

balerno



Blether

the magazine and newsletter of Balerno Parish Church; for the Church and for the Community

Christmas Special!



Photos courtesy of Balerno and District Pipe Band

The Blether Team are delighted to be able to bring you the Balerno Blether Christmas Special 2024, *because* if we did not then most things that happened during Advent would be old news by the time of the February issue. So this way our readers get a round up of Christmas In Balerno, before the end of the year. Our next issue is in February and by then people are thinking about Easter. There's just so much going on both in the Church and the Community and it's important, particularly in a time of transition that we're able to remember just how vibrant our community is.

Let there be Lights!!

The Advent started in November but Christmas arrived in Balerno on 5th December when the lights on the two village Christmas Trees were switched on, at well attended events at the Parish Church and at the Square in Main Street.

The Tree at the Parish Church was organised by both the Rotary and the Parish Church and the second one, 30 minutes later in Main Street, was by the Community Council and other local groups including the Village Trust and the Gala.

The Rotary Tree raises money for Marie Curie through a Tree of Life campaign, named after the Marie Curie hospital founded in Hampstead in 1930. The hospital used radiology research methods pioneered by Marie Curie so she gave them permission to use her name.

Our cover photo shows the Balerno & District Schools Pipe Band playing on the steps of the Church on the 5th. The Band played at both the Church garden and in Main Street.

Naturally Santa was on-hand to co-ordinate the count down to switch on, invisibly managing the short journey between the two. Santa is of course an elderly gentleman and can be hard of hearing. So he had to make several calls to the children in the Main Street to shout louder. 'I still can't hear you!', said the man in the red suit, and was greeted by a response which reverberated around the Square

accompanied by even louder whooping. There was an audible 'wow' when the lights were switched on, which was a relief to those involved in organising the events. The band played Scotland the Brave and then Dean Park Primary School Choir sang carols round the Tree, at the Main Street event, complete with actions and with great gusto; lots of jumping up and down and more whooping; *Jingle Bells*, *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer* and a particularly heart-felt presentation of *We wish you a Merry Christmas* with real emphasis on the 'we won't go until we've got some, so bring some out here.' The 'right now!' could easily have been added in.

And then it was over, but the lights stayed on, and we hope they will be there until Twelfth Night.





Lots of Christmas Trees around in 2024, couple of switch on events, in Main Street and at the Parish Church, on 5th December, and then the Christmas Tree Festival in the Ogston Hall on 14th with entries on the day. Santa Claus was at both the switch-ons - there he is at the Main Street Lights (on the right) - and at the Christmas Tree Festival, where he was receiving visitors in his grotto, courtesy of the organisers, the Children's Gala. You can see him there on p 7.



from the Blether Team



Happy Christmas Balerno and thank you for supporting the Blether over the past year!

The Blether is, as it says on page 1, the magazine and the newsletter of Balerno Parish Church 'for the Church and the Community'. Christmas is a time of community, and there's lots going on in our community especially at this time of year. Some of that is within the Church but an awful lot is where the Church is part or facilitating something in the community.

Our buildings occupy a prime site at the heart of the village, meaning we have an immensely important opportunity and obligation. The Mill Cafe and the St Joseph's Centre provide facilities for people to meet socially, for youth groups and others to gather, for nursery and after School Club to flourish. Without those facilities Balerno would struggle to operate.

The Christmas Tree Festival started in 2010 as the Parish Church Festivalha, but since around 2017 its been run Harmony School and then by the Children's Gala. Entries in this year's Tree Festival come from right across our community. We hosted the Pentland Singers Christmas Concert. Our Brass Band Concert attracts an audience from 'aw the airts'. The list goes on. The Parish Church is part of the community of Balerno and of a wider world beyond.

2025 will therefore be an immensely important year for Balerno and not simply for the Parish Church. The Blether will continue to try to keep us up to date with what is going on, and will continue to listen to the heartbeat of the community within the Parish Church and beyond.

On p 7 we include a photo from the Switch on of the Main Street Lights, an event produced by the Community Council, the Village Trust and the Gala, and the Church. The picture shows three of our four local councillors, the fourth was unfortunately unable to attend because of Council business. By attending they show their support for our community, and that support will also be important as we in the Parish Church begin to look, with our neighbours in Currie Kirk, at how our union can be effected while continuing developing the communities we serve.

Merry Christmas Balerno! And all the best for 2025!



The police were also 'in attendance' at the Main Street Lights event. Nobody mentioned the Police Station.





Just Another Month Before Christmas!!

The highly successful concert (with supper!) 'The Month Before Christmas' on 2nd December 2023 at Balerno Bowling Club was the basis for an even more successful reprise on 30 November this year at St Joseph's. The model of songs, carols and readings across a wide range of Christmas themes was developed for

in front of a capacity audience of 81.

Once again the core elements were supplied by BPC's three choral groups - The Church Choir, Quintingle and One Bar Rest - whose offerings ranged from the flowing melody of Alan Bullard's Scots Nativity performed by the Choir, through Quintingle's elegiac five part harmony 'Lully Lulla', and OBR's rumbustious Wassail.



Joining them up were the thirteen readings which also ranged across a wide area from Benjamin Zephaniah's 'Talkin' Turkeys' to Mark Stone's heart felt 'Make Christmas a Verb' and Ogden Nash's salutary warning of what happens

to those who may get on the wrong side of Santa Claus; as did one Jabez Dawes.

John Burnside's 'Just Another Month Before Christmas' sets the bar very high for whatever comes next. and the audience gave him and all those others involved as producers, notably Martin Petty and Irene Rogerson a sustained round of applause, not forgetting the 'backroom staff' who amongst other things arranged a fantastic supper.



OBR about to wassail

No one will argue - we hope - however that the producers saved the absolute best bit of an evening of excellence until last.

Bob Chilcott's setting of 'O Little Town' involved all three choral groups, and you can hear it once again at the Lessons and Carols on 21st December; don't miss it!



And yes, for this evening, my shoes are Cardinal Red



The one and only ADVENT ONLINE 2020 is still online for you!

This is an unashamed advert! Just in case you missed the original series of Advent Online, BPC's blockbuster Christmas 2020 extravaganza, the 'box set' is still available for viewing on our Church website - www.balernochurch.org.uk/advent/. You can 'binge' view the series if you wish but we would recommend taking 5 minutes each day through December to follow it. Catch it now!

The Pentland Singers Christmas Concert



Pentland Singers celebrated their 40th Birthday in 2024 with a special concert in June. For their annual Christmas Concert they chose to have concerts in two locations, in Currie Kirk and Balerno parish Church, and the latter played host to the choir on Tuesday 10 December. The concert also featured the Pentland Junior Singers who performed a concert within a concert with five carols as well as contributing, with gusto, to the main choir's programme items of Deck the Halls and the Star Carol.

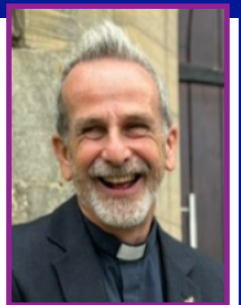
A good audience of well over 80 was treated to carols old and new, and the audience were invited to join in with a number, including for the finale, Angels from the Realms of Glory the words for which were by the great Scottish hymnwriter and poet, James Montgomery. At least three other programme entries were penned by Scots, namely Sheena Philips 'Cauld Blaws the Wind' setting of Burns Up in the Morning Early, and Radiant Dawn - one of the Pentland Singers favourites - by James MacMillan and one of his Strathclyde Motets.



*Ian Munro, Conductor, and
Ailsa Aitkenhead, pianist*

It's just the beginning

This week I was on a Zoom call with work colleagues, trying to prioritise all the tasks that were to be completed before Christmas. How will we manage to get everything done? The panic was quickly defused and we all laughed when one of the team piped up - "do you think people realise that we'll still be carrying on after Christmas - why the rush to get everything done before, when everyone's on holiday anyway? Things will just carry on in the New Year".



So that made me think - why do we just see Christmas as one magical day that we need to head for and then all will be well and we can just sit with our slippers on eating mince pies forever. I also remember a killjoy teacher telling our class that although it was almost Christmas, "remember, it might seem these holidays will last forever, but you'll be back in this class before you know it - doing another double maths!"

It's important we take stock at this season - to rest and recharge, but it's also wonderful to remember why we celebrate this time. We remember the birth of our Saviour and King, we remember his life on earth and his death and resurrection. We remember all that He did for us, and we must remember this, not just on Christmas Day but forever, from Boxing Day and beyond (or to infinity and beyond to quote Buzz Lightyear!) We must give thanks to God and remember all that we hold dear and celebrate that every day of the year. What a Christmas present that is!

Have a blessed Christmas,

Derek

Thanks from FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the recent collection for FreshStart

Several bags of toiletries were delivered and gratefully received by the FreshStart team at Pilton, who pass on their heartfelt thanks!

Thanks for your generosity,

Anne Johnstone

Remember

There's a whole host of charities out there who really need support at present.

On p9 we print part of the front page from the 2023 Christmas Special; The crisis we talked of then continues.

In October 2024 The Joseph Rowntree Foundation reported

- Child poverty 24% of children in Scotland were living in relative poverty after housing costs in 2020–2023.
- Working-age poverty 21% of working-age adults in Scotland were living in relative poverty after housing costs in 2020–2023.
- Pensioner poverty 15% of pensioners in Scotland were living in relative poverty after housing costs in 2020–2023.

Spare a thought and more for others this Christmas. Please.



The Church looks nice today!



from 'Christmas Day'
by John Betjeman

.....

*The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the
yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the
ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on
Christmas Day.*

....

Thank you Flower Fairies

'Decorations are looking lovely aren't they!

Sure are!

Who does them?

The Fairies of course!

Fairies?

Yes....the Flower Fairies! We have had them here in Church for many years. Some have retired & others have joined, never ending circle! They put the vases of flowers in each week.

!!!..... is that how they get here!

Yes! The Chief Fairy is Wendy, she organises everything.

So...who are the rest?

SEARCH ME! '



Christmas crossword answer

T	E	A	P	L	A	N	T	A	T	I	O	N
I	D	I	E					L	D	O		
P	Y	J	A	M	A	S		C	H	E	A	T
		O	B	T	O			A		E		
F	L	U	X		F	L	I	P	F	L	O	P
A		R	B	E	O						A	
C	O	N	G	E	R		O	P	E	N	U	P
E			Q		J		S		O		E	
C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R		S	T	I	R
R		E		E		S		Z		H		
E	X	T	R			T	E	A	C	A	K	E
A		E	T					E	N	L		E
M	E	R	T	H	Y	R	T	Y	D	F	I	L



Picture courtesy of Tricia Innes and Edinburgh Window Art

The Broxburn & Livingston Brass Band

Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride is one of the best known Christmas tunes as is Howard Blake's *The Snowman*, and together they provided the bookends for another sparkling performance by the Broxburn and Livingston Brass Band. The Band have been regular visitors to Balerno since 2010 when the first Balerno Parish Church Christmas Tree Festival was produced, and the Concert was missing from the agenda only in 2020 and 2021, and then only because of COVID.

The Broxburn and Livingston Brass band was formed in October 2004 from the amalgamation of two West Lothian bands; the Broxburn Public and the Livingston Brass Bands. The Broxburn Public Band was one of Scotland's oldest bands and were present at the first Scottish Championship contest in 1895, while Livingston Brass were formed in 1976 and competed at their first Scottish Championship in 1979.

Since 2004 the new Band has played in competitions across the country and at concerts across Scotland. They especially enjoy coming to Balerno for what is now a regular fixture on their programme, just as we enjoy their coming to play for us; and long may that continue!

For their programme this year the Band had selected a mix of well known carols and Christmas music. Their reflective arrangement of Adolphe

Adam's O Holy Night is always a favourite, just as closing the evening with Leroy Anderson's *A Christmas Festival* gets the atmospherics just right for Advent and the approach to the 25th.

Balerno's already in the Band's diary for 2025 for the 14th Concert for Christmas, next year!



Jim Bone with the Broxburn and Livingston Brass Band.

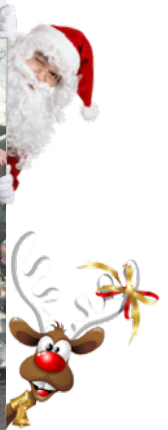
Apologies to Bill Smith for having concealed him behind a colleague!

Balerno Farmers Market Christmas 2024

Carol singing at the Christmas Market is a well established feature of Christmas in Balerno. The Market has been going since 2005 - April 2005 to be precise so it's approaching its 20th birthday. The Music Festival came along in 2008 but the Christmas Tree Festival is a comparative newcomer dating only from 2020. That's when - we think - the carol singing started.

The core of the Market Choir is made up from members of the Balerno Parish Church Choir, supported by some from Pentland Singers, and not forgetting passers by. This year there were around 20 in the Choir under the guiding baton of Martin Petty - and judging from the FaceBook post on the Church's page - they were making a joyful noise. Why not listen to it yourselves?

Santa and Rudolph did not join in with the choir this year. But there's always 2025.



So on the left we have Brian the Elf, who is really looking a bit sad, because he knows that if he goes to watch Currie playing Accies on Saturday 14th he may miss seeing Santa.

Well, as you can see Brian the Elf isn't in the picture of Santa with all his helpers; because he did go to watch Currie.

But they won so Brian the Elf needn't feel sad, need he?



More from the Switch on on Thursday 5th

We had lots of politicians at the Switch on event on 5th December with three of our four City Councillors coming along to share in the lighting of the Main Street Christmas Tree and Lights; so here they are happy to be celebrating together.



Cllr Jenkinson did the honours this year, welcoming Santa Claus, fresh from his appearance at the Rotary's Tree of Life switch on, and the 250 or so folk who came along to join in.

Amazingly no-one saw Santa moving from the Church to the Community Centre from which he emerged to spread Christmas greetings to all. But then he does travel right around the world all in one night, stopping at every house, with or without a chimney, eating a mince pie, and if we're lucky and have been good, maybe leaving a present. We don't know what our politicians asked for in their Christmas letters.....



Christmas Tree Festival 2024

This is the fourteenth year of the Christmas Tree Festival. It started in 2010, and despite Covid it hasn't missed a year, although for two years it was held entirely in the fresh air, brrrrrrrr! And the photos show that it was cold, and there was snow around although not quite in the quantities of 2010 and 2011.

The Festival was once again run by the Gala who had taken it on from Harmeny who in turn took it on from the Church around 2017. Numbers having been climbing back up again since Covid and this year there were 22 5' trees from organisations across the village and beyond.

There were trees from the Parish Church and the Church Choir, and from the FairTrade Group; and there was one which was entered in tribute to Marion Milne who had been a stalwart supporter of the Festival and of many many other things, but who passed away in 2023 having decorated a tree for the Festival.



CRAFT MARKET IN THE CHURCH



Balerno Craft Market is usually open for business in the Community Centre on the second Saturday of each month while the Farmers Market is open on Main Street.

However in December the Craft Market was considerably bigger and twelve stalls decamped to the Church in what was a highly successful experiment.

Stallholders were very pleased with the facilities, and business was steady throughout the morning.

We'll probably see more events like this in future, bringing the community right into the heart of our Church.





One of the attractive features of Christmas is tradition. It's the time of year which many of us anticipate with a sense of warm expectation based on shared past experiences with family and friends around food and presents. After having paid homage - in whatever small way, by listening to carols on the radio or singing them in church – at the manger we relax and persuade ourselves that the spirit of giving which was exemplified in Bethlehem has been reflected in the retail therapy which has been evident throughout December.

Over the last decades, another tradition has emerged – but a less comforting one. It is the tradition of Christmas appeals. The Salvation Army, Christian Aid, Crisis, Barnardo's, and the Samaritans are only a few of the familiar names which have become part of our modern Christmas experience as they try to bring a little light and humanity into the lives of people who are, perhaps euphemistically, referred to as the 'underprivileged.' A harsh reality of life in the twenty-first century is that Christmas is a time of year when the inequalities in the world become more painfully evident to some members of our society as they realise that many of the colourful products promoted in TV adverts are simply beyond their means. How do you explain that to a child?

Christian Aid exemplifies the principles expressed in John's first epistle where we are encouraged to, "not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." At a local level, it has always been the mission of groups like the Salvation Army to show Christian 'love in action.' There has been much discussion about what the mission of the new combined parishes of Currie and Balerno should be after their union in a year's time, but whatever our differences may be, we should all, individually and collectively, remember that the world would be a better place for many people if the spirit of Christmas giving were more evident throughout the year. While the news headlines constantly reflect deprivation and destruction caused by world conflict and disaster, we should not forget that there is isolation, need and hunger close at hand too.

image by Shutterstock_161548748



Vacancies



2 x Cafe Supervisors required

Balerno Parish church's initiative -The Mill Café is a thriving community café for all in the centre of Balerno which is open 4 days-a-week and on the monthly Farmers' Market Saturdays. It is staffed mainly by volunteers working with a small staff team. The Mill Café is 12 years old. Positions rarely come up making this a wonderful opportunity for someone to work locally.

1. Café Supervisor - Tuesday 8am-3.30pm (7.5 hrs) & a share of Farmers market Saturday

This position will have the opportunity for additional hours as we move into March next year.

2. Café Supervisor – Wednesday & Friday 8am-3.30pm (15 hrs) & a share of Farmers markets Saturdays

Your main responsibilities will be:

- To work with Mill volunteers and other staff to maintain a pleasant and efficient working environment that provides a high standard of service to all Mill customers.
- To prepare food from the menu, bake scones and cakes.
- To maintain a clean and safe working environment in line with relevant legislation and The Mill House Rules.
- To be able to cover all café roles in the café environment to support the volunteer team.
- In consultation with the café manager, ensure stock levels are monitored and maintained.
- To ensure that all daily kitchen records are maintained accurately and appropriately.
- To ensure that goods received are in accordance with required standards and stored correctly ensuring stock rotation is maintained.
- To highlight any equipment deficiencies to The Mill Manager in a timely manner.
- To deputise for other Mill staff when required.
- In consultation with the Mill manager, to suggest changes to the menu.
- To work with The Café manager to maximize The Mill's opportunities within the community and to encourage new volunteers.
- To minimize wastage within the Café and to work with a respect for our Eco and Fair Trade principles.

We would expect you to:

- Have a REHIS Elementary food hygiene certificate or be willing to work towards it
- Have excellent inter-personal skills.
- Cover holiday periods with other staff
- Open and close the café securely (key holder role)

Send CV with appropriate qualifications and relevant experience to:-

The Mill Café manager:- Lynsey Inglis themillatstjosephs@gmail.com

Closing date for applications: - 31/01/25

We reserve the right to offer the position to the right person should they come along earlier

Balerno Parish Church has been accredited as a real Living Wage Employer

'We saw it happen'

A different look at Advent

A group of over 20 members from both congregations of Currie and Balerno started meeting on Sunday evenings at the beginning of Advent to reflect on Stephen Cotrell's book entitled Walking Backwards for Christmas. The book is thought provoking as it is made up of a series of reflections in which Cotrell tries to imagine the thoughts of the people behind the narrative of the coming of Jesus in the Bible. Some are more dramatic than others. Trying to imagine the thoughts of a mother in the aftermath of the slaughter of the innocents may be disturbing but it is not too difficult given the catalogue of conflict which has become a regular feature of recent news bulletins.

On the one hand it can be refreshing to try to imagine the personality and the thoughts of Biblical characters, but everyone is aware that it is only imagination and we all have our own perception of what the people in the Bible were like – or do we? While there may be a danger that our individual imaginings of the personalities in the Bible could be misleading, we are missing out if we don't reflect and try to breathe some three dimensional character into some of the two dimensional characters to whom we are introduced on its pages.

In thought provoking discussion, it appears that the people who feature in the biblical narrative are no different from people in the modern world with the similar flaws, strengths, hopes and fears. JB

Joint Balerno and Currie Advent Study

Sunday evenings in December
1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd
7pm Gibson Craig Hall



we are using the book
'Walking Backwards to
Christmas' which will be
available to buy. To book a place
and for more details contact:

hpc-admin@balernochurch.org.uk
Tel. 0131 449 7245

We wish you a merry Christmas !



Question - Which line of which carol are the Pentland/Singers singing in this picture?
Could be a coffee for the first correct answer!



Well, Its Christmas again

What's so special about that then?

People put up their trees – have you done?

What's a tree got to do with things?

Well, it's a pagan symbol really but over the years it's come to represent the giving of gifts.

Is that what those wise men did?

Yes, they brought gifts, but God gave us the greatest gift of all.

What was that?

Jesus of course – surely you knew that?

Who's this Santa guy anyway?

He's a mythical person based upon St. Nicholas – its all for the children's benefit so that they can get their presents.

Well, I don't believe he climbs down chimneys with a sack over his back

No, of course he doesn't – that's all part of the magic of Christmas where children are concerned.

And another thing – people send each other cards saying 'Merry Christmas' – why don't they send Jesus a birthday card?

Oh, now you're being silly – just think how you'd feel if you woke up on Christmas morning and there was no tree, no presents...?

Would there be a turkey? – I like turkey. Did Jesus like turkey?

Arghh..you make me want to scream ! I hope you say your prayers tonight.

The Treasurer's Thumb

Concussion in a dessert

'Oh dear! Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear!' From within the depths of Pocket I heard that chuckling voice, and I knew that Trouble was on the way.

I've told you all about the Depths of Pocket before, a place of sweetie papers, paper hankies, keys and the general detritus of existence. 'What's up, Chief?', I respond, trying to sound interested. 'Oh nothing, nothing at all' says Himself, and of course I know instinctively there is. Then he starts muttering, probably not intending to be heard;

Little Jack Horner sat in the corner, eating a Christmas pie;
He put in his thumb, and pulled out a plum,
And said, "What a good boy am I!"

And suddenly I realise that the situation is much more serious, and it's why at times I really really think Christmas is an *Atrocious Institution*; I'm right up there with my old chum George Bernard Shaw on that one, and I can sympathise with his Thumb, who of course I never met, although GBS didn't write that Little Jack Horner thing it represents the fate of all thumbs.

Now I have written in the past about the origins of that dreadful Horner tale. I could probably look back in my 'filing system' ('your what?') and tell you when. But suffice for now that the rhyme came from the 1720's - and that is certainly before Himself was around - and it refers way back to the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16thC. Anyway it's the bit about sticking in the thumb - and I have tasted that humiliation - and pulling out a Plum that gets me going.

It's bad enough being thrust into Pocket now and again - well it really isn't OK is it? And I know that t'lads were always copping it - 'get yer hands out of yer pockets!!' - and it wasn't the Society for the Proptection of Thumbs and Pinkies behind that, oh no, it was simply for the Promotion of Good Manners. And it was always during cold winter weather, when a trip to Pocket was an acceptable price for the avoidance of frostbite.

Right OK, as I was saying it was bad enough being thrust into Pocket, but that was as nothing to being expected to delve through the crust of Christmas Pie and then search around for a Plum: and it's not the easiest thing in the world I can tell you, The only way it can work is if, having located the fruit, you can spear it, which means head first into the thing, and of course you hit the Plum stone. Wham! Concussion in a dessert.

Now the modern version of the rhyme is; 'he swung back his thumb while eating the plum, saying merry old christmas to all!'

Then that voice again, 'Well I can only agree with that. And he goes on,' That is dire! Dreadful, an abomination! I'd bet you'd rather go on a plum search right now wouldnt you?'

'Oh no I wouldn't' 'Oh yes you would.' 'Oh no I wouldn't' 'Oh yes you would!' 'Oh no I wou..'; wham!

WOOF!

Hello there folks, are you as excited as me? Its the time of year when everyone buys you 'sensible' things – large bones and biscuits for example, plus the inevitable 'indestructible' toy. (haven't had one yet that I couldn't destruct) but my play is always to make the task look difficult. We chaps have to set our stall out properly – be well behaved when meeting people – sitting by visitors and using my 'longingly' expression (you know the thing, the 'butter wouldn't melt in my mouth look'.

The butcher has very kindly offered to stay open on Christmas Eve and re-open in time for Hogmanay (Not too keen on haggis though !), but one has to be careful not to give the impression that one is laden with goodies (I think by now I've mastered that art).

Then of course there's the storage problem – one simply can't leave things lying about – especially biscuits and bones, goodness knows what might happen to them. Fortunately, there isn't too much frost at present so burying things is much easier. A couple of my local pals had bones stolen last year – whatever happened to 'honour between pals' ? However, 'he and she' brought loads of things home from the local 'Pet Store' so things are looking up. I'll sign off for now as there's so much planning to do.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas,

Your favourite four-legged friend,



Christmas 24 and January 25 Calendar

Unless otherwise notified Sunday worship is at 10.00am every Sunday at Balerno Parish Church

For list of Christmas Services see p 6

December 29th - Morning service at 10.00am as usual in the church.

January events

Wed 8th - Kirk Session

Sun 19th - Joint Valley Service at Currie Kirk



Christmas at Balerno Parish Church

Sunday 1 December Joint Advent Service with
Currie Kirk in Balerno Parish Church 10am

Sunday 8 December Gift Service 10am

Sunday 15 December Nativity Service 10am

Sunday 22 December Lessons & Carols Service 10am

Tuesday 24 December
Christingle Service 6pm Watchnight Service 11.30pm
Christmas Morning Service 10am

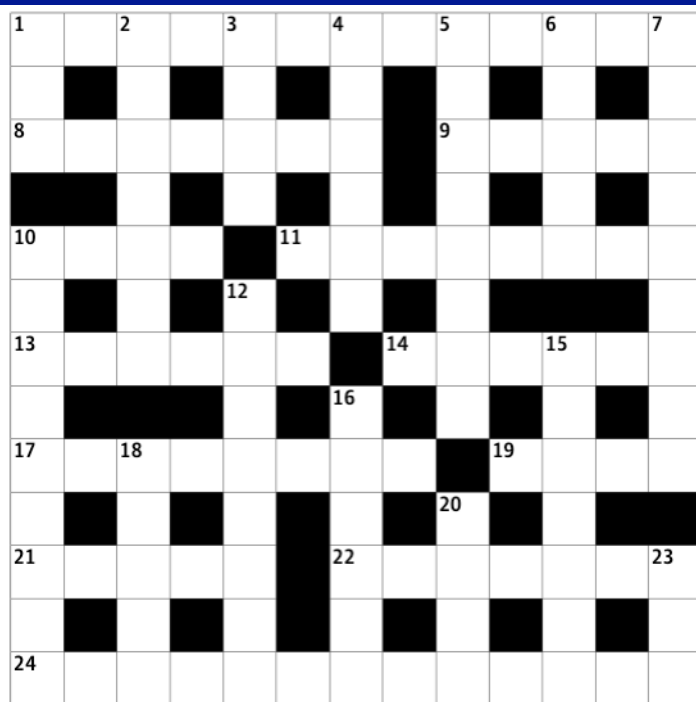
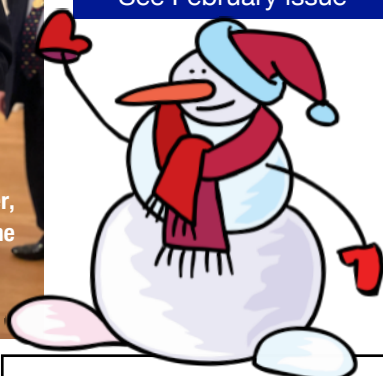
balernochurch.org.uk



Crossword Corner

CHRISTMAS puzzle

For December crossword
answer
See February issue



A date for your diary!

Sat 15th March 2025

Fairtrade Morning

St Joseph's and Ogston Halls;

More in the February Blether

Note that copy for the
February issue
of the Blether must be
submitted by
Friday 17 January

Useful Numbers

Locum Minister Rev Derek Munn
dmunn@churchofscotland.org.uk

Interim Moderator. Rev Douglas Nicol

Church Administrator (Church Office)

Pam McKeon 449 7245

bpc-admin@balernochurch.org.uk

Session Clerks -

Kay Coull 449 6151 or 07415 506947

Elaine McCulloch 449 5876

balerno.sessionclerk@gmail.com

Treasurer:

David Booth 449 3516

bpc-treasurer@balernochurch.org.uk

Roll Keeper;

Pam McKeon 449 2541

pammckeon@btinternet.com

Fabric Ctte:

Dilys Conway 449 7245

dilysconway@blueyonder.co.uk

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:

Kay Coull 449 6151

coullkay@hotmail.com

Mill Café:

Lynsey Inglis

themillatstjosephs@gmail.com

Balerno Blether:

Lesley Burt 449 4314

lesley.burt70@gmail.com

Across

- 1 Estate where leaves are cultivated (3,10)
- 8 Nightwear (7)
- 9 Hoodwink (5)
- 10 Continuous change (4)
- 11 Informal footwear (4-4)
- 13 Large 23 (6)
- 14 Speak freely and without restraint (4,2)
- 17 PC, say (8)
- 19 Agitate (4)
- 21 More (5)
- 22 Glazed bun, usually toasted and buttered (7)
- 24 South Wales town (7,6)

Down

- 1 End – pourboire (3)
- 2 Postpone (7)
- 3 Wing, perhaps (4)
- 4 Settle cosily (6)
- 5 Those packaged like soft drinks, but containing liquor (8)
- 6 Best possible (5)
- 7 Writing material (9)
- 10 Cosmetic designed to improve complexion (4,5)
- 12 Leave (to) (8)
- 15 To an extreme degree (3,4)
- 16 Court joker (6)
- 18 Measuring device (5)
- 20 Wacky (4)
- 23 Slippery fish (3)