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

Once again we are coming up to Remembrance Sunday. All over the world, there will be many acts of remembrance, some large some small, from the Cenotaph in London to some quiet village war memorial. The whole world will be united in remembering.

So what exactly are we remembering? What are the fundamental concepts within Remembrance? It is a rich diamond with many facets, but here are a dozen aspects of Remembrance.

- 1 War is tragic. War is costly and to be avoided wherever possible.
- 2 Grief and sorrow for the loss of loved ones and for millions of lives.
- 3 Appreciation of sacrificial service.
- 4 Peace and freedom need to be fought for sometimes.
- 5 Thank God for His providence in bringing us through.
- 6 Evil needs to be confronted and the vulnerable protected.
- 7 We fight against but we also fight for things.
- 8 Camaraderie between troops and fellow-feeling for fellow sufferers.
- 9 Helping allies and friends.
- 10 Fighting patriotically for the country.
- 11 Fighting for the Kingdom of God on Earth, for justice and for principles.
- 12 Remembering so that we do not repeat history for as George Santayana said:  
“Those who do not learn from the past are condemned to relive it.”

“Teach us Good Lord to serve you as you deserve  
To give and not to count the cost  
To fight and not to heed the wounds  
To toil and not to seek for rest  
To labour and not to ask for any reward,  
save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen,”

committed

“Lord, make us instruments of your peace;  
where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy. Amen.”

“Lord grant us more zeal  
Eyes that see  
Ears that hear  
Mouths that speak  
Feet that run  
Hands that reach out  
Whole beings that are totally

in word and thought and deed  
morning, noon and night. Amen.”

God Bless,

*Rev Alex. B. Noble*

**Saltcoats North Parish Church Parish Record – December 2012**  
**Minister's Letter**

Dear Friends,

Patricia and I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year in 2013. May you get past the stress of organising it all, and get to the real enjoyment of what it is all about. To help you in that, here are some thoughts on “what it is all about”.

Just for starters, consider this: we are celebrating the incarnation of God on Earth, the Creator becoming a creature, the Eternal One bursting into space and time, the Infinite Being taking on a 33 year life span, the Lord of all History on this planet and everywhere becoming a first century Palestinian Jew, the All- Knowing One becoming a gurgling baby, the Almighty wetting His nappies, the one who sustains the universe becoming a homeless refugee fleeing from slaughter at birth, the invisible Spirit being seen in flesh and blood.

More than that, we are celebrating our own life on planet Earth. This is another Christmas and New Year for us to notch up. God has walked this pilgrimage with us, every step of the way, and brought us through many adventures to this point. At the turn of a new year it is natural to pause and reflect upon all that has happened to us, and when we do that, we find many good reasons to praise and thank God.

So God reaches down to us and raises us up out of miry clay. God comes to us and rescues us like lost sheep, carrying us home rejoicing. He crosses the dance floor of life and sweeps us off our feet. He weds us to Himself for better and even better. We celebrate the fact that He interweaves His life-story with our life-story like two lovers. He comes down to where we are to share our little ups and downs, our human lot; and He lifts up our eyes to new horizons, inspires us to greater ambition, and fills us with new life, His life, full of joy running over.

God does not stop being God, but He does start being human. We never cease to be human, but we can become more Christ-like as we hang around Him. He is fully human while fully Divine, the God-man, Jesus the Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords while also the most perfect human being who ever lived, our representative, our role model, our Brother. The Judge of all the Earth became the man judged on our behalf. The only Sinless One accepted the punishment and consequences of all our world's sin and our own personal sin.

The traditional Christmas carols sum it up so succinctly and powerfully –  
“Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the Incarnate Deity...Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace”; “A stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ”; “He came down to Earth from Heaven who is God and Lord of all”; “Lo within a manger lies, He who built the starry skies”; “Infant holy, infant lowly”;  
“Child in the manger...Lord of all”; “God of God, Light of Light, Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb; very God” etc. I particularly like this modern (1986) Graham Kendrick carol – chew over these words and you will have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

“Meekness and majesty,  
manhood and deity,  
in perfect harmony,  
the man who is God:  
Lord of eternity  
dwells in humanity,  
kneels in humility

Wisdom unsearchable,  
God the invisible,  
Love indestructable  
in frailty appears.  
Lord of infinity,  
stooping so tenderly,  
lifts our humanity



and washes our feet...

to the heights of His throne.”

*God Bless you this Christmas and New Year*

*Alex B Noble*

### **PARISH RECORD**

#### **Funerals** “Safe in the arms of Jesus”

9. 11. 12	John McLay	10 Duff Place, Saltcoats
10. 11. 12	Hilda Cambridge	Abbotsford Home, Irvine; formerly 9 McGillivray Ave
22. 11. 12	Hugh Ferguson	24 McKillop Place, Saltcoats
30. 11. 12	May Boyle	Arran View Care Home; formerly 2 Sanda Place

### **THE 2012 CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec. 11 a.m.	Advent Sunday
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 11 a.m.	Joint Service of Lessons and Carols with the Kilbirnie Salvation Army Band
	and Songsters and the Saltcoats Salvation Army Corps.
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 11 a.m.	Arran View Care Home Christmas Service (all welcome)
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 11 a.m.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. 11 a.m.	Christmas Sunday: All-Age Worship with Sunday School Play, Youth Group, Choir etc.
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 7 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service: All-Age Worship
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 11.15 p.m.	Carol Singing...11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (till 12.15 a.m.)
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 11 a.m.	Last Sunday of the Year
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 11 a.m.	New Year Sunday
	+
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 5 p.m.	Saltcoats Town Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.30 p.m.	Guild: Carols and Mince Pies
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 5.30 for 6	Saltcoats North Parish Church Christmas Dinner
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 9 pm	Our “Christmas” radio programme on 3TFM (103.1fm)
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 9 pm	SNPC + Adelaide College “Christmas Worship Sketches” on 3TFM radio
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	The Guild Christmas Dinner
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec. (10 a.m.)	James Reid School Christmas Service (all welcome)
NB. Handel’s “Messiah” is being performed at the Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow on Sat. 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec (£15)	
Booking: 0141 353 8000 or <a href="http://www.glasgowconcerthalls.com">www.glasgowconcerthalls.com</a>	

### **NEWS**

Congratulations to our girls in the Girls’ Brigade on winning the North Ayrshire Division Swimming Gala Trophy in Troon. This is the third year in a row they have managed to do this. Well done girls!

We are grateful to the Sunday School for giving us a wonderful Saturday evening in the Church hall on the 24<sup>th</sup> November. It was truly “A Flavour of Scotland” with haggis, neeps and tatties, Irn Bru, Scottish décor, Scottish music, Scottish dancing etc. It was a lovely evening of family

entertainment with good fun for everyone. It also raised funds as well as fun for the boy in the Caribbean which the Sunday School sponsors. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to organise it and to all who came and supported it.

We are also grateful to the Guild for the special night on 14<sup>th</sup> November with the Tartan Ladies from Kilmarnock and our own Guild ladies. Thanks for all the hard work put in to organise it – it was well worth it for a good time was had by all.

The Guild nationally has been celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday throughout 2012. We held a special service to mark the occasion on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November. The Guild members sang the new Guild hymn, reaffirmed their commitment to God's work and received two birthday cakes. Betty McFall and Jessie McIlwaine read the Bible. The Guild is a very valued part of the life of our congregation and of the Church of Scotland nationally. They raise millions of pounds for all sorts of good projects in Scotland and abroad. They raise over a thousand pounds per year for our own congregation's life and work. They also contribute a varied Wednesday night programme and are at the heart of any special events in the life of the congregation. So well done the Guild, happy birthday, and "lang may yer lum reek".

The Guild Programme for the next few weeks is:

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> – Carols and Mince Pies

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Mr Gavin Wylie of Wester Highgate Farmhouse Ice-Cream

Dec 19<sup>th</sup> – The Guild Christmas meal

Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – Rev Andrew Taylor

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> – The Guild Burns' Night

Jan 30<sup>th</sup> – Mary's Meals

Recent Holy Half Hours (now available as free CDs to enjoy and give away) include: "The Fellowship of Fellow Sufferers"; "Stewardship"; "Jimmy Brown" (a North Parish singer-songwriter); "Flying the Nest"; "Soldiers"; "Goodnight" and "A Nautical Theme". The coming programmes are scheduled: "Christian Tests of Conduct"; "Christmas" and "Christmas Worship Sketches" which involve members of the North Parish Church and Adelaide College. 3TFM is off air on Dec.24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> but will be back on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan.

We would like to record our thanks to Michael Talbot for acting as our Gift Aid Organiser and Promoter over the past few years. He has faithfully and annually given out Gift Aid offering envelopes to those who contribute that way – which is the bulk of our income. It is a vital job and so we are glad to announce his successor is Barry Fisher our Treasurer. So thanks again Michael, and thanks Barry for helping out.

Ros McKay of "Ros and Paws" who has taken the dog training in the hall every Friday evening for the past three years, has surprised us by announcing that she is to stop. She has decided to branch out with her own dog training business, based in her new, custom built, rubber-floored centre in Kilmarnock. (For fuller details see her advert in this magazine). We will miss her, and so will our dogs! The dogs were always the most enthusiastic users of the Church in any week – straining at the leash to get to Church -(what role models)! Ros was so good that every class for three years was fully subscribed and usually there was a waiting list. Ros is now appearing at Crufts and is on the verge of international dog showing. We are glad to have been part of her formative years as a rising star in the dog world! As far as we know, we are the very first Church to provide dog training and we are very proud of the fact. We thank the Minister and Congregational Board for being willing to allow it, and for the congregation for accepting and welcoming the dogs and their owners. So we thank Ros for all that she has contributed to the life

of the North Parish Church, to the dogs and their owners, and we wish her all God's blessings as she continues her ministry to God's creatures.

We would like to say a big thank you to the anonymous donor of a new industrial heater for the Church.

Thanks to George Murray the manse garage has been painted. It looks lovely, George!

The Congregational Board which was due to meet on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December has, for some reason, been changed to Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January instead. It starts at 7 pm.

The Kirk Session meets on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 7 pm.

Christian Aid wishes to thank the Saltcoats Churches for raising £3,500 during C. Aid Week, and in particular to thank Saltcoats North Parish Church for raising £1,300 of that total. Well done SNPC.

2012 was a good year for SNPC in terms of new members. We had 9 new members by profession of faith plus 2 more by Resolution of the Kirk Session. (Last year the highest score in our Presbytery was 9 and we had come second with 8). In fact, if you take the twelve months from November 2011 to November 2012, we had 14 new members i.e. more than one per month. Not many congregations can say that. So we thank God for the harvest, and we labour for an even greater harvest next year.

### **CHRISTMAS PRAYERS**

At this Christmas Season, please try to take time and space to meditate upon the reason for the season.

You might like to spare a thought and pray for the following –

The Caesar Augustuses who make decrees which “muck up people's lives” – the people in powerful positions who cause good or bad consequences in the lives of millions of other people.

The “wee angels”, like Gabriel, who bring “a word from the Lord” as and when needed.

The pregnant mothers like Mary; and all the Mary's who carry God to the world in their own ways.

The “average Joe's” who find themselves a bit “out of their depth” with life's unexpected mysteries.

The young couples who are homeless, or far from their home, this Christmas.

The Inn-Keepers who bend over backwards to give hospitality and make room for strangers.

The Choirs of Angels who point us to Jesus, even on our darkest nights.

The Shepherds and all who will be working over Christmas.

The Wise Men who are seeking and searching for they know not what. May you, O God, find them.

The Stars who reflect the light of God to people hopelessly lost in the dark.

The King Herods whose paranoia and selfishness would cause them to even hurt or kill innocents.

The Simeons and Annas in the Church who alert us to the presence of our God in our midst.

The Babies like Jesus who give us hope of new beginnings.

The Birth of Jesus in our messy stables.

The infinite love of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit incarnate within our finite lives and world.