



# *GIFFNOCK: THE PARK CHURCH*

*SCO No. 02965*

*Minister : Rev Calum D. Macdonald*

*Organist: Miss Hebba Benyaghla*

*Sunday 22nd December 2019*

*11am*

## *Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday School Nativity Service*

*Introduction and Welcome*

**CH3 170** *It came upon that midnight clear*

*Prayer & Lord's Prayer*

*Reading : Malachi 4: 1- 43 (P 692)*

*Isaiah 11: 1 – 5 (P. 696)*

**MP 114** *Ding dong merrily on high*

*Park Church Sunday School Presents The Nativity*

*Minister's Address*

**MP 39** *As with gladness men of old*

*Benediction*

*Welcome to our service this morning which will be led by our Sunday School. We hope you enjoy it and that you will be able to continue in fellowship together for Tea or coffee after the service. If you need to race away please do taking our best wishes for the Christmas season and a good new year in 2020.*

Please Place  
your gift of  
Socks in the  
S anta  
S tocking in  
the V estibule



## There's no Christmas without Christ

Good morning.

Welcome to our Sunday School Nativity Service where our children will look to set the Nativity Scene for us again this year. I came across a daily devotional where someone who was walking back to their home having been out for a walk, came up the front of their garden to discover their large Nativity scene had a piece missing. Someone had stolen the baby from the manger. It reminded me of the occasion in George Square in Glasgow city centre when the stunning bronze nativity scene there which then was in the open for all to see, had something similar happen when someone stole the baby from the manger. (Clearly this happened before the city centre had become extensively monitored by CCTV) I can't remember if the Police recovered the bronze baby statue or whether it was simply replaced but I can tell you that on my last street pastors night, our team took a young lady from Namibia to see the Nativity scene and have some photos taken in the heart of the city at night. This time, the whole nativity scene was encased in a Security Glass enclosure ensuring that no-one tampered with or stole its contents. That incident so long ago has reminded me of how there are some who would want to take Jesus Christ out of Christmas to make it more of a secular occasion, a market place for food & drink, or buying that bespoke gift that was handmade or carved, where the music played in the shops is devoid of any reference to Jesus' birth and instead refers to snow filled scenes with reindeer and a sleigh and of course the jolly fat man with the beard. The moment we do that - Christmas stops being Christmas becoming something else. For many it will be about the parties and the presents and the time with family or friends. The fact is that if this special time of the year becomes something where Christ is missing from the proceedings/celebrations, it is no longer Christmas. It has become something else because by definition There can be no Christmas without Christ. One of my favourite song writers wrote in his Christmas song for all year round:-

***“But most of all, the children, They're the ones I hope will learn  
That Jesus is our Saviour And he's going to return  
And Christmas isn't just a day And all days aren't the same  
Perhaps they'll think about the word And see it spells his name”***

Let's keep the Christ in Christmas. He was after all God's great gift to a broken world. If I don't see you before Christmas, I wish on behalf of myself, my wife Wilma and our family that you have a Merry Christmas.

*Calum D. Macdonald*

## Christmas Presents for the Mallard

*The Mallard provides a safe, stimulating and homely environment where young people can come and stay over. They support them during their time there.*

*They have been providing residential short breaks at the Mallard for over 20 years, and they still love every minute they spend with the young people.*

*The Mallard house is in Springburn, ten minutes from Glasgow city centre.*

*Their young guests have their own en-suite bedroom, as well as access a large lounge/dining room, sensory room, spa and computer room. They also have a well-equipped outdoor space with sensory garden and summer house.*

*Every part of the Mallard is wheelchair accessible.*

*Here at Park Church we have been donating gifts to The Mallard Children's Service based in Springburn for a number of years and we would like that to continue again this year. If you have a children's toy to bring to our nativity Service it will be gratefully received.*



Schiehallion  
Appeal

## Help to raise funds and support the Schiehallion Appeal

The Schiehallion Appeal was launched in 2017 in hope to raise £500,000 to enhance the clinical trial centre in Glasgow Children's Hospital and bring more of the latest cancer treatments to Scotland. These clinical trials would give children access to a new type of treatment when conventional treatments have failed. Although 8 out of 10 children with cancer will survive beyond 5 years, cancer is still a leading cause of death of children in Scotland. Sadly, not all children will respond to treatment. For these children, clinical trials can be a lifeline – but before were often only available in highly specialised centres in England. So far more than £1m has been raised, which has enabled the team of specialists to achieve their vision of creating a leading Clinical Trials Centre meaning more children can be treated in the hospital they know, by their own doctors and nurses. With our support there is hope to bring more early phase trials to the children's hospital, giving young patients from across Scotland the best possible chance in their fight against cancer and blood disorders.

A plate will be put out today for the first day of the Christmas Retiring Offering. The plate will stay out for the Christmas Eve and the 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your support.

## **Park Church : SC002965**

**Please Note our New Office Hours :**  
**Tuesday Wednesday & Thursday mornings**  
**9.30 - 12noon**

### **Contact Details**

#### **Church Secretary :**

Mrs Elvira Sanza

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*Freewill offering envelopes will  
available from Sunday 1st December.  
All enquiries regarding FW Offering  
Envelopes, please speak with  
Mrs Margaret Loudon*

### **Sunday Preaching Diary**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday School Nativity  
Service

#### **Christmas Eve Services:**

Family Service at 7pm  
Carols By Candle Watchnight  
Service 11.30pm



### **PRAYER GROUP**

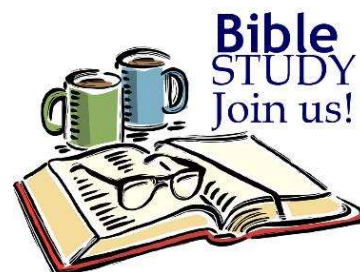
*"More things are wrought by prayer  
than this world ever dreamed "  
( Alfred Lord Tennyson )*

*" O Let the place of secret prayer become to  
me the most beloved spot on earth "  
(Andrew Murray Scottish Preacher )*

*We meet on Tuesday mornings  
from 10-10.45am*

*Everyone is welcome.*

## **2019**



The next Bible Study will be  
On Tuesday 21st of January 2020  
from 7.30 pm

All are welcome.