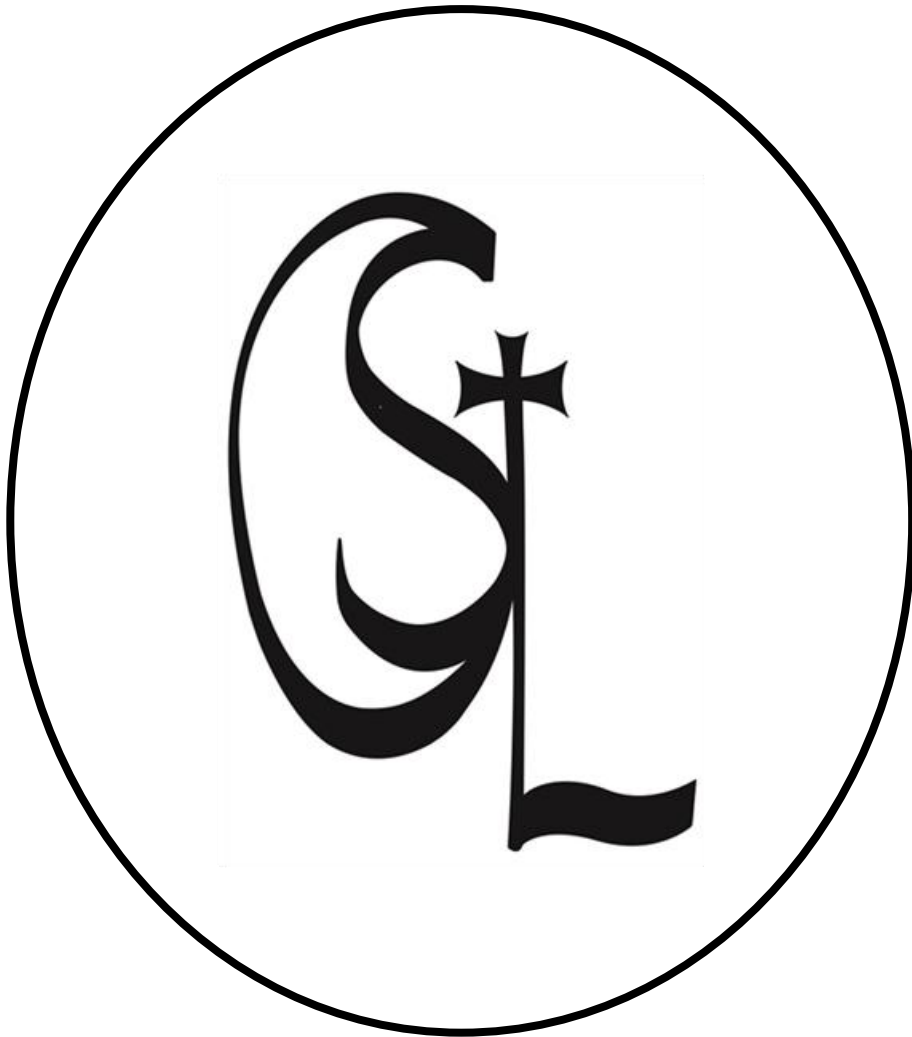


# **Magazine of Cameron and St Andrews:St Leonard's**



**WINTER 2025/6**

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BEST  
WISHES FOR 2026.**

## **View from the Manse**

Dear Friends,

As we arrive at the season of Advent, we are reminded that this is a time of waiting, of preparing, and of watching for signs of God's coming into the world. It is a season rooted in hope — not a passive, idle hope, but an active and expectant one. Each week, as we light our candles, we do so not only to remember what God has done, but to prepare our hearts for what God is still to do.

This Advent and Christmas come to us with a particular sense of anticipation. As St Mark's and Cameron & St Leonard's journey together toward Union at the beginning of 2026, we find ourselves in what for me is a sacred time of transition. Like the people of Israel waiting for the Messiah, we don't yet know exactly what lies ahead — yet we are invited to walk forward in trust, confident that the God who came to dwell among us in the Christ Child is the same God who goes ahead of us now.

Change can be unsettling. Goodness - if I had £1 for every time as a minister I've written or spoken those words. However, it is true – change can be unsettling, in fact, it often is. It brings questions, uncertainty, and sometimes a sense of loss — and we honour those feelings. Yet the message of Advent and Christmas is that in the midst of uncertainty, God is at work. The angel declared “good news of great joy” to people whose world was anything but stable. And Christ was born not in a palace, but in a humble and unexpected place — a sign that God meets us precisely in the ordinary, and sometimes uncomfortable, spaces of our lives.

As we look ahead to this new chapter, we do so not only with questions, but with possibilities. What might it mean for Cameron & St Leonard's and St Mark's to grow together as one body — united in purpose, enriched by our shared history, and strengthened by our diverse gifts? What new ministries might emerge? What deeper relationships might form? What witness might we offer to our community as we step forward together in faith.

### *View from the Manse continued*

In a world that so often looks for division in difference, perhaps one of the greatest gifts we can offer is the example of unity — communities choosing to come together, to listen, to serve, and to love in Christ's name. Our journey toward Union is more than a structural change: it is a living testimony that hope can bridge difference, and that God's Spirit is still very much at work, drawing people together for the sake of the Gospel.

Advent calls us to wait — not passively, but with readiness, while Christmas reminds us that God comes — often in ways we don't expect; and as we turn toward a new year, we are reminded that God continues to lead us forward — shaping us, renewing us, and calling us into fresh expressions of love and service.

The light we celebrate at Christmas doesn't fade with the season; it goes with us, guiding our steps into the days to come.

God is with us — Emmanuel — and that is promise enough for the journey ahead.

Wishing you peace, joy, and hope this Advent, Christmas, and in the New Year to come

Your friend and pastor



Five new Elders were ordained and admitted to the Kirk Session of Cameron and St Leonard's on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025.

*From Left to Right:  
Elaine Mundill, Vic Broad,  
Alison Wiffen, Andrew  
Lennard, Liz MacFadyen.*

# **Cameron & St Leonard's Christmas 2025**

<b>Sunday 30 November</b>	Advent Sunday Joint Service with Cameron & St Leonard's and St Mark's St Leonard's Building at 10.30am with Communion
<b>Sunday 7 December</b>	2nd Sunday in Advent Cameron Kirk at 9.45am St Leonard's at 11.15am
<b>Sunday 14 December</b>	3rd Sunday in Advent Joint Service with Cameron & St Leonard's and St Mark's - St Mark's Building – A Messy Nativity – 10.30 am
<b>Sunday 21 December</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent Cameron Kirk at 9.45am – Service of Lessons & Carols St Leonard's at 11.15am – Service of Lessons & Carols <i>Service to include the Sacrament of Baptism</i>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	St Marks at 4.30pm    A Christingle Service Cameron at 5.45pm    Christmas Eve Pyjama Service St Leonard's at 9.30pm    'Midnight in Bethlehem' with Carols for All from 9.15pm
<b>Christmas Day</b>	St Leonard's at 10.30am Family Service for Christmas Day
<b>Sunday 28 December</b>	Joint Service with Cameron & St Leonard's and St Mark's St Mark's Building at 10.30am

## **St Andrews New Kirk - Service Plan January to April 2026**

### **January 2026**

4 January	10.30am	St Leonard's	<i>Communion</i>
11 January	10.30am	St Mark's	
18 January	09.30am 10.30am	Cameron St Leonard's	
25 January	10.30am	St Mark's	

### **February 2026**

1 February	09.30am 10.30am	Cameron St Leonard's	
8 February	10.30am	St Mark's	
15 February	09.30am 10.30am	Cameron St Leonard's	
22 February	10.30am	St Mark's	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>

### **March 2026**

1 March	09.30am 10.30am	Cameron St Leonard's	
8 March	10.30am	St Mark's	
15 March	09.30am 10.30am	Cameron St Leonard's	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>
22 March	10.30am	St Mark's	
29 March	10.30am	St Leonard's	<i>Palm Sunday</i>

### **April 2026**

5 April	09.30am 10.30am	Cameron St Mark's	<i>Easter Day</i>
12 April	10.30am	St Leonard's	<i>Holy Humour Sunday</i>
19 April	09.30am 10.30am	Cameron St Mark's	
26 April	10.30am	St Leonard's	

# **The Church Family**

Recently we have been very pleased to welcome into our church family Mrs Erin Sindle. We very much hope that Erin is now enjoying worship and fellowship with us here in St Leonard's.

Sadly, we have also recently recorded the deaths of Mr Ian Laurie and Mrs Doreen Cameron. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of both Ian and Doreen at this sad and difficult time.

As part of the process for the union between ourselves and St Mark's, amalgamation of the Congregational Rolls of both churches has been completed. Our membership currently sits at 404, while St Mark's sits at 381, giving a unified interim membership across both congregations of 785.

*Ian Lorimer*

## **Christian Aid Prayer**

based on a prayer of a Palestinian Christian

Pray not for Arab  
or Jew  
for Palestinian  
or Israeli  
but pray rather  
for ourselves  
that we might not  
divide them in our  
prayers but keep  
them both together  
in our hearts.

*Submitted by Marie Robinson*

## Things Malawian

We have some good news and some sad news. You will remember that we have held retiring collections following recent Communion services to assist in the university education of Clement Mwashoge a very bright young man whose mother is a member of the smallholder rice-growing community in northern Malawi. Clement successfully completed his first semester at university in Lilongwe, but sadly he did not complete his studies in the second semester and was sent down from university. This is a personal tragedy for Clement, his family and community about which there is nothing we can do. However, we had £565 remaining in the fund for Clement's education.

With agreement of the Kirk Session, we have sent this to the Mamie Martin Fund ([www.mamiemartin.org](http://www.mamiemartin.org)), which is a Scottish charity that was set up in the memory of Scottish Presbyterian Missionaries Jack and Mamie Martin by their daughter who was born in Northern Malawi. The Mamie Martin Fund supports girls' education in North Malawi by paying fees and some associated expenses through specific schools. Our money along with £300 donated by the Guild will pay all the school fees for two girls at a boarding school, Karonga Girls' Secondary School (KAGSS) for a year, and will also cover some of the extra needs of those girls, such as a uniform, notebooks, soap and other personal items. The Fund is highly regarded and has a high success rate in ensuring girls complete their education.

More good news is that the used spectacles that we collected and sent to Malawi are making a huge difference to the lives of individuals in ways that we simply cannot imagine. Thank you for all the support we received in this. Our thanks go to Howard Msukwa for distributing specs to the young and the old in the Karonga community.

Please continue to support the Trade Justice stall, buying one item per month makes a real difference. If you would like to join us in running the stall, please talk to Mary or Pauline.

*Mary Pople*



“Educating girls not only provides them with the foundation they need to succeed, but also improves the future of their families, their communities, and the nations where they live.” (World Bank, 2018)

The Mamie Martin Fund supports girls’ education in North Malawi by paying fees and some associated expenses through specific schools.

In 2025-26 we are supporting 163 girls across seven schools. Most of those places (111) are funded from private donations (core MMF funding) and the other places are funded through short-term funding projects - one through Lancashire West Methodist Circuit and the other through the 'Thompson Fund' which supports 8 girls at Embangweni School for Deaf Children. Our work in Malawi is overseen and managed by Mrs Mercy Sibande, Malawi Country Director.

The generous grant which we have received from Cameron and St Leonard’s Parish Church will pay all the school fees for two girls at a boarding school in Karonga Girls’ Secondary School (KAGSS), Malawi for a year. This is a school owned and run by the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia. This grant will also cover some of the extra needs of those girls, such as a uniform, notebooks, soap and other personal items. The management of that grant will be included in our usual governance processes. Mercy undertakes the following tasks and supports for each girl supported by the Mamie Martin Fund:

- Check that each girl selected by the school was a girl in need (rather than selected on any other basis);
- Meet each girl once every term to check on their well-being and progress;

World Bank (2018). “World Bank Education Overview : Girls' Education” World Bank. Education Overview (online). Washington, D.C: World Bank Group.



- Provide any pastoral or financial support that the individual girl might need. As well as face-to-face meetings with each girl, the Malawi Country Director would also provide for necessities and travel costs to and from home. This fund, over which the Country Director has complete discretion, is known as the 'Ready to Learn' fund.

Boarding school is an important option for girls in Malawi because they are safe there from the dangers inherent in travelling to and from school, from pressure of chores in the home and from early marriage. The identifiable outcomes of girls completing secondary education are:

- Educated girls are empowered to make life decisions, including those about family size
- Educated girls send their own children to school (World Bank, 2018).
- The families of educated girls have better health outcomes
- Educated girls are role models for their communities
- Report to the Mamie Martin Fund Board on the progress of this cohort of girls.

### Organizational history

In the 1920s, while in Malawi with her husband Jack, a Church of Scotland missionary, Mamie Martin became aware of the need for girls and women to have access to education and she used her experience as a teacher to set up classes in villages. Jack and Mamie are still remembered today in North Malawi.

Margaret Sinclair, Mamie and Jack's daughter, was born in Malawi in 1927, but Mamie died in 1928, giving birth to her second child. A visit to Malawi in 1991 by Margaret and her husband, John, lit the spark for this charity, which was set up in 1993 after discussion with Malawian friends. In partnership with the Synod of Livingstonia, and now with other providers, the Mamie Martin Fund has supported more than 650 girls through their secondary education in Malawi. These girls are already passing on this benefit to the next generation and to Malawian society, a lasting legacy in memory of a remarkable woman.

*Shortly before Alan McDonald retired, I asked if I could interview him about his time in St Andrews. The interview was published in the newsletter at that time, but I think it deserves another outing following the sad news of Alan's death.*

*Editor*

## **Extracts from a Conversation with the Very Rev Dr Alan D McDonald, 2016**

*What was his first impression?*

Alan admitted that before coming here he had only visited St Andrews twice before and this was his first experience of a linkage between a town and a country parish. He described Cameron and St Leonard's as two sisters, one big and one little, both with different personalities but who get on well and complement each other.

He was struck by Cameron's situation – he thought it would be in a village instead of on its own in the countryside surrounded by the graveyard. From the beginning he was very aware of the history of both churches – St Leonard's from 1199 and Cameron from 1646 – this gave a depth to the services.

*What changes did he make?*

He made a commitment that he would take both services. Previously services at Cameron had been taken by retired ministers or others and less frequently by the minister. Over his time there, the numbers attending the Cameron Services increased to the point where the car park had to be extended to its current size.

There was a lot of work carried out to open up St Leonard's physically as well as metaphorically – welcome area, church hall additional door, uplighting in the roof, disabled access. The previous hall was described by one teenager as "fusty".

*What has been the best surprise?*

The best surprise was in the ICU at Ninewells Hospital where a member of the congregation had been unconscious for a long time and the doctors had given up hope, then he opened his eyes suddenly and recovered.

*What was the funniest moment?*

After a moment's thought, Alan described the time when Jill Gillan brought a lamb into the Cameron Easter Service. Alan was as surprised as everyone else. The lamb joined in the hymns. He also told me about Nativity productions at Cameron written and directed by the late Barbara Murray involving every member of the congregation even if they only had to say one word.

*It is clear that he loves performing baptisms, why is that?*

It reminds everyone how God came into the world as a tiny baby and is a reaffirmation. Alan visited another church where the Minister took the baby on a walkabout and he liked this idea so much it became part of the St Leonard's baptism tradition.

*He clearly has a fondness for songs from other countries and in other languages. How did this come about?*

Many years ago, he went to a week's course on participation in services on Iona. John Bell, who was running the course, maintained that everyone could sing. Alan believed that he was the exception, but by the end of the week he could and this gave him the confidence to introduce songs from other lands and languages into the service. He likes to watch and listen to the congregation gain in confidence.

*How did he go about putting a sermon together?*

Alan loves preaching but admits that writing a sermon is a long process for him, starting on Tuesday (sometimes Monday) and putting the final touches to it on Saturday, so it is a week-long process. He particularly loves wrestling with a text and bringing new meaning to the congregation. He likes the sermon to be relaxed and occasionally, if he has been particularly busy, he has gone into the pulpit with little or no script. On those occasions the comments at the door have been complimentary but he would not like to do that on a regular basis.

*Did he ever expect or dream of becoming Moderator?*

No, he was stunned when he was asked but his time as Moderator was inspiring and exciting as well as exhausting, and he never knew what would happen next. He recounted how, as Moderator, he had preached at a small church in Glenshee. The beadle was a shepherdess. She was clearly dressed in her Sunday best but announced at the end of the service that she would have to “get away to tend to *her* sheep”. He loved the fact the members of the congregation and elders came along to his induction, and to his Garden party and that he and Judith were able to host the elders to a meal in Moderator’s flat over three nights – “industrial level catering”.

*Why is he leaving now?*

Alan wants the congregations to have someone with new ideas. During his time with Cameron and St Leonard’s he has appreciated the way that the congregations have been open to change.

*What will he miss?*

Leading worship but conversely, he will enjoy being able to sit on the back benches and participate in services. He will miss sharing the highs and lows of people’s lives – being the person there for the celebrations as well as sharing and helping them at their saddest times.

*What is the best memory for him?*

The best memory is the visit by the choir from Ghana. St Leonard’s was packed and the choirmaster informed the congregation that it was their tradition to “dance the offering”. Alan had tried this out earlier without success and some complaints. However, on this occasion, Professor Robin Wilson led the way down the aisle waving his stick in the air and everyone followed and actually did “dance the offering”.

**Alan believed that the Ministry is the best job in the world**

*The following poem was written by Ali Pandian, Alan and Judith's daughter. Ali read this at the Thanksgiving Service for Alan's life. She has kindly given permission for it to be printed in this magazine.*

## **And the Colours of the Sky Amazed You**

In the high places -  
On the Mound.  
In palace, pulpit and procession.  
In studios and ceremonies,  
On stages and screens.  
With wisdom and wit, every word carried weight.  
*You poured out love, spoke for truth,  
Looked for light with a twinkle in your eye,  
And the colours of the sky amazed you.*

On the ground –  
In the 'stair'.  
On the street.  
In staff rooms and board rooms.  
At coffee mornings and ceilidhs.  
Marches and meetings.  
During pilgrimage or prison visit.  
Through baptisms, blessings and burials.  
At bedsides and boat sides.  
Weddings and walking alongside.  
With unfaltering encouragement,  
And ears that listened louder than the obvious.  
*You poured out love, spoke for truth,  
Looked for light with a twinkle in your eye,  
And the colours of the sky amazed you.*

*And the Colours of Sky Amazed You continued*



*Alan & Judith are 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> from the left*

Cooried away from it all-  
At home or on a hill.  
With family or friends  
Fun, fresh air, football or just feeling full of life.  
Through music and making time for what mattered.  
Stories and silliness.  
Laughing and laughing some more.  
Welcoming.  
Always welcoming.  
Always willing to listen.  
Always wanting the best for folk.  
Always up for an adventure.  
*You poured out love, spoke for truth,  
Looked for light with a twinkle in your eye,  
And the colours of the sky amazed you.*

*And the Colours of the Sky Amazed You – continued*

In the valley -

When death came slowly and took you away bit by bit.

When it made your world smaller and we did our best to wedge it  
open.

When words mattered less than ways of being.

Then when we watched and waited and wept and whispered warmth  
in the sacred 'in between'.

*We poured out love, spoke for your truth,  
Looked for light, missed the twinkle in your eye,  
Yet the colours of the sky still amazed you.*

In your memory -

In the time yet to come.

In our tender thankful hearts.

Through our laughing and learning.

And loving and living.

In our choices and our challenges.

On the hard days and the happy days.

We will hold you close.

*We will pour out love, speak for truth,  
Look for light with a twinkle in our eyes,  
And notice the colours of the sky that amazed you.*

***(Our thanks go to Ali and to Judith for allowing us to share this poem.)***

## THANK YOU, ED!

Did you know that our esteemed Editor, Isobel Clifford, has been compiling and editing this Magazine for more than 14 years? In 2011 she took over the role from the late and much-loved Ken Wright. She did this reluctantly, and with some trepidation, not because of any lack of commitment, but because she didn't think she was up to the task. How wrong can anyone be? Isobel has subtly changed the Magazine, brought it up to date, encouraged us to contribute articles, produced an on-line edition, consistently given us an entertaining read - and devotedly maintained what is one of the most important means of communication we have in Cameron and St Leonard's. Unlike those of many other churches, our Magazine is produced entirely in-house, thereby incurring minimal expense. Even with many members moving to online reading, we still run off almost 250 paper copies which are hand-delivered to the congregation.

With the upcoming Union and the formation of St Andrews New Kirk, this is the last edition of the Magazine in its present form. Isobel is in discussions with the team from St Mark's to decide what will happen next. For now, I am sure you will join me in a heartfelt vote of thanks to our Editor for the huge amount of work she has done quietly behind the scenes for so long. And ... I had to use persuasion to get her to insert this tribute!

*Muriel Gray*

*Although I get the kudos and occasional brickbats as Editor, there are many others involved from the contributors to the proofreaders to the officer administrators who do the printing and finally the distribution team headed by Elspeth Wallace. My sincere thanks to you all.*

*My thanks also go to the readers, who have kept me on my toes, encouraged me and kept the magazine interesting.*

*Isobel*



## **An update from Storehouse Foodbank:**

Hi everyone, thank you for your continued support over the past few months. I wanted to let you know about our **reverse advent calendar** this Christmas. Whereas in a traditional advent calendar, you get a wee gift each day, a reverse advent calendar is where you put in a gift, or in this case a donation, to a bag or basket. For every day there is a different item that we are in need of and by the end of the calendar you'll have put together a really lovely and generous donation that we can then distribute to those in need this Christmas. You might want to do this as an individual, but you could also do it together as a family, or maybe in your place of work and you can take turns bringing in the item of the day. However you'd like to participate, **we'd love for you to be involved!** You can view the calendar here: <https://www.storehousestandrews.com/advent>. You'll also find a pdf version to download if you'd like. Many thanks and wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and New Year.

*Lucy Clark*

## **STACEN (St Andrews Churches Eco Network)**

Lorna Hutcheon (St Marks), assisted by members of the group representing several churches in St Andrews, recently produced a short advent reflection which can be viewed on the Eco-Congregation Scotland website: <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/advent-2025/> where it can be found under "Advent Calendar for Fools" in the entry for 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Alternatively, you can access it through the following link: <https://vimeo.com/1125799939>

We very much hope you will look at and think about this advent reflection contributed by church members from St Andrews and also the others for 1<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December inclusive.

*Peter Robinson*

## **Guild Report**

St Leonard's and St Mark's Guilds have begun holding joint meetings this autumn, alternating between our two church halls. Rev. Dr Janet Foggie was our first speaker, reading some favourite and thought-provoking poems on the current Guild theme, 'Living Stones'. We then had an opportunity to have our gardening problems discussed at a Gardeners' Question Time, all the thorny issues being expertly fielded by Frank Leslie. We learned about the wide range of help and advice about energy use in the home available at the charity St Andrews Environmental Network based in the Eco Hub, in Kinnessburn Road. Working with Transition, they will give a new lease of life to used household goods like duvets and small electrical items; they also sell dried food, sweets, and laundry and washing-up liquid – take your old plastic bottle along for a re-fill.

Still to come at time of writing is a speaker from the Scottish Bible Society who will tell us about the Guild project 'Bibles for Bairns' (at St Mark's), and at the start of Advent, Rev Professor Ian Bradley will be sharing some Songs for the Season with us (St Leonard's, 27<sup>th</sup> Nov). Another date for your diary is our Coffee Morning on Saturday 6 December (10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>, St Leonard's hall). Our first meeting in the New Year will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> January in St Mark's hall, when we will have a Scots Afternoon. Something for everyone! Our meetings start at 2pm - come along and join us!

*Marie Robinson*

## **Stamp Appeal**

When those Christmas cards arrive, please keep the stamps for our stamp appeal. There is a collection point at both church buildings. If you're not sure where it is, please ask. When tearing them out, please leave a decent margin of envelope around the edges.

# **Guild Coffee Morning**

St Leonard's Church Hall

Donaldson Gardens, St Andrews, KY16 9DN



**Saturday 6 December 2025**

10 - 11.30 am

*All welcome – come for a cuppa & chat  
and browse the stalls:*

*Cake & Candy, Books, Hamper Raffle,  
Tombola, Crafts, and  
Scarves, Beads, Bangles and Brooches!*

## Christian Aid

The Christmas Appeal slogan is "No Crib for a Bed" and is meant to highlight the plight of families such as Chance and her baby Siborge and son Pacifique fleeing violence in the Democratic Republic of The Congo (DRC)

A married mother of eight, Chance ran a successful shop in Minova. She never expected to leave her home but had to do so on foot while her husband stayed behind. After a gruelling fifty-mile trek she felt her caesarian wound open, but found medical assistance in Katashola Camp for displaced people. She fears her husband is dead.

Christian Aid asks : "Will your church support a mother fleeing conflict to buy the nutritious food and hygiene supplies that could save her child's life?" In the DRC we are working with our partners (Churches of Christ in Congo, Ministry for Refugees and Emergencies) to make cash grants to those most in need of support - families like Chance's

Alarminglly, malnutrition is the underlying cause of almost half of all deaths in children under five in the DRC. Chance worries about Siborge. Her experience bears striking parallels to the story of the Nativity. Without a place to stay Mary and Joseph placed their newborn baby into an animal feeding trough. Fearing for his life from the threat of Herod, they escaped to Egypt. "And she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in his swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them to lodge in the house," Luke 2 : 7 (N.E.B.)

While giving thanks for all we have this Christmas, let's not forget communities affected by conflict. We must pray that children whose young lives have been torn apart by conflict will one day know peace and comfort.

We can give at [caid.co.uk](http://caid.co.uk) or at Freepost Christian Aid by Cheque (a gift aid form will be sent on request)

*George Black*

### *Christian Aid continued*

P.S. Since this is our last Magazine before the Union, I want to say how grateful I am to those in Cameron and St Leonard's who have delivered **and** collected for many years during Christian Aid Week, and I know this custom will continue and even expand. GB

## **Christmas at St Leonard's**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10 am.

As well as the usual Christmas decorations on the windowsills we would like to encourage anyone who has a (spare!) Nativity scene and would like to see it on display. So, either bring it along or get in touch with me and I will collect it.

Looking to 2026 – Thank you as always to all the volunteers who have taken on the flower rota this year. The flowers are always appreciated.

Elaine Douglas -07503 159003 "[elainedouglas803@gmail.com](mailto:elainedouglas803@gmail.com)"

**2025** -A memorable year remembering my dear mother's 90th birthday, Youth Fellowship's 40th year and time with Lara, a special friend at her graduation when she was awarded the John Scott medal for Astronomy. Lara's father has the same birthday as me, the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

It is sad it is the last magazine, but I would like to say a big Thank You to you all for all your help and kindness and for your support.

*Alison Wiffen*

## Problem Page

*To ensure confidentiality, we will only reply to your letters, never reprint them. Please do not offend our delicate nature with indelicate language.*

**Dear J** – I can see your point about the role of Santa at the children's Christmas party always going to a man and I am sure that you could play the part yourself with panache and verve. However, the Santa in question owns the suit and the beard etc. so he gets first dibs. If your case for equal opportunities is upheld, then it would still be unreasonable to expect the gentleman in question to "lend out" his suit. Perhaps it is a case of letting sleeping dogs lie, and advocate for bigger role for Mrs Claus or more proactive elves.

**Dear S-C** – I shall write to you privately regarding your problem. I am sure we can resolve it together.

**Dear H** – I can understand your disappointment at being turned down for your preferred role in the upcoming Nativity; however, I also understand the reason for the decision - at 25 you are a little old to play the Baby Jesus. Perhaps you should try for another role e.g. Innkeeper.

**Dear S-C** – I am sorry to learn how your problem has escalated. I suggest no further action until you have the chance to get legal advice.

**Dear R** – I was sorry to learn that you feel you have been bullied by the others. However, you seem to have qualities they lack and so they are probably jealous. They certainly had to rely on you last night. I think your idea of a nose guard is an excellent one. There are several models on the market already, but you may need one customised.

**Dear Sally** – I know you love Mitzi Fluffy Paws but there really is no role for a cat in the Nativity, even in costume. I think the resulting chaos (and possible injuries) would not convey the spirit of Christmas and the Nativity. Happy Christmas to you and Mitzi Fluffy Paws.

*(I always wanted to be an Agony Aunt - IMC)*