

"Every thing as near normal as possible". Tom's words ringing in my ears I set to work to plan Remembrance flowers for the first time. But everything is so far from normal this year. This is always Seona's responsibility. Do you remember her amazing "Poppy Fall" in 2018? It was on the Order of Service for this year.

So, what about this year, what was needed, what was different? I'm delighted to say that Seona was still able to do flowers, although she has to work from home.



I hope you've noticed that we always try to have flowers in the vestibule now. Our wee welcome to S.M. How posh are we with our beautiful glass doors and our flowers!

Next, Tom asked for flowers for St. Gilbert's Chapel. Done and done. But the Chancel flowers were something else." HUGE please ", said Tom, otherwise they'll just vanish on film. So he got as huge as we could manage. Just as well he was there to take delivery of them, they weighed a ton! Mags asked who had donated the flowers and the answer is you, our wonderful congregation who support us all through the year, even this strange year, when so many of you can't even get to church. Truly we couldn't do it without you.

Hazel

FROM THE MANSE

This has been the most difficult year many of us have experienced in a long time. The young, in particular, have found life difficult because they did not have the experience of the war years, or their immediate aftermath, when life was really, really difficult, to help them understand the limitations or privations we have experienced. Their world has been so different from that experienced by most of you but regardless of age, or experience, this has been a terribly difficult period for all. The Church has not been exempt from this as many congregations have tried to discover new ways of maintaining some semblance of being the church in their community. We were fortunate in that we very quickly got on to recording Services (albeit on smart phones, initially) and using our website to communicate and exchange stories. This way many of you kept in touch with each other and looked out for neighbours. We have not met in community but as a community you have all held together and that has been so important for all. Well done to all of you.

Christmas is coming and we are not going to be able to celebrate it the way we usually do with Services jam packed, lunch on the middle Sunday in Advent and our Pollokshields Carols by Candlelight Service when we welcome the other churches. We will, however, celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, maybe differently, but celebrate we will. Look up the website for how we will celebrate this year. In the birth of Christ the Church universal recognises the great miracle of the Incarnation. In this birth we celebrate the fact that God in His Son has shared our human experience and knows the frailty of our living. This has certainly been put to the test this year. In faith we give thanks for the birth of the child born in Bethlehem because He has become for us the Christ who has brought us new life. It is a life of faith, love and hope.

As we head toward Christmas keep up the hope which is ours in Christ, share the love which is yours, not only for family and friends, but for all humanity and in faith celebrate the Christmas message at home (when possible) with your family around you.

God bless you and give you His peace at this time.

WORSHIP FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



This year is definitely going to be very different as we celebrate Advent and Christmas under the Covid-19 restrictions. For the present we are streaming the Services on Sunday mornings live because we are not allowed more than 20 folk present at any Service.

During Advent, as has been the case in the past, young folk from our church will light the Advent Candles- the symbols of hope, faith, joy and peace. Each Sunday a family has been asked to represent the families of the kirk and one child or younger member of that family will light our candles on that particular day. If, after the 11th. December, we are allowed to go back up to fifty people attending worship we would ask you remember to phone Janis before Thursday evening of the week you wish to attend to book a place.

On the 24th. December we will hold a Service of readings and Carols but this will not be like our usual Carols by Candlelight Service.

The time will be given on the website so please look out for it.

25th. December - Christmas Morning Worship

27th. December - Morning Worship for the Octave of Christmas

3rd. January - Worship for the New Year

PLEASE REMEMBER that if you wish to attend any Service after the 11th. December (if the Sottish Government allow us to go back up to fifty people can attend public worship) you must phone the office or register via the website before the Thursday evening of that week.

THANK YOU

At this time of year I usually offer thanks to the people who make this church work - the folk who give a great deal of their time and effort to ensure we have a kirk.

To Iain and David dealing with all our financial matters; George and his team in property, Cameron and Janis for all the behind the scenes stuff they do to enable this kirk to function; John Gormley, particularly this year, and the choir; Julian Guse and Robert Baird (both Roberts) for managing the technology Sunday by Sunday and especially Marie for her assured leadership in what has been the most difficult year facing any kirk in Scotland this year.

Marie Baird is an enormous tower of strength and her organisational abilities have kept this particular ship on an even keel. I am so grateful to her for her calm reassurance and friendship.

Finally, thank you to the elders who have kept working quietly in the background ensuring the fellowship in this church is maintained and strengthened by their faith and endeavours.

Anne's "Fun Quiz"

TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN SCOTLAND

Cryptic Clue: How is Mum doing? = Motherwell

1. Is this the home town of a TV Chef?
2. The Presbytery might want to do this?
3. You need to go to the top of this to get a drink
4. What stream is this?
5. Sounds as if this place employs a cheap chef
6. Coloured liquid + a limb will find you in this place
7. Large shaggy animal's hideaway
8. This place is not very good
9. This girl has her own town charter
10. The lads are desperate for a drink
11. Pretty outfit
12. Move the fish round

(Answers at the back of the Magazine)

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

I suppose the first piece of news I should share is my impending retirement from the holy ministry. In April 2021 I will have been your minister for eighteen years. I was ordained in May 1982 having been the probationer minister at St John's-Renfield from June 1981. In all I will have served the church as, first a probationer, and latterly as an ordained minister for forty years. In that time I served in three very different kinds of parish but they all had the one thing in common - a desire to live out the Christian life within their community. My time here, as in my previous parishes, has been a very happy and rewarding ministry in that I have been privileged and honoured that you have allowed me to share the important moments in your and your family's lives. For this I will be eternally grateful.

Elaine and myself have loved being here. We have made good friends and the life and fellowship of the kirk family has been great. Many have shown us personal kindness and for that we are extremely grateful. For the love you have afforded Mairi and Neil (in particular) we can never thank you enough. This has been a great family church for us and we will hold it dear in our hearts. Nearer the time I will write more but for the meantime we just get on with being the kirk in our community.



"After careful consideration and consultation with the church the 159th Scouts are sorry to say that we will not be carrying out our usual service of Christmas card deliveries this year. We felt that there could be a chance, albeit small, of transmission of the virus and we would not want to put any of the congregation at risk. We look forward to normal service resuming next year and in the meantime would like to wish all the congregation a happy Christmas and a healthy 2021 from all at 159th Scouts."

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

I thought I would give you a quick update on the church finances for the current year given that we are all living in unusual circumstances. I reported to the Kirk Session recently that while our income had fallen by around 14% in the year to date, our expenditure was also reduced through savings on heating and general occupation costs of the church building. The main shortfall in income is from the freewill and open plate donations and a reduced income generated from the use of the halls. I am forecasting that there will be a deficit for the full year because there are some backlog maintenance costs still to incur on both the church and the Manse. All said and done however, I believe we are in a good position relative to other churches and I am comfortable with the financial position at SMPC despite the impact of COVID-19.

I would really like to thank everyone who has continued to donate regularly and generously by standing order as it is these donations which have been instrumental in maintaining our healthy financial position.

I have been asked by some who donate by envelope and plate if it is possible to make donations online and I am pleased to see that the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh ("121") has set up an online donation facility for this purpose. Donations can be made by this method and they can be directed towards individual congregations. You can do this by accessing the following page:

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate> and by clicking on the "Donate" button at the top right of the page. Then click on the **Donate to a Congregation** button and type in the name "**Glasgow Sherbrooke**". The process will take you through some personal details and then on to a PayPal donation page and it is easy to follow the instructions from there. Any amounts donated in this way will be passed on to us by 121 along with your details in order that any Gift Aid can be reclaimed.

The Church of Scotland have also confirmed that anyone who gives weekly by freewill envelope can make a single "catch-up" donation if they wish by sending it in only one envelope. Please mark on the envelope the words "Small Donations" and include your name and we will then allocate that donation over the number of weeks that it represents.

I hope to see you all at some time when things get back to "normal".

Regards

Iain

NOVEMBER PRESBYTRY

Presbytery met by Zoom on the 10th of November.

The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer & a scripture reading - Philippians 2 v1-11.

There were tributes to Rev. William Alston, Rev. James Ross & Stuart Bruce (Additional Elder)

Much of the business was fast tracked, but first of all we were moved into Breakout Rooms. This proved to be a small group, where about seven of us met & introduced ourselves, which churches we belonged to & a little bit about our situation at the moment. Some were experiencing a vacancy or union & some had only recently had their churches re-opened for worship. We were also asked to mention a subject requiring prayer for our congregation.

New Presbytery Elders were welcomed & the representatives of the congregations cited to attend.

Congregations were thanked for their responses to the LCR questionnaire describing their situation through Lockdown & it was stated that there were 5 congregations whose returns were overdue.

It was noted that there was considerable interaction with the "Press Pause Resource" which is still on the Presbytery website.

The World Mission Committee thanks those congregations & individuals who supported the appeal for Kunri Christian Hospital in the Diocese of Hyderabad. £1686 was raised & this will be sent via Faith Impact Forum. It was noted that the Diocese of Hyderabad was celebrating its Golden Jubilee. A presentation was given regarding the schooling in the area.

"Glasgow Churches Together" are organising a celebration jointly for St. Andrew & St. Margaret on the afternoon of Sunday 22nd of November. The Blessing of the Crib in George Square will take place on Wednesday 2nd December.

Christine Macmillan

Presbytery Elder

SESSION CLERK

The Kirk Session met on 3 November and it was a very busy meeting. Tom announced his wish to retire at the end of April 2021. Whilst not the time for long speeches, I did thank Tom on behalf of the KS for all his work in the parish. In particular I highlighted two areas. Firstly, the union of Mossspark and Sherbrooke St Gilbert's. Tom had worked extremely hard, together with others, to make this union a success. Tom's desire to make the new parish a single church for the whole community ensured the success of the union. This was echoed by Christine Higgison, former Session Clerk of Mossspark. The second area was the operation of the church during Covid. Since the start of the pandemic a service has been available each week. Whilst the technology may have been carried out by others, Tom's determination to ensure we could all continue worship was the driving force behind the services, and his leadership made worship possible.

Further details of the process to appoint Tom's successor will be provided in due course. For now, I just want to say a huge thank you to Tom and I am sure we will find suitable ways to celebrate Tom's well-deserved retirement.

Iain Webster very helpfully provided a financial update. Details are in a separate article from Iain.

Thanks were given to all who make worship possible. If we have to move to Level 4 we will be further restricted in the number who can attend. If this happens, we will continue to live stream Sunday services but attendees will be restricted to those taking an active part in the service. Thursday services will continue as before. Keep an eye on the Website for the most up-to-date position. {Note as you are aware we are now in Level 4 therefore these restrictions will apply}

All of the church committees are working well, despite Covid restrictions meaning no F2F meetings can be held. Contact is being maintained through phone, Zoom, email etc

Marie

OUR FRIDAY CASTAWAY

Name : **Marjorie Craig**

Better known in Sherbrooke Mossspark as the lady with the shortbread

Music Choices:.

1). Gabriel's Oboe by Ennis Morricone The Mission

This is my No 1 choice and takes me back to a cruise with my late husband, Tommy, in the area around Helsinki! It was a piece of music that became so meaningful to us both.

2). The Carpenters. "I Know I Need to be in Love". This piece was synonymous with a great time in my life through the 1970s.

3). Bette Midler. "The Wind Beneath my Wings" from Beaches. This requires me to have a supply of tissues.

4). Elton John singing "Your Song". This was all the rage at a time when Tommy and I were building our new home in Hamilton Avenue.

5). Matt Monro singing "Love is a Many Splendored Thing" from the film of the same name.

As you will have noticed many of these pieces are popular songs of their time by individuals or from shows and are sung frequently by fun choirs up to the modern days. I have been involved over the years with "The Ace Choir"

My choice of book would be Bear Grylls' "How To Stay Alive".

Finally I would like to take with me a gadget like a Pendulum or Alexa to answer all my questions

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The Stewart family

The rhythm of life has had some normality for us because we are both at work, albeit not "as usual".

As a physio, I wasn't able to see my own patients face to face until mid July but have been back working from the Hyndland surgery since then and have been really busy.

My weekend work in the postnatal wards at the QEUH continued as before but with mask, gloves and apron, making me quite hot and bothered each time I am there and very glad not to be working full time in the NHS! Alan initially worked from home but has gradually returned to being almost fully in the office and also seeing clients in person if required. Richard, our son in Edinburgh has been working from home since March from their bedroom and with two noisy under 3's in the house - not an easy task!

Campbell, who lives in Barnes has been back working in London 2/3 days/week, up until the last fortnight. All being well, they will be moving to a bigger house in Guildford later this month.

Heather returned to Dundee University in early October. Everything bar one lecture is online but she was very keen to be back in Dundee for her final year there.

Keeping an eye on my 93 and 92 year old parents in Burnside has had its challenges(!) as they were not at all keen to be locked down back in March. We have met up mostly in the garden for the last 6 months but realistically now need to be inside, so let's hope cafes and restaurants continue to stay open.....

Life, as for all of us, has certainly been different over the last 7 months and looks like being so for some time yet.

Fiona Stewart

GUIDING IN MOSSPARK

We hope that you are all well.

We just wanted to let you know what we have been up to over the last few months when we haven't been able to meet face-to-face.

We have all been meeting weekly on Zoom, although the Rainbows have been meeting fortnightly. Although we have shortened our meeting time it has been great to see the girls even for that short while and their enthusiasm has been astounding. Unfortunately, we have lost a few girls over the course of the pandemic but we are very encouraged by the new girls who have joined us. A couple of the Rainbows have moved on to Brownies and one of the Brownies has moved to Guides - all very positive.

The Rainbows have been very busy with lots of Interest Badges and Skills Builder Badges being awarded. We were even able to award our very first (well 2!!) Theme Badges which was a great achievement for the girls as most of it was done during lockdown. They even took part in a virtual Fancy Dress Competition with the Brownies.

The Brownies have been doing all sorts of things and we managed to run a Virtual Sleepover for 5 Brownies during the summer which was great. We have also been busy with our usual programme and Unit activities - even getting the parents involved in one of our activities - Guiding in a Bubble!! This was great fun and involved blowing lots of bubbles inside each other without bursting them! Not easy and very addictive!

The Guides have been busy as well and have had spa nights and Hallowe'en nights as well as completing lots of badges.

We are all desperate to get back to "normal" guiding and seeing the girls face-to-face. We are able to meet outside but at the moment I think it a bit too difficult!

I hope that our next update will be to say we are back in the Church!

Keep safe and stay well

Jan Russell
Leader
Mossspark Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

THINGS THAT HAVE CHANGED FOR ME!

Now that no one can visit I have enjoyed the new relaxed style of drying the clothes over various radiators in the flat. I don't have to worry if pants or bras are on view! I have been Pavlovian trained. If the outside close door bell rings - a rather rude brr brr sound - I rush to the door with anticipation of either a grocery delivery - food, glorious food - or a courier delivery of the latest thing we have bought online! Yes, we have been finding that so easy!

If our flat doorbell rings - a lovely tuneful air - I rush to that too because it usually means that one of our very kind neighbours has left a meal, some cake or biscuits on the doormat. Ecstasy! What joy! These treats have brightened our daily lives. We have so appreciated them.

My wardrobe is now a very simple ensemble of trousers and jumper (now with thermal vest, preferably long sleeved) as I try not to put the heating on too early in the day. Is 11 am too early? I rarely wore trousers pre Covid because I never felt they suited my shape but now there is a total freedom of 'who cares?'

Make up? Remember I wrote at the start of Covid to say that I had bought several jars of different creams at the chemist just before lockdown? Well I am happy to report that I am still working my way through them, perhaps because I have put them on sparingly and ,not going anywhere means I don't need to put on foundation. Even lipstick is a no no because if I put on a mask it can't be seen and dirties the mask! The only time I make an effort is if I am going on Zoom - lipstick I think helps a lot.

I am now doing jigsaw puzzles second time round and I have to say that is really enjoyable. I can remember the tricky bits and it gives me so much pleasure to do it quickly rather than the first time when I was struggling for many days!

Books, books galore. Ruth McCluskey very kindly gave us quite a number of books to read and we have bought some over the internet. I can read at least a book a week , perhaps two depending on the thickness!

I did start off doing an exercise class on line twice a week. Very enjoyable until I hurt my back and realised that I had been too gung ho! I am still drawn to it but can happily sit with a cup of tea and watch it! That way I don't have to worry about my back!

Someone once told me that you can burn up calories imagining you were exercising. I am sorry to say that I don't think that is true!

At the beginning of lockdown I made copious lists of meals and made up a weekly menu. This helped with my shopping list plus reminded me what I was thinking of cooking ie didn't have to stand in the kitchen each day and say to myself 'What will I cook today?' A few weeks ago I got weary of that and returned to my usual habit of alternating chicken, fish and meat and whatever I had in the freezer. I enjoyed the freedom of that but this week have gone back to a weekly menu. I feel better organised.

Cooking too has become a real focus in my life. I now scour the web for new interesting recipes and enjoy having a go. Some have not been worth the bother but others have been really good.

My hair! I used to have it short but as we came out of the first lockdown it was shoulder length and a bit straggly. I hated washing my hair and used to go once a week to the hairdressers just round the corner. They were so much part of my life. Now the thought of starting back down that road has made me pause. Rather than fall back into that habit I have decided to let it grow longer and let the colour fade. I look at myself in the mirror and see an unfamiliar face looking back at me - silver, gunmetal coloured hair? So odd but I am still enjoying it so will keep it that way for a while yet. I have sent a message to my hairdresser to assure them that I am still alive because they were like family to me, and they must have been wondering if I was one of the statistics read out on TV each day.

I can't visit my friends in nursing homes or friends in their houses but I walk on a Tuesday morning with my neighbour and on a Wednesday morning with Grace Guse. It is so lovely walking, talking and listening. I could walk for miles with a friend. On my own I walk with God, pray for neighbours and look around me. I have become aware of how many children we have in our neighbouring streets - the rainbows in the windows, the teddy bears. I have also enjoyed watching gardens bloom and grow and now being put to bed. In Covid we have been through all the seasons and it looks like we are going to live like this for many months to come.

There is no anxiety though because I hand my day over to God every morning, read Tom's 'Thought for the Day', the Bible passage and I know for sure that God is with me in everything I do. He doesn't promise we won't have troubles but he does assure us, that he will be there to carry us through them. We will see Covid end at some point but until then I am content and at peace.

Brenda



" AM Chorus - Virtual Christmas Concert - 6pm on 20 December 2020

A date for your diary

The AM Chorus invites the whole congregation to join them in their Virtual Christmas Concert at 6 pm on 20 December 2020. Videos, words and, where appropriate, scores will be made available to all. Watch the website for details. Enjoy Christmas music and join in the singing in the comfort of your own home.

With all good wishes.

Keep safe.

Brian



Lodging House Mission Christmas appeal

Although the actual building in East Campbell St. has been closed in recent months, to minimise the risk of Covid-19 transmission, the outreach work of the LHM has continued. They have set up a great £5 voucher scheme whereby users are given a voucher which buys them a hot meal and a drink in a local participating café. It means they can't spend the money on alcohol/drugs and also the local cafés gets some business which is so important in these straitened times.

The retiral offerings from the various Sherbrooke-Mosspark Christmas concerts and services generate a lot of financial donations for the LHM but as these aren't happening, this valuable source of revenue for them won't be forthcoming this year. Nevertheless, they still need "shoebox" donations, albeit donations being 'loose' this year (again to minimise the risk of Covid-19 transmission).

Please see the LHM flyer for what is especially required and if you feel able, donate to the appeal. Isobel and I will take the donations down to the LHM as close to Christmas as possible and thank you to all for your continued support for these vulnerable people in our midst.

Isobel and Marco Gaudoin

CHRISTMAS APPEAL
KEEP THOSE AFFECTED BY HOMELESSNESS WARM THIS CHRISTMAS
with a WINTER WEATHER PACK

Winter Weather Packs contain: gloves, hat, scarf, face mask, and an advice card for advocacy and chaplaincy services. Each pack will be delivered to an individual who finds themselves isolated and affected by homelessness this festive season.

You could sponsor the cost of a Winter weather pack at £12 or simply make a donation to our Christmas Appeal and help us to continue to care for and support those who are isolated and without a home over the festive period.

HELP US SHARE SOME WARMTH THIS WINTER. THANK YOU.



Messy Church Covid Style
 Normally we would have returned to Messy Church in October so John and I had a go at making a video telling the story of how Jesus is the

cornerstone, the foundation of our lives and with him within us, the Holy Spirit, he can help, guide and make us the wonderful caring disciples that he wants us to be. Building a strong foundation we had a go at making Malteser Towers and a tower of straws. It was a bit Fawlty Towersish but we are on a learning curve and we can only go up, as the saying goes! Tom managed to put it on the church website so it was there for everyone.

After our November Messy Church, pre Covid, Tom and Julian used to put on a firework display outside our church and it was brilliant. It was well loved by all the families so this November 5th Julian made a video of his indoor fireworks with a message. If you haven't seen it yet look on the website - well worth watching! Last week we made a video of the Lost Sheep and thanks to Tom and Mags it has appeared on the website and on WhatsApp. Martha and Gordon have even come onboard to help publicise it.

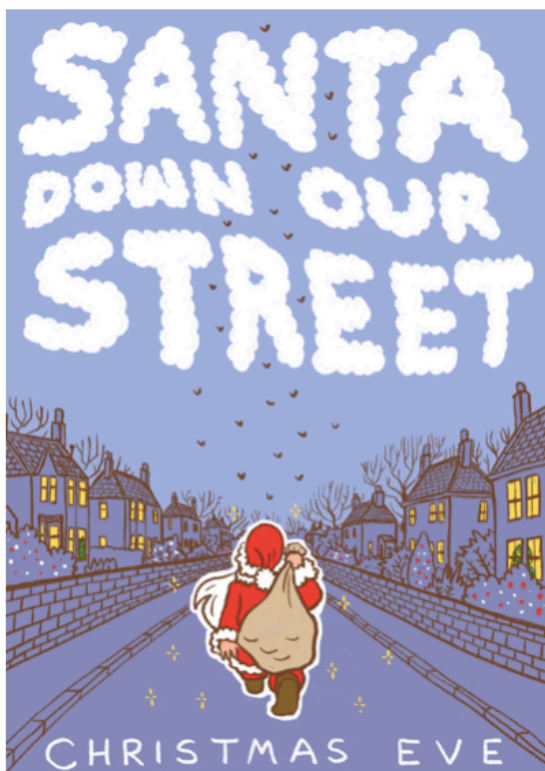
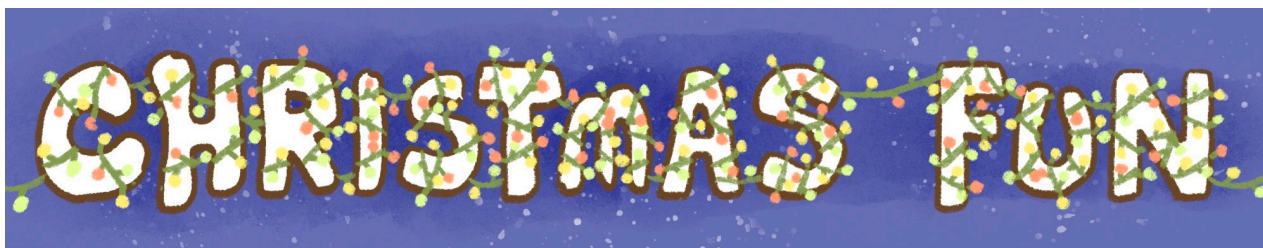
This next month we are going to make two videos to tell the story of Christmas and there will be chocolate, marshmallows, Rice Krispies and white chocolate buttons starring in the crafts!

Messy Church is an all age form of worship - no one is too old or too young to watch - please give it a go. Enjoy!

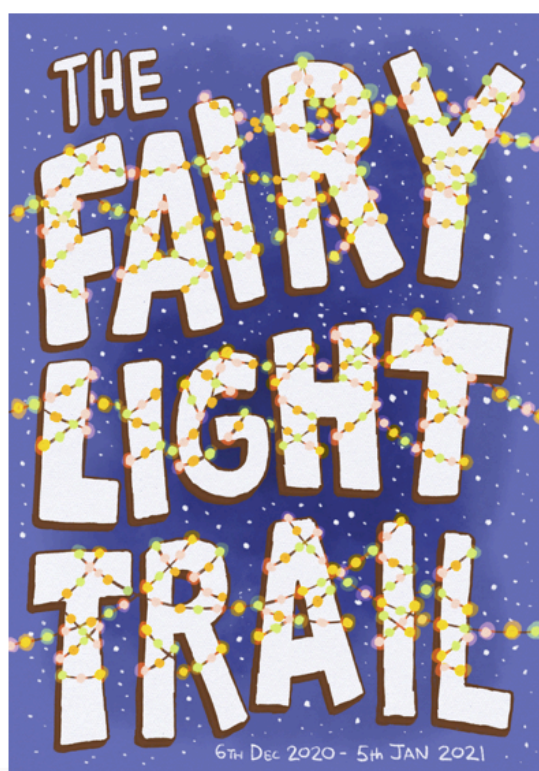
Brenda and John Duthie

TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN SCOTLAND

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Is this the home town of a TV Chef? | NAIRN |
| 2. The Presbytery might want to do this? | SELKIRK |
| 3. You need to go to the top of this to get a drink | BARRHEAD |
| 4. What stream is this? | WHITBURN |
| 5. Sounds as if this place employs a cheap chef | PENICUIK |
| 6. Coloured liquid + a limb will find you in this place | BLACKWATERFOOT |
| 7. Large shaggy animal's hideaway | BEARSDEN |
| 8. This place is not very good | DUFFTOWN |
| 9. This girl has her own town charter | HELENSBURGH |
| 10. The lads are desperate for a drink | DRYMEN |
| 11. Pretty outfit | BONNYRIGG |
| 12. Move the fish round | STIRLING |



0 words



SANTA DOWN OUR STREET

Santa will be visiting Dalziel Drive on Christmas Eve. At the moment due to Covid restrictions and a busy time table he hasn't confirmed the exact time. For details of how to organise something similar for your street please visit the dedicated page on the website. This will go live around 2/12/20.

THE FAIRY LIGHT TRAIL

Cheer up your neighbourhood with fairy lights outside your house and or in your windows from 6/12/20 - 5/1/21

