

"Flesh  
Became  
Word"  
image  
copyright  
David Philp

WORD  
FLESH

WORD

WORD  
FLESH

BECAME  
FLESH

WORD FLESH

WORD

BECAME

WORD

BECAME

WORD

BECAME

WORD

BECAME

WORD

BECAME

WORD

BECAME

FLESH  
BECAME  
WORD

WORD

BECAME

WORD

FLESH  
BECAME  
WORD

WORD

BECAME

WORD

FLESH  
BECAME  
WORD

WORD

BECAME

WORD

FLESH  
BECAME  
WORD

WORD

BECAME

WORD

FLESH  
BECAME  
WORD

WORD

BECAME

WORD

# Directory

Rev. Andy Haddow  
018907 50327      [andy@blakkie.co.uk](mailto:andy@blakkie.co.uk)

Ishbel Dorward, Session Clerk, Eyemouth  
018907 51732      [jidorward@gmail.com](mailto:jidorward@gmail.com)

Richard Bond, Session Clerk, Priory  
018907 71388      [richardbond@phonecoop.coop](mailto:richardbond@phonecoop.coop)

David Philp, Newsletter  
018907 81568      [united.update.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:united.update.newsletter@gmail.com)

## From the Manse - The Culture of “Cancel”

Dear friends,

In these difficult times, it can feel that everything is being cancelled, left and right. Birthdays pass unmarked as we can't gather, weddings are postponed as guests can't attend, family gatherings are left till next year, and significant events can't be marked properly all due to the restrictions we find ourselves living under. Missing all these things might make you think that even Christmas is going to be cancelled in this brave new world where we are not allowed to do any of the things that we have for so long taken for granted, yet this can't be further from the truth! While we might dwell on the events that *have* been cancelled, it might make sense to think of the things that *have not* been cancelled!

>>>

*Kindness* has not been cancelled, as can be seen in the large numbers of folk who have volunteered to help out those in need; *family* is not cancelled - we may have to see them in different ways, but we appreciate the new ways of staying connected; *love* is not cancelled, indeed we're being encouraged to love those we don't even know simply by wearing our masks in public places; and..... *Christmas* is not cancelled! Indeed what makes Christmas, what truly underlies it, cannot be cancelled. As the old joke goes, Christmas without Christ leaves you with just M and S! (*Other department stores are available - Ed.*)

We celebrate Christmas this year despite all the restrictions and despite missing out on so much, because the church is testimony to the simple fact that that very first Christmas, God came among us, as one of us. Born as a baby in a messy stable, away from home as his parents were forced by Government mandate to be where they didn't want to be. Yet his birth was prophesied before the Roman empire even came into existence.

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel, (which means God with us)” Isaiah 7v14

What an amazing gift and what wondrous knowledge, to know that God is with us, while the whole world needs to be physically distanced!

May God Bless you this Christmas time.

*Andy*

(See also “*Christmas is cancelled?*” page 14)

### **Thanks from Audrey**

Audrey T. thanks everyone for their prayers and good wishes following Hamish's admittance to hospital. They have been invaluable and of great comfort.

## Martin Luther's Lockdown

*"I will pray God that He will keep and protect us in His mercy. Then I will disinfect, help cleanse the air, administer medicine and take it myself. I will avoid places and people when my presence is not necessary, to prevent me from getting infected and then infecting others by my negligence, with possibly their deaths. If God wants to take me, He knows where to find me.*

*Until then I will do what He expects from me and I will not be responsible for my own death or the death of others. But if my neighbour needs me, then I will not avoid him but go boldly to him.*

*So is a God-fearing faith: it is not inconsiderate and reckless, and it is not testing God".*

This quote was written by Martin Luther in 1527. Apparently, he and his wife Katharina, who was pregnant at the time, found themselves in lockdown in Wittenberg, Germany while Bubonic plague ravaged the population of Europe. Many people fled, but Luther decided to stay put in Wittenberg, reaching out and ministering with God's love to his neighbours in need. These would be tough days for Luther, and many historians believe that it was during these weeks of plague, death and heartache that he penned the hymn 'A mighty fortress is our God.'

*Ishbel*



Remember our members (and others) who are recently bereaved, ill, hospitalised or in any other kind of need or vulnerability. Pray for them; keep in touch with them over the festive period. Time can drag. One letter, card, email or phone call can make all the difference. YOU can make a difference.

## **“What Might Lie Beneath”**

*Eric and I attend church in Strathlachan when visiting Loch Fyne. This story spoke to both of us as it appeared in the local church newsletter. We hope you will enjoy it too. Els Nicol.*

A workman was engaged to give a large rowing boat a new lick of paint, a job for which he would be paid an agreed fee by the owner. He duly completed the painting, but while working on the craft he spotted a hole in the woodwork. He took the time to attend to it, filling it in so that the boat would be completely watertight.

A week or so later the boat owner handed the workman a cheque for a much larger sum than had been promised. ‘Why so much more?’ asked the painter. ‘Well’, said the client, ‘you not only carried out the required work but noticed the hole which I had quite forgotten about, and took time and effort to repair it.’ ‘Oh, that took very little time’, said the man. ‘Perhaps not’, said the owner, but I went away for a few days, and when I came back, I learned that my children had taken the boat out on a fishing trip. Had the hole still been there the consequences might have been tragic, so I am immensely grateful to you for spotting the problem and going the extra mile to fix it.’

Is life not just like that? We may see a problem which is obvious on the surface, but when we look into it, we might find there is something more important, more fundamental lying beneath the surface. As Christians we ought to be alive to difficult situations which affect our fellow men and women and to which we feel we can bring some help.

Some problems might be obvious, but others may be much less so, in which case it is only by being keenly observant, listening attentively, and showing sympathetic understanding, that we can identify the real root cause, and lend our support. There is a lot of need in this world, especially just now. Jesus asks us to help those less fortunate than ourselves, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort the sad and lonely, and to come alongside those who find life hard going.

Wherever and whenever we can, let’s go the extra mile which will make all the difference to those who need our help and encouragement. *Sandy MacPherson (Upper Cowal Churches Update).*

## The Guild

The Guild has been unable to meet this summer. We were all ready to start, with an interesting syllabus, at the beginning of May but Co-vid shut everything down in March. Many of us have kept in touch by phone or Zoom or Face time. We had hoped to meet for a meal at the end of September to celebrate the end of a non-existent session but restrictions changed and we could not meet.

However, we hope to arrange a Zoom AGM in the new year and will plan a syllabus for summer 2021, probably starting in June or July. Our membership is small so we will probably be able to safely social-distance in the Hall. Sadly during the summer we lost one of our long service members, Margaret Sinclair. Jean Gilchrist, who also died, had been a staunch member until her disability prevented her attending and Margaret Gray had been a member in the past. One of our leaders also lost her husband. We extend our sympathy and love to Syd, Alex, Willie and Jean.

Hopefully by the time the next newsletter is published we will be able to announce the start of the Guild meetings again.

*Audrey, Carole, Elizabeth, Jean and Margaret.*

---



At the recent Eyemouth Gift Day, a total of £1451 was given. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. If anyone missed the opportunity it's not too late to give either online or by handing in an envelope at church, to your elder or at the manse.

# UNITED UPDATE AUDIO EDITION PROGRAMME TWO!

**MEET -**  
**The Preacher turned Singer turned Author!**

**VISIT -**  
**Carol's Kitchen - Perfect Scones every Time!**

**ENCOUNTER -**  
**The Mad Madam of Mordington Moor!**

**and more.....**

*Coming soon to an Inbox near YOU!*



# Peace

You are gone – gone ahead  
you've run the race,  
won the battle  
raised the flag high

The lines of suffering gone from your face  
your body no longer writhing in agony,  
our family all gathered round you  
we have said our goodbyes

I know there will be sad times  
I know there will be bad times  
I shall miss you so  
beloved, soulmate and friend

But right now I am glad  
because you are at peace.

*Heather Johnston August 20th 2020*

*'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world give. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.' John 14:27*

## Help While You Shop

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be collecting free donations for the Church?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/coldinghamstabbs/> or <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/eyemouthparishchurch/> and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping, or download the easyfundraising donation reminder for your web browser.

3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and the Church will be really grateful for your donations.

You can now even download a handy reminder that reminds you to activate your donation when shopping on participating webpages.

## AMAZON SMILE

If you use Amazon for your shopping you can also persuade them to donate on your behalf by signing up for Amazon Smile. Simply go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) from your web browser on your computer or mobile device. This will allow you to connect your Amazon account and select a charity to receive donations, both congregations are registered (The Church of Scotland, Eyemouth Parish Church or The Parish Church of Coldingham & St. Abbs) with Amazon and once linked when you shop on Amazon Smile, donations will be made automatically with no cost to yourself!

## **East Berwickshire Churches Together Advent Gatherings**

Every Wednesday in Lent we meet on ZOOM for a short gathering led by volunteers from the different churches. The gathering starts at 11am and is finished by 12noon. This is a great opportunity to take a moment away from the busy-ness of the lead up to Christmas and refocus on why we celebrate Christmas.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December (Zoom ID 502 044 842)

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Christmas Party

### **Christmas Services**

Although plans are still in the process of being laid out, the following services will be available online over the Christmas period. Please check the Facebook page or website for up to date information about what is planned.

Pre-Christmas – Christmas Quiz Night – Join Andy live on facebook/ YouTube or via ZOOM for our Christmas Quiz night, lots of fun to be had playing solo or on a team, whatever score you get!

Pre-Christmas – Nativity Storybook Video – Join us for a short retelling of the nativity story with pictures put together by members of the congregations and communities.

Pre-Christmas – God is With Us – Everywhere! - A virtual performance of our nativity featuring young people from the congregation.

Christmas Eve Afternoon – Family Christingle

Christmas Eve Late evening – Watchnight

Christmas Day Service, 10am – Livestreamed from the Manse, anything could happen, tune into see what chaos ensues as we celebrate Christmas as a family!



## Words of Christmas

*"T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse".*

Perhaps the most famous Christmas quote of all time, this classical poem by Clement Clarke Moore has first written in 1837, and has been used in multiple films and books since.

*"Merry Christmas, one and all!"*

Fans of The Grinch will know this one well. The Dr Seuss classic is a firm favourite in most households during the festive period.

*"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud, for all to hear."*

Buddy the Elf coined this phrase in the 2003 film Elf. You can buy everything from mugs to Christmas jumpers with the phrase on.

## From the Hymn Book

I don't think I have an out and out favourite carol, but Child in the Manger is certainly one for which I have a great fondness. I like the shortness of the lines and the brevity of the language which yet manage to include within their scope not just the Christmas story, but also the life and death and resurrection of Jesus who is 'Lord of all'.

Perhaps for me the greatest significance of this carol is the memories it stirs in me. I can remember singing it when I was a wee lad in Sunday School, and how the pictures conjured up by the words seemed very real. I recall singing it in the original Gaelic (well, trying to!) at school Christmas services on Tiree where, after I retired, I was doing a spell as locum minister.

Sadly it does not seem likely I will get to sing it in church this Christmas, but maybe it will feature on radio or TV at some point and I can sing along at home!

Bruce Neill

# My Christmas

My earliest Christmas memory as a wee girl, of about 4 years old, was that my dad went to work in morning after the family had opened their parcels. I received a doll. My dad finished early on Christmas day and we had chicken for our Christmas dinner, which was a bit of a luxury. My dad helped my brother build his new train set in the evening. We had no television but we had the radio so we could listen to The Queen's Christmas message.

Kath

My favourite Christmas reading is John chapter 1. I first heard and loved this in my early times worshipping in Church of England. I loved the large advent wreath and the candle lightings. John 1 was the gospel reading for Christmas Day when the central candle was lit for Jesus Light of the world. Verse 5 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out' has meant great joy to me and also comfort in dark times. Never more so than now and I shall be holding on to it this Christmas.

Heather

Every Christmas 'when I was young' we had a tree delivered from one of my Dad's country contacts - it always reached the ceiling in the living room.

Jean B.



Don't think I have any early Christmas photos but my mum loved to tell my kids that when I was 7 years old, all I wanted from Santa was a pencil with a rubber on the top !

Elaine





**Christmas is cancelled? “Bah – Humbug” says Scrooge,  
“What an embarrassing subterfuge  
By those who refrain from retelling the story  
Of shepherds and angels and incarnate glory”.**

**Christmas is cancelled? The Goose is quite fat –  
I’m worried it might just explode with a !SPLAT!  
The Magi are here, so what’s the plan now?  
Do like the wise guys; give presents and bow!**

**Christmas is cancelled? I don’t believe it!  
Still Meldrew is ready with asinine wit  
The doubters remain through the season of light  
While the lad in the crib rules with wisdom and might.**

*David P.*

## **Eyemouth Foodbank**

Life goes on at the Foodbank week after week with our amazing Volunteer ‘Quartermasters’ and Drivers. The system we have in place seems to work well and keep everyone safe. We are of course eternally grateful to Eyemouth Parish Church for the space they have allowed us to build at the end of the Church Hall. It has been well constructed by Andrew Gillie and the lockable fire door at the end of the hall allows us to have separate access. We could not have operated without this space.

The ‘Quarter Masters’ are on a weekly rota and take responsibility for stacking the shelves, checking dates and packing bags for 1 person, a couple or a family. The drivers can then come in when they are on the rota and pick up the appropriate bags for the referrals they have and deliver the bags to the door step. The Rotary very kindly bought us a simple phone which allows the drivers to check if the client is in and then to let the client know when the bags are on the doorstep.

We are very excited to be trialling a system which allows those who refer clients to alert us on the referral form if they think clients could use fresh food. We have had amazing cooperation from Dean Mark the butcher and the new Vegetable shop. We have bought vouchers from them to issue. These vouchers will have the persons name on and they can spend the voucher over a period or all at once. We also feel that this is putting some money back into the local economy. We have agreed to trial the scheme until the end of January.

We would like to thank everyone for their continuing support. It means a lot to every one of our volunteers to have community support and of course enables the Foodbank to continue to provide a service.

*Noreen*

