**Williamwood Parish Church
News Bulletin 11: December 2020**

***Christmas Greetings***

We are not going to be able to exchange cards and Christmas wishes with one another at church services and events this year, so... if you'd like to send greetings to your friends in the congregation, without buying and posting cards you can...request a greeting to be posted on the website and included in a special Christmas Bulletin.

Please email Joan Black (or if you can't email, then pop a note through her letter box or give her a telephone call) with your name and the greeting you wish. Joan Black and Evelyn Wallace will post your greeting for you. You may wish to make a donation to Christian Aid or local foodbanks for this service.

***Christmas Special Collections***

This year, as usual, you are invited to contribute to the work of Christian Aid. The theme of the Christmas Appeal this year is *Love Brings Hope.* Please send donations direct to Christian Aid (details on their website. (christianaid.org.uk/Scotland) or put your donation in an envelope marked Christian Aid in the plate at the door of the church on a Sunday when you are attending. You may wish to give Williamwood Church as the reference on any donations you make directly.

You are also invited to support the work of local foodbanks by making a monetary donation (see below) or by donating goods at a collection point in many of our local supermarkets.

Any cheques can be sent to Grant Keyes and should be payable to Williamwood Parish Church with a note for which of the above mentioned charities your donation is intended.

***Some Advent and Christmas Activities***

Advent Conversations via Zoom, will begin on 4 Tuesday evenings, beginning on 1st December at 7.00pm, using materials from the Scottish Bible Society. You can access these and take part in this time of conversation and reflection by using a Zoom invitation which will be sent out separately to the congregation. The materials will also be available on our church website. Just click on the appropriate box.

If you would prefer your own Advent Reflections and Thoughts, you can access the ALTERNATIVITY website accessing a different one for each week in Advent. Again these will also be available on our church website.

There will be a *Getting Ready for Christmas*Service for our Toddler Group in the church on Thursday 3rd December. Attendance by invitation only.

There will be a Christmas service for Clarkston Nursery in the church on Wed 16th December. Attendance by invitation only.

Our own Sunday School, the Toddler group and Clarkston Nursery children are working on Nativity windows to display in their homes. Look out for them on your Advent Amble Around the Area!!

In addition, if you are out for a walk near Carolside Primary School, have a look out for the Christmas displays in the windows. This display will be up over the school holidays and not taken down until January.

The Minister, as part of the Chaplaincy Teams at Williamwood High School and Carolside Primary School, is preparing Christmas online assemblies which will be accessed by pupils in their classrooms. Please encourage children and grandchildren to look out for these.

***Christmas Eve:***  In line with other churches and also people ringing bells on their doorsteps, our church bell will ring at 6.00pm. Thereafter, we will be able to listen to some “Carols at the Crib” and pray together as we hear the Christmas story again. Please note this service is dependent upon government restrictions and Church of Scotland guidelines being relaxed in order to permit this.

A limited number of people will be able to gather in front of the church. You might also wish to consider sitting in your parked car, with windows open in Seres Road or Vardar Avenue; standing on the pavement or in your garden or staying indoors with a window open.

**On 27th December** our church building will not be open. Like many other congregations across the country and beyond, we will join a service led by Rt Rev Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly. Details of how to access this will be sent out in the same way as your usual *Zoom* invitation.

**On Sun 3rd January** our church building will not be open. We hope to have a *Songs of Praise*service, recorded in advance which we will all be able to access. If you'd like to request a hymn to be played (maybe even sung by a soloist) at this service please email or phone your request to the Minister or Organist as early as possible and certainly by 10December to allow time for recording and assembling the service.

**3rd Williamwood Brownies**

The Brownies have started back with a mix of Zoom and outdoor meetings, with the unit subsidising the subscriptions, as we feel it would not be appropriate to charge full fees for a much reduced experience. To help us make up this deficit could you please, if you’re shopping on Amazon, click on Amazon Smile and select 3rd Williamwood Brownie Pack as your chosen charity. You then shop as normal and pay the usual prices but the Brownies will receive 0.5% of the cost! Thank you, *Lorna and Fiona*

***The Flower Calendar for 2021*** will be put onto the Website at the beginning of December. You will be able to have a look at it, and check for vacant dates.   If you would like to have flowers in the chancel, please contact Jean Little on 0141 638 1505

***Crossreach Calendars* for 2021** are available. If you would like one, please phone Fiona Gunning 577 5761

***Oberammergau***The holiday to Austria including a visit to the Oberammergau Passion Play has been re-arranged for 7-14th September 2022. There are spaces available, even if you had not booked to go on the original trip, Anyone who is interested in a brochure or further details should contact the minister.

The Travel Insurance provider is now able to offer a policy for 2022 which in addition to all of the usual benefits, covers you for cancellation due to illness or forced quarantine as a result of an epidemic or a pandemic disease such as COVID-19.

**Thank you**

* to Jean Little and the Flower Committee for our Advent Wreath in church and for the flowers which appear each Sunday and which are later sent out to members and friends of the congregation.
* to Joan Black and Evelyn Wallace for our Christmas banner and Christmas Greetings project
* to Stuart Young, Wally Black and the Property Committee for the Christmas display outside the church and all the ongoing work associated with our buildings
* to David Liddell and the Media Team for all the work on sound, camera and other aspects of communication to allow our services to be accessed both in our building and online.
* to Maureen McCulloch and the Sunday School leaders for continuing the work of Christian Education of our youngsters by *Zoom*

 ***DONATIONS and OFFERINGS***

If you wish to make a donation to our church by setting up a Standing Order with your bank you will need the following information

Account Name - Williamwood Parish Church

Account Number – 20185259
Sort Code - 82-20-00

Bank - Clydesdale Bank

Reference - please give your name as the reference

**Minister - Rev Jan Mathieson** Telephone: 0141 579 9997

**E-mail:** JMathieson@churchofscotland.org.uk

**Session Clerk - Margaret Robertson** Telephone: 07778148181

**E-mail**:margaretctrobertson@gmail.com
**Website:** www.williamwoodparishchurch.org.uk

**CHURCH CONTACTS & INFORMATION**

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| **Safeguarding Contact:** Minister /Neil Little  |  **News Bulletin** : Evelyn Wallace |
| **Web Page**: Editor: Joan Black |  **FaceBook :** Sarah Alexander |
| **SundaySchool:** Maureen McCulloch |  **Media Team** David Liddell |

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