

From the Editors... Jutta & Harald

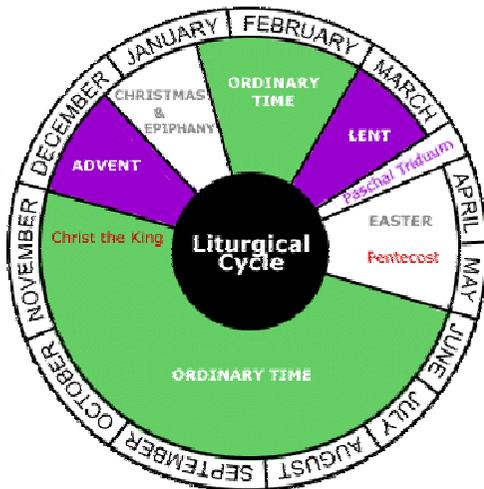


Dear Readers

This edition is the last of this calendar year – but the first for the new church year. Did we now confuse you ...?

We live by many calendars – social, seasonal, civil, and personal. The rhythm of our experiences and commitments shapes each of us and provides a context in which we can search for meaning in our personal lives, our relationships with God and others, through our work and play, in joy and pain, in our very living and dying.

The church year gives us as Christians the same opportunity. At every point the focus is upon what God has done in Christ for all people in all ages, including our own day. In remembering and celebrating our Christian heritage we are not only drawn into the salvation story, but realize we as a people of God are part of the Story, to encounter and ponder, to proclaim and show forth Jesus Christ, who is “the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)



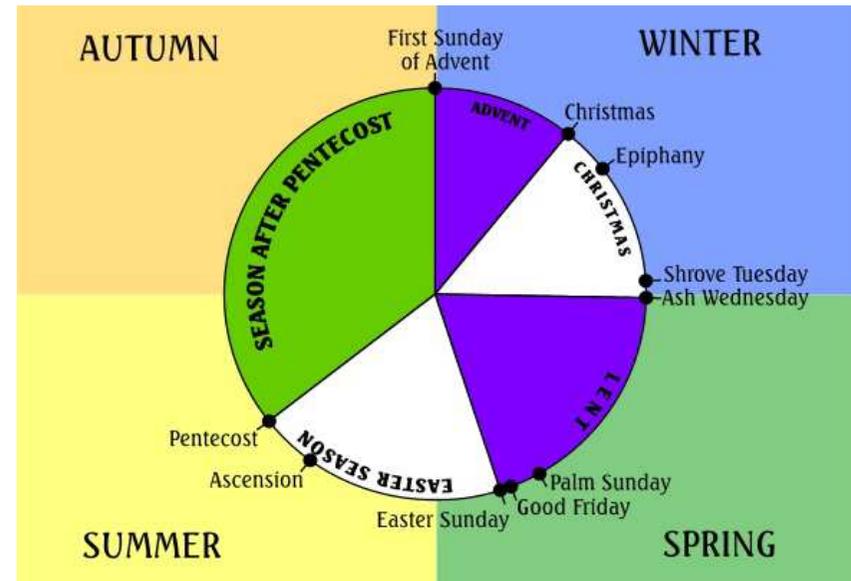
In a similar way the crossroad is issued:

The WINTER EDITION is actually the start of the church calendar year and is published in December.

The SPRING EDITION is published around March to cover the Easter season (which can range to fall at the end of March to mid of April) – Easter Sunday is on 20th of April 2014.

The SUMMER EDITION is published between end of May to mid-June.

The AUTUMN EDITION is published well after summer, around end of September / mid-October and would include the harvest / thanksgiving and our “concert” season (and for example would include a Notte Bianca Special).



Merry Christmas and a happy new year – Jutta & Harald

Announcement



Rev. Kim Hurst

We are delighted that the Rev. Kim Hurst has accepted the invitation to become the next Minister of St Andrew's Scots Church. She will take up post on September 1st 2014 following the retirement of Rev. Doug and will arrive sometime in August with her husband Steve and their cats!

Kim is currently minister of Wigton Methodist Church, Cumbria but has had long links with Malta having visited many times and led a pilgrimage here following the footsteps of St Paul. We look forward to her coming and pray for her ministry here among us, as well we pray for Rev. Doug upcoming retirement and safe settling back to Scotland with his wife Lesley.

Dot. Hunter

From the Manse...



Dear Friends –

What a year! As Lesley and I prepare for our last Christmas with you, I've been looking back over the year just gone by. There was Mary Brown's 90th birthday celebration – it was a bit special. A party... two large chocolate cakes... and a communion service shared with friends in the little chapel at Villa Messina, with its wonderful views from the heights just outside Mdina. It was Mary's idea. As a minister who enjoys both communion *and* chocolate, it worked for me...

Members like Mary, from the older expat community, are of course valued, but so are those who have come here from all over the world. Most by choice – to work, or take a break, or retire. Many, though, didn't choose to be here. So **OUT OF AFRICA... INTO MALTA** developed as our mission to refugees. It's now a Church of Scotland Guild Partner Project. This year, great progress; the Malta Financial Services Agency – more used to dealing with international online gambling organisations – cleared us to operate Malta Microfinance. Two days later the Methodist Church confirmed an offer to fund a fieldworker for three years. And in November, it all came together beautifully, as we opened our Crypt, launched Malta Microfinance in the presence of His Excellency President George Abela – and then granted our first loan...

Nov 3rd...



Ready...

Nov 4th ...



Get set...

Nov 14th ...



Go!

We also celebrated – if that's the word! – 40 years since my graduation in Divinity from Glasgow University. That Sunday, I introduced the congregation to the teaching of some of my own rabbis, including Rev Willie Barclay, who dedicated his Daily Study Bible on Galatians/Ephesians to "All the students of

Trinity College whom it has been my privilege to teach and who are now engaged upon the work of the Church at home and of the younger Churches overseas."

This church is now almost 160 years young. It's survived persecution, wars – including the intense Luftwaffe attacks of 1942 – and political scourges. It works tirelessly to support a Maltese nun, Sister Catherine, in her HIV/AIDS work in Zambia. It works among Malta's refugees, and for vulnerable woman and children. It enjoys its worship, its mission, and its new Christian diversity. To minister to this international, interdenominational church – the last such adventure for me before I retire next year – is a rare privilege. My sincere thanks to all who have helped and shared in all this! It has been in many ways the highlight of my entire ministry.

Like the day when I deliberately dressed in a black clerical shirt and went to a garden centre with our treasurer, Peter, where we negotiated the purchase of about 50 square metres of artificial turf. It went onto concrete at Hal Far Tent Village, completing a new play area for the smallest refugees. "Come on, this is our mission money, given by people to help the kids..." "OK, Father... 10% off?" "Yes. How about laying it free as part of the deal?" Sigh. "OK Father..."

Back home the same day, I check the advert that's just going off to the UK for a new minister for St. Andrew's Scots Kirk, Colombo. I'm the Interim Moderator – Sri Lanka is part of the Presbytery of Europe. We've got the biggest definition of Europe anywhere; our presbytery also includes Bermuda and Trinidad! I'm looking forward to my next visit to Colombo – another church with fantastic energy for mission.

The highlight of the year? Easy! Walter & Lillian Donmilic's wedding, in church one Sunday in July. Surrounded by their church family, they voiced their love and commitment to each other and to Christ, as young people from Scandinavia and Africa sang in celebration.

As we prepare once again to welcome the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World, from Lesley and me – have a happy Christmas, and a blessed New Year.

Your minister,



A TRUE STORY - CHRISTMAS HAS A CRACK IN IT - OR - GUNTHER'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

The story is about a little boy called Gunther who was a little physically handicapped German boy who was born in Germany in 1914. He was a severely deformed little boy. He had a severe case of rickets when he was a little child that resulted in all his bones being curved. His father was off fighting the war, and his mother had deserted him, and so his grandma ended up taking care of little Gunther.

Grandma was totally ashamed of this little boy and as far as she was concerned, he was nothing but human junk. In fact, that's what she used to call him. "Come here you little piece of human junk". When grandma looked at Gunther, all she noticed were his deformed, curved bones. Her eyes would focus on his foot, ankle, leg, finger, wrist, arm and jaw bones. All she saw was bones, deformed and curved and there was no doubt that Gunther was a piece of human junk.

Gunther couldn't talk. The only thing that Gunther could say was "ahwanna, ahwanna, ahwannah," as he rolled his head from side to side. Gunther was kept in the back room for years, so nobody could see him. Gunther wasn't really sad about this situation, being locked up in the dark back bedroom. If you had never seen a cherry tree, you would never miss seeing a cherry tree. If you had never tasted rich, succulent cherries, you would never miss tasting those sweet delicious delights in your mouth. Gunther had never seen all the wonders of the world, nor tasted them, so he wasn't really sad. He never knew what he was missing.

The only thing of colour in Gunther's life was that once a week, a red checked table cloth would be flying in the breeze from a house next door. Gunther didn't realize what it was, but once a week, that flash of beautiful red and white cloth would blow in the breeze against the clear, blue sky, and Gunther would see it and smile.

One day, some ruffian boys from the neighbourhood went into grandma's house while she was out shopping and the boys found this little human animal, this pile of junk, near his bed. The boys had never seen anything like it in

their lives and so they took their sticks and started to jab at what looked like a bent up animal. When grandma came home, she was absolutely outraged, not so much at the little boys, but outraged that they found the piece of human junk that she was hiding for all these years. Grandma was so mad that her secret had been found out that she decided to take action. She decided to send her piece of human junk to Bethel, a home for physically deformed children in northern Germany. Bethel was a home where all the deformed children were sent. It was like a junkyard, so grandma understood, where they collected junk people.

Gunther was taken away to Bethel, which means House of God, and there he stayed in a house by the name of Patmos. He was brought into this house into his new world and he couldn't believe his eyes. He looked, and on every table, there was a bright red, checked cloth. His eyes fluttered with joy at the beauty he saw. In the bed next to Gunther's was a little boy called Kirk who was slowly deteriorating and getting ready to die. His father had been killed in the war, and his mother had died of pneumonia, and little Kirk had no family left to take care of him. Kirk was very sad, because unlike Gunther, he had known the affections of childhood. And so late at night, Kirk would tell young Gunther what a mummy and a daddy were like, warm and tender and kind. The more Gunther listened, the more that Kirk's mother and father became Gunther's imaginary mummy and daddy.

One day in November, Kirk said to Gunther. "By Christmas, I am going to be with mummy and daddy in the Christmas room in heaven," and little Gunther asked "What is Christmas? And Kirk said: "You don't know what Christmas is ????" and Gunther again asked, "What is Christmas? Kirk knowingly replied "Christmas is so good; it is so wonderful. It is the best time of the year, and I am going home to be with my mummy and daddy by Christmas time". No, no, no, Kirk. I don't want you to go." Kirk whispered, "I want to go home to be with my mum and dad." And so Gunther and Kirk softly talked the night away in the darkness just like brothers.

Time went by and soon it was Advent, and then it was the fourth Sunday of Advent, and on this Sunday all the children gathered round the table for Advent prayers. The minister was about to have Kirk light the Advent candle because he knew that this was Kirk's last Christmas with them and was trying

to make the lighting of the candle special for Kirk. Kirk took a small candle in his hand and was just ready to light the Advent candle but he suddenly went into an epileptic fit. His hand jerked, the large candle flew out of his hand and hit the floor and cracked. Kirk went into a worse fit and gently the minister picked Kirk up and took him out of the room and calmed him down.

The candle was placed back on the table and the children began singing a hymn, and everyone was singing ever so loudly when Gunter shouted at the top of his voice "everything has a crack in it!!!" And Gunther broke the silence when he whispered softly to the minister, "Everything has a crack in it". What is so special about Christmas anyhow? The minister looked at the children and asked, "Children, Gunther wants to know what is so special about Christmas? Can you tell him?" And all the children, the mentally and physically handicapped, began using their minds and thinking. Monica sang out brightly "Loorya suzanna, Loorya suzanna, meaning of course Gloria, Hosanna. And Manfred, whose mind only thought in numbers, said 12/25, 12/25, 12/25 which meant twelfth month, twenty-fifth day. The minister said "Thank you Manfred". Then Petra whose body was thirty years old and whose mind was five years young shouted happily: "Baby Jesus, Baby Jesus, Baby Jesus born". "Thank you said the minister, that helps. Little Leni, an eight year old little blind girl, suddenly beamed as a light turned on in her brain and she said "Christmas is special because.....because.... everything has a crack in it." The minister smiled and then he spoke, "Yes, that's right Leni. Everything has a crack in it. And the crack is very much bigger than you and I can see. God is the only one who can see how big that crack really is. Gunther, everything has a crack it, big cracks, little cracks. The reason that God sent Jesus was to show us that God loves everything with a crack in it. And Jesus helps us to patch up those cracks so they aren't too big any more. Gunther nodded as if his young mind understood.

The days passed, and it was now Christmas Eve, and the time of the telling of the Christmas story. All the children gathered round the minister as he told the story better than anyone else. Kirk sat on the minister's lap because they all knew it was his last Christmas and Gunther sat next to the minister because it was to be his first Christmas celebration. The minister told the story with little paper mache animals. When it came to the climax of the story Leni the blind girl shouted out "Little baby Jesus born". Monica sang at the top of her voice "Loorya suzanna Loorya suzanna". Manfred muttered his

numbers 12'25, 12'25 12/25. Together they all praised God. Their minds were small but their ears were very big inside.

The story was ended and suddenly everyone was jumping about. They knew what was coming next all except Gunther. This was the giving of presents. A doll for Monica, a truck for Manfred, a teddy bear for Leni. They were all so excited but it didn't dawn on Gunther that there would be a present for him. Not till it was in his hand did he realise it was his, a lovely toy train with coal tender and carriages. The minister said to him "This is what Christmas is all about Gunther. God gives a gift to you with your name on it. Jesus was given for you and Gunther was so pleased. In the excitement Kirk had been forgotten because he had gone to lie down on his bed. Kirk was holding a carving of Mary and the baby. The next day was Christmas Day and the children were playing when Sister Frederick came into the room with Kirk on a wagon. Kirk touched all the children one by one and said goodbye. He touched Gunther last and Gunther said "Say hi to mummy and daddy for me". With that Sister Frederick pulled the wagon out of the room.

An hour passed and the minister came back into the room and told everyone that Kirk had died. They all started to cry. Gunther said to the minister "Everything has a crack in it". The minister said "Yes that is why Jesus was born.... For you... and for Kirk... and for everyone. This was the true story of Gunther's first Christmas. Despite his deformity Gunther lived until 1999 still at Bethel. He had lived a rich and full life and he died a very happy man.

Everything does have a crack in it. The world in which we live; this world of ours, has a crack of imperfection right through its core. We too have this crack through our inner core. How well we know this. That is why Jesus came to earth ... to heal our hearts, to restore our lives, to patch the flaws and cracks found at the very centre of who we are.



Submitted by Anne Catherall

15th DECEMBER – OUR CHANCE TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE!

On Sunday 15th December, we'll have a special collection in church in support of the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza – this year's Presbytery Mission Project. Please be generous! Here's why...



"A source of healing in one of the world's most troubled places..."

Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza is this year's Presbytery of Europe Mission Project. Al Ahli provides some of the finest medical care in the Middle East – but it does so under the most difficult of circumstances. It's a 50 bed Hospital in a land where political impositions mean there are severe restrictions on movement of materials and people in and out. Electricity, medicines, food, fuel for the hospital's generators – all can be restricted or even cut off. The hospital still carries scars, from the day when an Israeli Apache helicopter hit its clinics and chapel with a missile in 2003.

It's also a shining example of Christian mission, in a land where there are less than 2000 Christians in a population of almost 2 million; where over 99% are Muslim; 95% of the population are refugees, over 40% are unemployed, and almost the same number live below the poverty line... all this in a territory just 25 miles long and around 5 miles wide.

The hospital's mission is: ***To glorify God and bear witness to His love as manifested in the life of Jesus Christ, through the provision of high quality patient centred health care services. The hospital offers to serve all who seek treatment without prejudice to any religious or ethnic community and irrespective of social class, gender and political affiliation. These services are delivered in a spirit of love and service.*** It operates under the auspices of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

Rev George Shand, the Church of Scotland minister in Jerusalem, told the Presbytery of two programmes in particular, which our churches will support: "These are two mobile programmes – a clinic providing free medical care and food, and a breast screening programme, in partnership with community agencies. That's particularly powerful and appropriate in a culture where women are reluctant to come forward, and it has often been too late when they do so. In a land where hardship is commonplace, the conditions in Gaza stand

out, but Al Ahli Arab Hospital is a source of healing in one of the world's most troubled places."

At the beginning of 2013, the hospital was coming to terms with a significant loss of funding from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which withdrew its annual \$1m support, which had been provided over 20 years. Churches and mission organisations around the world have since responded to the Hospital's needs, summed up by its Chief Surgeon Dr. Maher Ayyad: "The Gazan people look to this hospital to stay; everyone knows it is a Christian hospital giving a lot of love to people in need. We don't want to be history. Please keep the hospital going; all the people in Gaza need this place. When you save a woman it's not just her life, it's her family."

The hospital is open to all, irrespective of their faith. It treats the poor without charge. It treats those hurt in the crossfire. It works because the staff, Muslims and Christians, work unstintingly to take care of those around them. The Chief Surgeon is a Muslim and the Director of the Hospital is a Christian, but none of that matters. As the Director, Suhaila Tarazi, explains: "The Ahli staff work diligently to alleviate the suffering of people who fall victim to violence, poverty, sicknesses, oppression and helplessness. Because of our mission and values, the hospital enjoys the Christian and Muslim communities' trust. Services at Ahli Hospital are provided to unarmed civilians in need without prejudice to any religion, social class, gender and political affiliation."

Both Dr. Maher Ayyad and Suhaila Tarazi have survived attacks over the last two years – Dr. Ayyad when a bomb targeted his house, and Suhaila when her home was badly damaged by a missile near-miss. Both are determined to carry on with the vital work of Al Ahli Arab Hospital. Suhaila said "The hospital is a profound symbol of healing in Gaza. It continues to be a source not only of physical healing, but of emotional and spiritual healing and the healing of communities."

Rev George Shand shared this prayer (from the Diocese of Jerusalem) with the Presbytery:

O God of wholeness and healing, we lift up the staff and patients of the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza. Strengthen and guide the Management and all the staff as they treat the poor and injured. Bless the patients who receive care with your healing touch. Give us a renewed awareness of the blessing of health and grant us the courage to support the caregivers in their work.

Al Ahli's website is at:

www.j-dioocese.org/index.php?page=129666024424&sub=129698368736.



One of Al Ahli's hundreds of infant patients waits for his checkup



"All are welcome in this place..."



"Thank you - salaam"



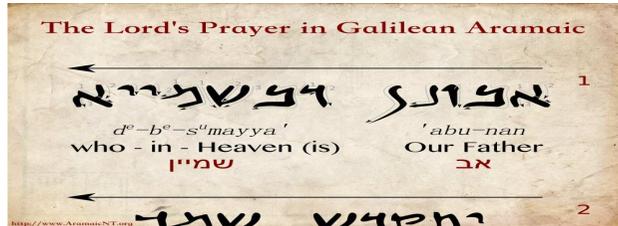
Suhaila Tarazi:

"With all that is going on in Egypt and Syria, to keep a place like this one, a Christian place like this one, is important... we are a haven, an oasis of peace..."

"People cannot understand that this hospital doesn't have any resources. We are the living stones here..."

“My” Lord’s Prayer

Here’s my personal expression of the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6: 9-13), another possible rendering from Aramaic, the language Jesus would have spoken.



What is “Your” Lord’s Prayer like?

*“To You, the one who began all things, beyond what I see and know and can imagine,
You are even part of me, within me and my motivator,
Undertake in me what You want, so that the purpose for my life works out from within me.
I need Your enrichment and only what You want me to be equipped with for this purpose.
I know that I can only truly relate to You if I am innocent and untangled from having harmed Your creation. Help me to live in this freedom, so that I will not be held back from fulfilling Your purpose for me.
Help me not to be misled by material things and help me not to be self deceived or self absorbed by inner things
For You and Your way are the ultimate...this is what empowers me, energizes me, fulfils me, brings harmony to my life.
So therefore, I recommit myself to You and Your way. “”*

Franklin

St Andrew’s Scots Church 4th Annual Charity Soiree

This year’s Soiree was held at the church on Friday 22nd November.

A varied programme of classical music and songs from the musicals of Broadway and the West End meant that the audience was treated to a feast of excellent music with, of course, our moment of light relief in the shape of some comedy poetry from Jenny Psaila.

Georg Shaffernicht got the evening off to a great start with a violin rendition of Handel’s Sonata 2 Opus 10 and later on in the programme got all the feet a’tapping with Brahms’ Hungarian Dance 5. Georg was accompanied on the piano by our musical director for the evening Matthew Schembri who, incidentally accompanied all the performers throughout the show.

Soloist Maria Eleonora Schembri graced us with her lovely soprano voice with two excellent choices for the evening ... firstly Scarlatti’s Le Violette from the opera Pirro and Dimetrio and later, Franz Schubert’s Cradle Song (Mille Cherubini in Coro). Both got the ovation they well deserved.

Eleanor Vella took us literally to the stage and sang On My Own from Schoenberg’s classic musical Les Miz. Beautifully presented, Eleanor dragged herself from her sick bed to perform and it was greatly appreciated.

Jenny Psaila has presented our comedy relief for as long as the Soirees have been going on and this one was no exception. Also suffering from a rather bad cold Jenny rather aptly gave us a rendition of Pam Ayres I’ve Got a Cold with coughs and sneezes (real and affected) thrown in for good measure. Her second piece was equally humorous and Jenny led us into the interval with smiles on our faces.

Mention musicals and Rodgers and Hammerstein immediately spring to mind and two songs by this talented duo earned gracious applause.

Susanne Bonello started her evening with Out of My Dreams from Oklahoma which she sang with real passion but it was her second choice that had yours truly in

musical heaven ... If I Loved You from Carousel has long been a great favourite of mine and I swear that Susanne sang it ONLY for me.

Matthew Schembri was not only omnipresent in his accompaniment but regaled us with 3 wonderful piano pieces, one in the first half and then to bring the evening to a close a double bill of Chopin. Matthew's first piece was Mendelssohn's Song Without Words, Opus 19 in E Major from Book 1 of the Songs. The final 2 pieces (by Chopin) started with Nocturne in E flat Major, superbly delivered and was followed by Minute Waltz (pronounced minute as in small not as a period of 60 seconds). His timing of both was perfect and Matthew has a feeling for his playing that is immediately passed on to his audience who gave him a rousing ovation.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Mr John Lejman, did his bit to feed the audience with his encyclopaedic knowledge of all things musical and kept the audience amused with his snippets of musical trivia.

Special thanks to the sponsors ... James Caterers who laid on a sumptuous spread for the guests after the conclusion of the concert ... to Emmanuel Delicata Ltd for the wines we washed the food down with and to Best Print, Qrendi for posters and programmes ... Also to Sharon, Ria, Jenny and Lesley for their help but mostly to ... Christa Wiegand for the tireless efforts required to get the whole thing together from its conception to the final curtain ... a huge appreciation.

The assembled audience of around 70 persons raised around €500 for this year's charity of choice ... to help Kingsley Patrick in his re-education as he loses his sight ... to read more about Kingsley see article provided in last crossroad magazine.

John Lejman



Visit to an Olive Farm

At the 19th of October a group of 20 people met near Scott's Supermarket in Burmarrad. The weather was great. When everyone had arrived we went in a convoy to the Wardija Olive Farm. The owner, Sam Cremona was greeting us at the gate and an interesting journey through times and nature began.



We learned that Olive Oil is nutritious and therapeutic nectar that helps promote good health, especially with regard the heart and bones. Olive Oil also helps stimulate circulation, enhances the complexion and strengthens the hair.

Since the ancient times, the olive oil has been one of the first examples of recycling and respect for the nature. Each by-product can be used; the wood from the tree, the leaves, the fruit and the actual extract itself.

We have come at the time of Harvest which is from September up to December. At this time of the year the olive displays its colour, from green it changes to purple, black or yellow. Even though I had visited Sam already in May, we decided on this time of a year for a visit to see process of olive pressing. The Maltese oil comes with an oleic acid of below 0.5%. This is attributed primarily to the high alkalinity of Malta's soil.

Sam was a great host, many interesting questions were answered. After the tour we have been proffered fresh olives, warm Hobz (Maltese Bread) coated with olive oil and anchovies but also other Maltese delicacies together with a glass of wine.

Everybody had a great time. The atmosphere was wonderful. There was laughing and chatter everywhere.

If anyone has made photos, I would appreciate if you can mail them to me. Until next time, **Christa**



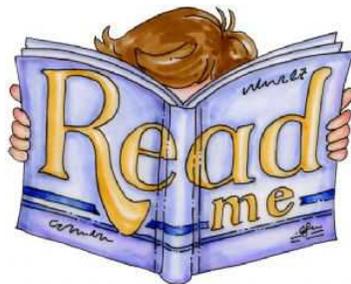
Coffee & Chat

Coffee and Chat has now been running a year. We sit at the front of the Church and either just chat or make things, etc. People of different nationalities and cultures come in for a drink and we have got to know some interesting people. Some are on holiday and some live here. If you have nothing to do on a Tuesday each week why not drop in and see us between 2pm and 4 pm. You are very welcome.



CROSSROADS MAGAZINE

Please enjoy reading "Crossroads" but when you have finished with your Crossroads Magazine and taken a note of any dates or articles you wish to remember perhaps you could return it to us for recycling to the many visitors who drop in to visit the Church during the week.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



KEY DATES:

Our Sunday services are at 10.30am each week, and there is a Communion celebration on the fourth Sunday of each month, at the end of the service.

Also, we have a Bring & Share Lunch on the first Sunday of each month.

Here's a list of key dates for the next few weeks...

CHRISTMAS:

- Sat 14th Dec:** Family Christmas Lessons & Carols – 4.00pm
- Sun 15th Dec:** Advent Service at 10.30 am. Rev. Doug McRoberts
- Sun 22nd Dec:** Family Nativity Service at 10.30 am.
Rev. Doug McRoberts
- Tues 24th Dec:** All-age Christmas Eve Christingle Service – 6.00pm
- Wed 25th Dec:** Christmas Day all-age worship & Christmas Lunch
- Sun 29th Dec:** Service at 10.30 am. Rev. Doug McRoberts

Note: there is no Communion service in December – but there are two in January!

NEW YEAR:

Sun 5th Jan: Covenant & Commitment Service, 10.30am.
This service includes Communion, and will be led by Rev Doug McRoberts and Rev Rose Westwood, Vice-Chair of the Methodist South East District.

Thu 23rd Jan: 6.30pm: United Christian Unity Service, in our church.
This service is organised by Christians Together in Malta, and is open to all churches in Malta.

Thu 20th Feb: 6.30pm: Christians Together in Malta – Public Dialogue Meeting - Subject & venue to be announced

Wed 5th Mar: Start of Lent

EASTER – ADVANCE DATES!

Sun 13th Apr: Palm Sunday

Thurs 17th Apr: 6.30pm: Family Passover Feast

Fridav 18th Apr: Good Fridav – Service at 10.00am



Get up-dates.

Read intersting and funny stuff.

Join in and hear from people and congregations from all over the world.

With "saintandrews scotschurch" on Facebook

St. Andrew's Scots Church is on www.saintandrewsmalta.com



A prayer chain is a group of like-minded people who wish to pray for people and their situations that arise during our daily lives. It is also used for praise.

This started in our previous church also called St. Andrew in Cardiff 34 year ago. When it was started there it was all done by phone as no one had a computer back then.

A Coordinator was informed of a person who needed prayers. There would be about 4 or 5 "Chain Leaders" who would each receive the message, and they would then contact the person underneath them on the chain, who would then contact the next one on the list, and so on, there may 6, 7, or even more hence the chain. So with the exception of the Coordinator no one had to call more than one person. It was a wonderful feeling to know that people were praying for your situation.

With the advent of computers being owned by lots of people now, it was suggested to me a couple of years ago that I might want to move with times and bring the prayer chain into the 21st century by using email as well. It made a tremendous difference, as people who had odd working hours and/or used their computer a lot were able to participate more easily. Of course there are people who don't have a computer, or just prefer a phone call which is fine.

The power of prayer is truly amazing.

If anyone would like more information or to join the prayer chain, please don't hesitate to contact me.

My details are as follow:

June Pritchard-Griffiths,
Landline: 21311277 / Mobile: 7952 2406
Email: junepg1951@yahoo.co.uk