

Friends of Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Newsletter

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

Christmas 2019

Celebrating Christmas in the Old Kirk



Earlier this year, on Sunday 22nd September, Kirkcaldy Old Kirk celebrated 775 years of Christian worship and service in the heart of the town.

At that lovely, wellattended service with its contributions from art, music, drama and preaching, the second Burne-Jones window was rededicated after its restoration, completing the set of two on either side of the organ pipes.

This window features the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel announces to

Mary that she will have a child and "you shall call His name Jesus, for he will save His people from their sins".

At the scene of Jesus' birth in the other window, an angel is present too, watching over the Holy Family with care.

Angels in the Bible are messengers from God, highlighting God's intentions of love and peace and exhibiting His care for

humanity.

As we look ahead to this Christmas, may you receive the message of God's love for you, perhaps in an unexpected way, and may you know His care for you and your family in joyful or in difficult situations, whether in celebration or in pain, loss or anxiety.

The Old Kirk still stands as a message itself through the centuries, and in its art and music, that God's love is among us to stay.

Look out for the angel!



Nine Lessons & Carols Service : SUNDAY 22nd December at 2pm

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk's Christmas Service this year will be a Nine Lessons & Carols Service, with readings, prayers, drama and music.

Musical contributions will come from a string group of our resident Orchestral Society players and from some of the young singers from Colla voce - both of these groups have delighted audiences in the Old Kirk on earlier occasions this year. If you missed them, here's your chance now! The organ will be played by Rob Fleming, our Organ Scholar, and there will be congregational singing as well.

As in the past tradition of the Old Kirk, the Christmas service will include a short play written on this occasion by Isabel Coventry and performed by our own Auld Kirk Players.

It seems very fitting that our Kirk, which has become a popular venue in town for good music performances, should celebrate this special time in this way. Do come along!

Pictish Fife?: Fothrif & Pictland's southern March

What did Kirkcaldy look like before the consecration of the Old Kirk in 1244?

When did Christmas start to be celebrated here as a holy day?

There are many unanswered questions about the time of the Picts in Scotland, including exactly where they lived and what some of the markings they have left meant.

We do know that the Romans first called them "Picti", meaning "the painted people" perhaps because of painted body decoration though that is not certain either!

However we have the man who can answer some of these questions, coming to talk to the Civic Society in the Old Kirk on **THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER at 7.30pm!**

Dr. Alex Woolf from the University of St. Andrews is an expert on the period before the 11th century and will share the story of what we can tell about Fife and the Picts in these early times.

One puzzle is where Fothrif, a part of Scotland, was in relation to Fife.

No Loony Dook is prescribed for Civic Society members but the chance to blow the cobwebs away is offered on 2nd January 2020 with a brief walk together around the town environs before returning to the Old Kirk for refreshments and Anne McIntyre's eagerly anticipated Town Quiz.

Meet at the Old Kirk at 2pm. All welcome.



After the talk there will be mulled wine and mince pies for this last event of the year.

Non-members are asked to make a small donation towards refreshments.



Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society Christmas Concert



This year's Christmas Concert by our resident orchestra features the everpopular "The Snowman" from the book by Raymond Briggs, music by Blake.

> PLEASE NOTE THAT BOTH PERFORMANCES ARE SOLD OUT!

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER 2019 2PM and 4PM in KIRKCALDY OLD KIRK Tickets £9 Adult £4 Child/Student From 07770 332812

A Night At The Musicals 2019 - 5th Anniversary Special

Over the past 5 years, Fraser Morrison has brought together some of Fife's best young musical talent performing songs from a range of wellknown and well-loved musicals for an annual Christmas concert, raising just under £16,000 for charity along the way.

This Christmas he aims to do something slightly different. As a 5th Anniversary Special, he plans to recreate some favourite performances from over the past five years to celebrate this achievement! This concert promises a night



of back to back musical treats you don't want to miss this! All profits will go to NSPCC.

There are limited seats still available for this concert—if you want one of the last few - you better be quick!

DECEMBER 22nd at 7.30pm

Tickets cost £12 from <u>https://</u> <u>seaty.co.uk/anatm19/</u> <u>tickets/22Dec2019/1930</u>

Fife Opera: Christmas at the Old Kirk

Enjoy a seasonal blend of carols, opera, favourite songs

and familiar tunes from shows for Fife Opera's Christmas offering on Saturday 21st December at 7.30pm.

CHRISTMAS AT THE OLD KIRK Saturday 21st Dec. 7.30pm Tickets cost £12 for adults and £5 for children and can be obtained at the door or by phoning 596904.

Music, mince pies and mulled wine will be on the menu!

See you there!

Tullis Russell Mills Band at Christmas!

A Christmas Concert which resounds with Christmas cheer sees the **Tullis Russell Mills Band** return to the Old Kirk on **Friday 20th December at 7.30pm.**

We hope the children from Carleton Primary School

choir who are a popular accompaniment will support them this year again.

Tickets can be obtained at the door on the night.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Coming soon!:

Kirkcaldy Choral Dec. 8th Union Christmas Concert	
Kirkcaldy Civic Society: "Fothrif: Dec. Pictland's 7.30pm southern March " by Dr. Alex Woolf from St. Andrews University	
KirkcaldyDec. 15tOrchestral2pm ANISociety4pmChristmas4pmConcert with the4pmLangtoun SingersSorry ALL SOLDOUT!0UT!	
Tullis RussellDec.Mills Band with20thPrimary School7.30pmChoirChristmas	
concertDec. 21sFife Opera - Christmas at the Old Kirk7.30pm	
Nine Lessons, Carols and aDec. 22ndPlay! The Old Kirk Christmas Service with music & drama from our resident groupsDec. 22nd 2pm	
Fraser Morrison Dec.	
& Friends - 22nd	
Songs from the Shows 7.30pm	
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Friends of the Old Kirk Newsletter

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

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maintaining Kirkcaldy's heritage for the community

SATURDAY 11th JANUARY 2020 Howard Duthie 775th Anniversary ORGAN RECITAL One of the great successes of the 775th Anniversary year has been the Organ Recital Series. Many people have enjoyed a range of concerts of different styles with different programmes.

Indeed so successful has the series been that we are continuing it into next year with Hannah Gibson playing on the 21st March 2020 when our official Anniversary year ends and a new list of organists starting thereafter.

There will, however, be no formal organ recital in December as Richard Bower is not available till February or March 2020. We hope to hear him play then instead. Meantime we invite our musical friends to join us this month on December 22nd at 2pm for the Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols instead.

Our next Organ Recital in the 775th Anniversary Series will be on Saturday January 11th at 12 noon in Kirkcaldy Old Kirk, when Howard Duthie from Perth, former Musical Director of Chansons there, will be playing our Gern organ. I understand Howard trained under Herrick Bunney in St. Giles' Cathedral and is an organist of great experience.

As usual a snack lunch will be available after the recital and you will have opportunity then to talk with Howard about his recital.

Another Angel Heralds Christmas Music!

Heavenly music is on the calendar for SUNDAY 8th December at 7.30pm in the

Old Kirk, when **Kirkcaldy Choral Union** will be singing Haydn, Handel, Mendelssohn and Blow in some well-known pieces, like *Zadok the Priest* and *O*

for the wings of a dove.

Tickets cost £12 for an adult and £6 for a student and include refreshments. Available at the door.

