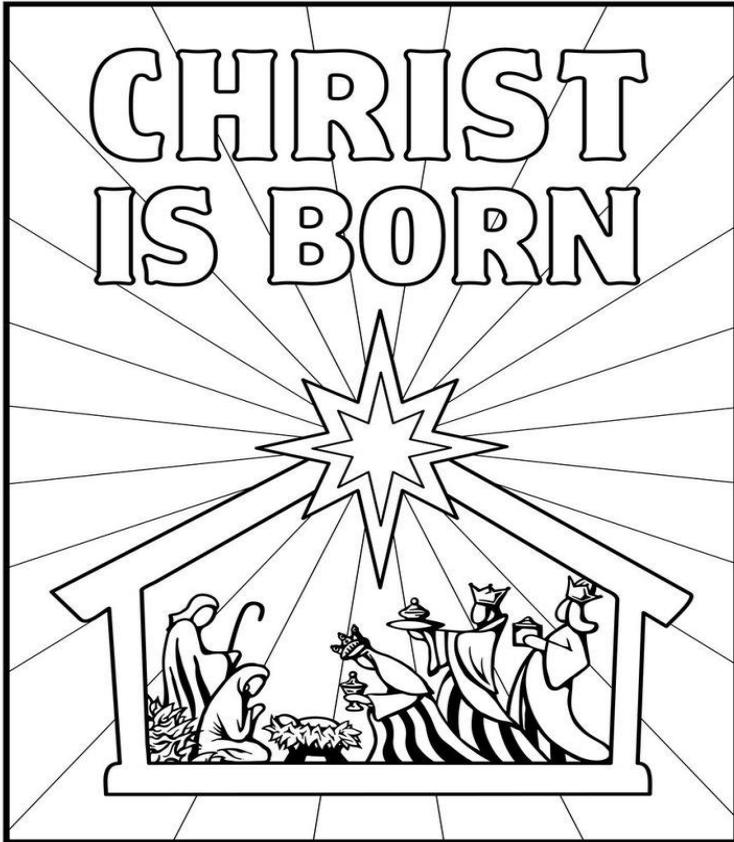


CHRONICLES



*St. Blane's Church
Dunblane*

December 2017

Number 210

December 2017

Priceless

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Did you see a painting by Leonardo Da Vinci of Jesus Christ recently sold at auction for £341 million? The painting called The Salvator Mundi, Italian for Saviour of the World, went under the hammer at Christie's where it sold for more than double the previous record for the sale of a work of art.

Apparently, according to some reports, it was attributed to another artist in 1958 and sold for £45 (about £800 in today's money). I have to say, apart from the hint that our Lord has ginger hair, I wasn't too impressed with the picture – certainly, if I had £341 million lying around, I could think of a few better things to buy with it.

We sometimes talk about things being priceless i.e. having a value that cannot be expressed - you have to say that this painting is getting there. Another amazing thing about this transaction is that at the time of writing no one really knows who the mystery buyer is, except he or she has paid a lot of money for a painting, a priceless amount.

As we approach Christmas in amongst all the frankly ridiculous television adverts, we focus on the real priceless meaning for the season. We focus, not on a two dimensional image of Jesus but on the living Lord Jesus, the image of the invisible God, the King of Kings being born in humility. The real Jesus being a literally priceless gift to us, the gift of grace and salvation.

This advent we are thinking about Jesus being the Promised King – The New King, The Rescuing King and The forever King. Jesus the King of Kings who before the world was created has accepted the task to come to our earth to show His Kingship in a completely new way - in humility. The King of Kings who came to rescue His people from their sin, that sin that separates us from

God forever. And Jesus the King of Kings who is the forever King who comes with the promise to take believers to be with him in heaven.

Most of us couldn't contemplate even bidding for, never mind buying the Salvator Mundi, just like none of us can buy our way into forgiveness and heaven. The only way into that blessed peace with God is through the real Jesus, the real King of Kings. He comes with a truly priceless gift.

Isn't it interesting that, when this now famous painting was attributed to another name, it was effectively worthless compared to the value it achieved last week. But when the name Da Vinci was attributed to it, then it became priceless. This Christmas we are as ever surrounded by many who are celebrating their Christmas under the wrong name and it is just as worthless. But when you attribute the real name for Christmas to what is going on, suddenly we recognise that Jesus the Promised King brings a truly priceless Christmas gift – salvation from sin, peace with God and the promise of an eternity with God.

Friends, this Christmas if you bought that painting I expect our treasurer will want to speak to you about increasing your offering, but I suspect it's not coming to Dunblane. Rather I hope and pray that you will see the real authentic Christ, not in a painting but standing before you offering you a priceless gift.

This Christmas may you accept that free gift and know what life is truly about. Accept that free gift and give Jesus all that you have in return, your life. You are as priceless to Him as that painting because it was for you that He was born to die, to buy you, to pay your ransom.

So may you and yours have a truly blessed Christmas with Christ the real King and rejoice in His priceless gift.

Blessings
Gary

CHURCH REGISTER

Weddings -

28th October 2017 Charlene Knox and Craig McGann

BOOK GROUP

The beginning of November saw the launch of the Church Book Group, which meets fortnightly to think and talk around some Christian books. Our first book "What kind of God" has provided some thought provoking and interesting chat. Using the book as a guide we have considered some answers to challenging questions which Christians are often asked. It is not always easy to defend our faith, and talking with each other encourages not only a way to reinforce our own thinking, but is also helpful in learning more about what we believe.

The group is friendly, the talk is informal discussion, the books are relevant and you would be welcome to join us.

If interested please contact Jean Proto on 841143.

Items for **February Chronicles** should be submitted by **Saturday 27th January**. Contributions are always welcomed.
Please e-mail douglas@crannoch.plus.com

The Boys Brigade Band –Its History and Development

The Boys' Brigade has long been known nationwide for its bands. Whether they be of the pipe, brass, fyfe, bugle or military/wind band in nature, they have, for many years, been a mainstay of the organisation's programme across the UK & Ireland. Several bands once existed within Stirling & District Battalion, including in St. Ninians and Alloa, so it is perhaps strange that, with one of the largest companies in the area - indeed in the whole country - Dunblane BB (25th Stirling) did not have a band to enhance its programme. Not, that is, until early 2010, when it was decided that there was enough of a critical mass of existing young musicians and enthusiasm from the company's officers to start a music programme. On 13th January that year, we had our first night of teaching instruments, with around a dozen boys taking their first steps in saxophone, trumpet, flute, tenor horn and drums. Reflecting now, seven-and-a-half years later, the progress, scope and size of the band now could scarcely have been imagined back then. In the next twelve months, the band will not only make its first CD but also embark upon its first ever European tour, as an 8-day trip to the Rhineland in Germany is planned for August 2018.

I grew up in the fortunate position of having music 'in my blood': both my mother and grandmother were primary-school music teachers and I was happy to learn both piano and trumpet as a youngster (helped along by the essential nagging that any parent of a budding musician needs to do) and take advantage of the many musical opportunities that were afforded children in the local schools - and, indeed, Dunblane Cathedral - back in the 1990s. One of my primary motivations to start music through Boys' Brigade was the obvious decline in school-based opportunities in recent years as provision has been reduced and the many weekly ensembles that used to exist died through a thousand cuts. Two-

thirds of the boys do not receive private or school-based tuition on the instrument(s) they play in the BB Band.

The forty young members now taking part weekly arguably now have *more* opportunities than I did, in fact. In the past academic year, between them, they played more than 35 public performances and are beginning to become well known and loved both within and beyond their local community. The wider BB Band community has been welcoming and supportive and we have been involved with a huge number of bigger and more prestigious performances as a result. Last December, we entered the Scottish Concert Bands Festival for the first time.

Given it was open to all types of concert band - schools mostly, but also adult bands, community ensembles, etc. - the boys, as the only uniformed organisation taking part, surprised themselves, I think, by qualifying from the regional heats to play at the SCBF Finals in Perth Concert Hall in March, at which they were given a Silver Plus Award. They warmed up for those finals by taking part in the non-competitive 'Perform in Perth' festival the week before, which gave them a chance to get used to the auditorium. One of the big challenges has been to learn how to play 'on the march', which is still something we are getting used to, in some ways! But we worked hard on our annual rehearsal weekend away (at Dumfries House Outdoor Centre in Cumnock) and won the 'contest' class at the BB Scottish Bands Contest, being promoted then to the 'championship' class on the day, which we managed to come runners-up in! For the last four years, many of the boys have taken advantage of the Boys' Brigade's being invited to join in a joint music camp with the Army, Air and Sea Cadets at Redford Barracks and Barry Buddon during the Easter holidays, with tuition from some of the best musicians in the armed forces' bands and subsequent concerts and performances in Edinburgh

Castle, Dundee and at Holyrood Palace for the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards presentations. Through these camps, some of our older boys have learned how to conduct a static band and lead one on the march, in addition to the musical experience gained.

Some of our 'regular' gigs each year include playing for Remembrance Day at the war memorial, the High Street Extravaganza in November, Start Up Stirling's dedication service, local and national BB parades, including the presentation of Queen's Badges at Glasgow City Chambers and the Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle esplanade, and gala days or school fetes. Our recent leading of the musical aspects of morning worship in the Cathedral in June was warmly received and we hope to take on this role more often. One of the harshest realities of running a band is that it does, by its very nature, cost an inordinate amount of money! We are blessed, of course, with the talent to give us a unique way of raising *some* of our funds and our many performances at Christmas (Edinburgh Airport, Bo'ness Steam Railway, Dunblane Hydro, etc.) help with this, as well as street performances in Callander, Stirling, Dunfermline and Dunblane. With support from the Cathedral and St. Blane's, we were able to buy a full-size tuba and other recent acquisitions have included a bass clarinet, French horn, new drum kit and euphonium to allow the boys to expand their skills on less-common instruments. We hope to invest in some more percussion - a xylophone and timpani are a priority - as well as giving boys the chance to learn oboe, bassoon and baritone saxophone.

We have been fortunate to be able to set up instrument master classes for the boys with professional musicians such as Barry Deacon, principal Eb clarinet with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Kevin Price, conductor of Glasgow Wind Band, and

Jason Blyth from Perthshire Brass. We will continue in our aim to be the principal provider of teaching, performance experiences, fun, learning, creativity and musical expression for as many boys and young men as possible in the Dunblane area. We look forward to seeing you at any of our performances!

Fraser Boyd

Bandmaster - 25th Stirling (Dunblane) Boys' Brigade Band

This article was commissioned for and first appeared in the Journal of the Society of Friends of Dunblane Cathedral 2017

Shopping or Visiting Edinburgh City Centre?

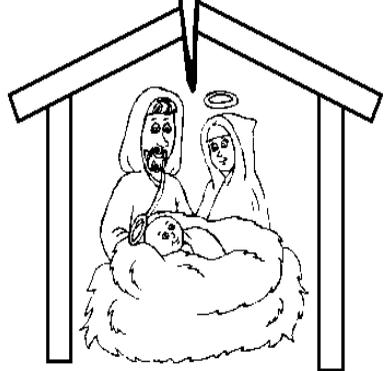
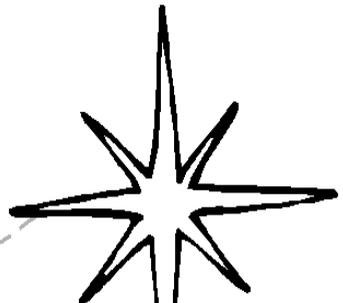
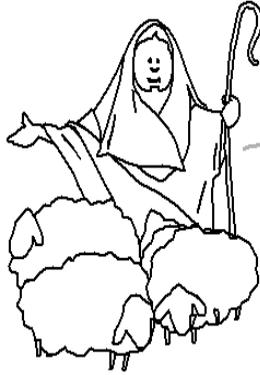
If you're doing the above and looking for a quick sandwich lunch why not consider 'The Undercroft' situated below St Andrew's and St George's Church of Scotland. It is run by volunteers and offers a wide range of soups and sandwiches competitively priced in pleasant surroundings. Access is by the front door of the church. The sanctuary is also open and well worth a visit. The building is very important in Church of Scotland history. If you don't know where it is the church is on George St close to St. Andrew's Sq. Arguably the Christmas lights are more colourful and attractive than Princess St.!

Presbytery of Stirling Facebook Page

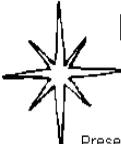
The new Presbytery of Stirling Facebook Page is now live and can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/StirlingPresbytery/> . We ask and encourage congregations to like and share the page among their members and parish.

Posts and events can and will be shared through the page, and this will happen more readily through sending a Facebook message to the page to alert the page admin to them.

Christmas Bible Reading Chart



Complete the Bible readings to follow the path to baby Jesus.

 **I'm a Christian Super Star!**
Presented to: _____
For completing the Christmas Bible readings:
Isaiah 7-14, Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2

**Daily Bible Reading Guide for
January - February 2018**

<i>January 2018</i>			<i>February 2018</i>		
<i>Mon</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Matt 1:18-25</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>John 6:60-71</i>
<i>Tue</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>John 6:1-14</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>John 7:1-13</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>John 6:15-27</i>	<i>Sat</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>John 7:14-36</i>
<i>Thur</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>John 9:1-12, 35-38</i>			
<i>Fri</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>John 11:17-27, 38-44</i>	<i>SUN</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Mark 10:13-22</i>
<i>Sat</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Matt 2:14-21</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>John 7:37-52</i>
			<i>Tue</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>John 7:53-8:11</i>
<i>SUN</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>John 1:29-34</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>John 8:12-20</i>
<i>Mon</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>John 1:1-18</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>John 8:21-32</i>
<i>Tue</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>John 1:19-28</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>John 8:33-47</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>John 1:29-42</i>	<i>Sat</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>John 8:47-59</i>
<i>Thur</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>John 1:43-51</i>			
<i>Fri</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>John 2:1-12</i>	<i>SUN</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Luke 9:18-27</i>
<i>Sat</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>John 2:13-22</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>John 18:15-18, 25-27</i>
			<i>Tue</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>John 18:28-38</i>
<i>SUN</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Mark 3:7-19</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Luke 18:9-14</i>
<i>Mon</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>John 2:23-3:15</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>John 17:1-8</i>
<i>Tue</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>John 3:16-21</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>John 17:9-19</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>John 3:22-36</i>	<i>Sat</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>John 17:20-26</i>
<i>Thur</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>John 4:1-15</i>			
<i>Fri</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>John 4:16-26</i>	<i>SUN</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>John 12:44-50</i>
<i>Sat</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>John 4:27-42</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Mark 1:1-13</i>
			<i>Tue</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Mark 1:14-28</i>
<i>SUN</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Mark 7:31-37</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Mark 1:29-45</i>
<i>Mon</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>John 4:43-54</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Mark 2:1-12</i>
<i>Tue</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>John 5:1-18</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Mark 2:13-22</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>John 5:19-29</i>	<i>Sat</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Mark 2:23-3:6</i>
<i>Thur</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>John 5:30-47</i>			
<i>Fri</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>John 6:1-15</i>	<i>SUN</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>John 5:19-24</i>
<i>Sat</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>John 6:16-27</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Mark 3:7-19a</i>
			<i>Tue</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>Mark 3:19b-35</i>
<i>SUN</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>Mark 8:22-30</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>Mark 4:1-20</i>
<i>Mon</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>John 6:27-40</i>			
<i>Tue</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>John 6:41-51</i>			
<i>Wed</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>John 6:52-59</i>			

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday: Morning Worship 10.00 a.m.
Evening Service 6.30 p.m.

Communion: Last Sunday in February, May and October
10.00 am and 6.30 pm (after Thanksgiving)

MINISTER

Rev Gary Caldwell
46 Kellie Wynd
Dunblane
FK15 0NR Tel: 825324

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22 Bruce Avenue
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FK15 9JB Tel: 824195

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Registered Scottish Charity: Number SC005185