

KBC Ministry Reports 2024



Introduction by Rev Tim Proudlove:



The one thing we have missed about living in Orkney is the trees. Back in Vancouver, there were big trees everywhere — full of life, full of strength, standing solid year after year and decade after decade. Here there seems to be just too much wind.



But what if our church was to be like a tree - a tree in the middle of Orkney? Standing tall year after year; staying strong though the winds blow; a sign of life for everyone to see.

Deeply rooted - rooted in the Word, rooted in the Spirit, rooted in prayer.

Constantly missional - seeking to grow and stretch outwards, see more people come to faith in Jesus, outward-looking rather than inward-focused.

Deliberately relational - strong not firstly in our programs, nor firstly in our leadership, but strong firstly in the connections we have with one another, like strong branches on a tree. What if our church was to become more and more like that?

That is our ongoing prayer for our church at Kirkwall Baptist. And that is the point of the ministries reported on here. Each one in its own way is seeking to be a sign of life in the middle of Orkney. Each one is seeking to point to Jesus Christ, by words and actions. And each one has a connection to what we are doing at KBC — each one is part of our tree. So our prayer is this: Grow us Lord, we ask, for your honour and for your praise.

Crèche / Pre-School Sunday School report by Jane Scott:



This year we have changed teaching materials to The Biggest Story Curriculum, which will cover a two year period of lessons, and the Bible class are using these lesson topics to adapt for their learning also (previously this year bible class had been going through The Bible Course)

We have been blessed with many new additions to to our creche this year, and are finding that space is at a premium in almost all our age group classes, which is a good position to be in, although can mean our teachers have to be a bit creative with some of the game suggestions when all children are in attendance! We are very grateful to God for the kids that are coming along and also the many teachers and helpers who have stepped in to fill any vacancies as they arose this year. So thanks to the team (12 teachers and 24 helpers, with a few more who step in at the last minute!) and many thanks to Emma Nicolson for sending out weekly reminders and keeping the rota updated!

Please pray for our team as they kindly give their time planning, teaching, and supporting the children and please pray for God's blessing on the children; that they might come to know God and his great love for themselves.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Youth Work And Spring Camp Report by Fraser Scott:



It's been another exciting year for youth ministry at Kirkwall Baptist Church. We've been holding our weekly meetings "Upper Room" which has enjoyed a new crowd of youth coming with the start of the year and new S1s. Over the last year we've looked at Topics like Discipleship, The Character of God, Anxiety, The Armour of God, Holy Spirit and Baptism. We also had a few guest speakers with the youth such as Tom Lennie and Daniel and Katy Kocyan.

Attendance fluctuates depending on the week but we regularly see between 15 and 25 young folk coming each week.

We also continue to do worship each week, sometimes with a live band and other times using videos. We've also invited guest worship leaders along including Dave and Hannah Rendall from Life Church and our own Kate Brown. We've started doing meals once a month before Upper Room. We also welcomed 2 new Youth helpers who have been through their PVG checks.

In April 2024 we had our annual Spring Camp. It was a smaller camp this year with only around 12 to 15 kids coming but these smaller camps have often given us opportunity to give more attention and investment in the young folk who are there. We were blessed to have a team from Perth Baptist Church join us who helped us with the teaching, worship and activities. They are keen to come back next year and we're currently in the process of figuring out if we can maybe take a group down to visit them some time next year.

Then in July, 38 of us travelled to Lendrick Muir in Fife for Magnitude. A 5-day Christian Youth Festival. It was an exciting and powerful time with many of the youth encountering God in a personal way for the first time.

We also just had our annual trip to Westray with around 29 in attendance including leaders. We stayed in Westray Baptist Church and used teaching materials called VOX which was produced by Christianity Explored.

Plans are underway for next year's camps, teaching at Upper Room and I am also planning a trip to Aviemore with some of the other volunteers to a youth leaders retreat held by Christ In Youth.



Asha Report to KBC Nov 2024

It has been a tumultuous year so far in Bangladesh.
(Incidentally the 25th year of our work in Asha!)



We had a really good visit to the country through February this year, essentially to visit and reconnect with all those we help and sponsor, making it a focus to go to as many homes as possible and to see the real situations our girls need to face daily. Our older students were great guides for us through the confusing back alleys off the main roads!



We also went on several long trips out of Dhaka, firstly to visit the village school that Shahana, one of our first Asha girls, continues faithfully to run for us. Then to visit our friends from Derby working in the north of the country. Finally we went to stay a few days with our old cook, Rangit and family, in a delightfully restful setting in their Hindu village.



Whilst visiting Rangit we also reconnected by chance with someone we had helped and prayed for 25 years ago. Shushantu still keeps our framed photographs and was effusively grateful for the medical help we had given him so long ago! We had almost forgotten it - yet help and love given in the Lord continues to work on through

peoples's lives and it is great to be reminded of God's faithfulness and to know that all we ever do for him brings a harvest - even years later.



It was after we left Dhaka and returned safely home that events in the nation took a difficult turn. Street riots broke out increasingly throughout the early summer months with demonstrations by university students that followed strident - and unheeded - demands for widespread government reforms. The government has been growing increasingly autocratic during years of undemocratic rule and rigged elections.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was eventually ousted and fled the country, but not before hundreds of university students had been killed during the two month struggle on the streets and huge numbers wounded - many blinded by the reckless action of police anti-riot squads armed with shotguns. The army was finally called out to maintain order but commanders refused to take action directly against the people and the PM herself finally had to escape before a mob closed in on her home.

Now all is peaceful again. The custodianship of interim government has been placed temporarily in the hands of 84 year old Mr Muhammad Yunus - 2006 Nobel Peace prizewinner - who has been at odds with the ruling party in power for some years. So far he seems to be holding things together and free elections have been promised in the near future. However, the fear is that inter-party rivalry may well result in some further disruption during a new election process.

The crisis closed all schools for some weeks but once things settled down many of our older Asha girls took a willing part in the clean-up operation on the streets. Our sponsored students were among many who decided to go out cleaning their local roads, making and putting up posters promoting care and protection of the area - and, since the police were at first in hiding, fearing retribution - some were even directing local traffic!



All schools and colleges have since re-opened and students are back at their studies again, catching up for the end of year exams, yet many of our families still have deep concerns and difficulties. Prices have risen exponentially in the crisis and many have reduced incomes or have found it difficult to find work..

Despite some internet blackouts we were relieved to be able to keep in touch with our supported families and key workers during the summer. It seemed very often that we were allowed rather miraculous communication abilities - even though the government was at times closing down both internet and phone operators to curb the unrest. Still, when it seemed we surely should not get through, the air waves opened up for us. The Lord gave us ways to stay in touch, to support and encourage through the difficulties, and money - amazingly - could still be sent safely as required.

Our older student Volunteers have each continued to faithfully meet up with their individual groups of local students through the year, checking on needs and

problems and then reporting to us. This system of pastoral care has worked really well for us.



Our Volunteers are very dedicated and they enjoy receiving a small extra income for the work which helps them with the added expenses of tertiary education. Remember, no education is free in Bangladesh and it grows increasingly expensive as it

progresses. Not one of our sponsored students could dream of completing Secondary School/College years and then going on to University without the financial help that they are able to receive through Asha and our wonderful sponsors.

Our part-time older hand-work girls have worked busily from their homes to help provide the goods we were able to put out for our usual Asha Bazaar Sale this November. We have encouraged all these young women - many of them the very first girls we found and educated twenty five years ago - to find outside work, and the hand-work they still do for us is now a way they can help to pay for some of the many (essential!) extras of life. They also love to keep in touch with us!



Now everyone is looking forward to seeing us again and we are presently planning to travel out in early January. We will be thankful to receive your prayers as we prepare for this time and for our stay there. We are also very grateful for the continued support and many gifts received so that we may gladden the hearts of many in the New Year to come.

With love and thankfulness,
Michael and Rosey Whittles

Gogo Olive Ministry Report by Julie Johnstone



As we look back on the past year we are so encouraged by how God so consistently provides for us, often in ways that exceed our expectations, and by the faithful and generous support we continue to receive.



This year, our primary focus has been the construction of a 'Place of Safety' on the land at the bottom of our premises in Mutare, Zimbabwe. This initiative became a top priority at the end of 2023 when we recognised the challenges faced by our knitters after they are released from prison. Some of them have nowhere safe to go, sometimes making them feel that they have no option but to return to abusive situations. There are also times when our Gogo Olive ladies need extra support or find themselves without a place to live. We knew that having the option of providing a safe accommodation space would be such a blessing for those who may need it. What began as a vision quickly became a reality when a German foundation very generously offered to fund the entire project! We are delighted to share that the construction is now complete, with only a few finishing touches remaining. The facility is simple but very comfortable and even includes a solar-powered shower. One of our ladies has already stayed there briefly while we

prepared to transfer her to a rehabilitation centre.



Other needs we've been able to meet this year include a hip replacement for Florence, new teeth for Chipso, surgery for Peacemore to remove a painful hernia, and Tafadzwa's 3 month stay at the Christian rehabilitation centre. Each of these interventions has been life-changing for these women, and they would not have been able to afford these treatments on their own. We get so much joy from being able to share God's love for our ladies in these practical ways.

Our fundraising efforts this year included taking our coffee van to the County and Dounby Shows, a fundraising breakfast at WBC and providing the refreshments at several community events. We also feel very blessed with the donations we have received in 2024.

Looking ahead to 2025, we feel excited about God has in store for Gogo Olive. After 16 years, things don't seem to be slowing down and there is already a lot to look forward to in this coming year. We are incredibly grateful for the support we receive from KBC—both financially and through prayer, this consistent support gives a sense of security to our ladies and allows us to plan for our future with expectation.

Bean Bag Cooker Project: Tanzania (CREATIVenergie)

The very generous gift from Kirkwall Baptist has enabled us to extend our thermal cooker work to Tanzania. This year we have been able to run a trial of the technology in some communities where our partner is doing some other community outreach work.

25 participants, participated in a practical training session to learn about the use and benefits of the Bean Bag Cooker (BBC) including a practical demonstration on how to make one. Each of the four community participants received the BBC they made during the training to take home and test in their daily lives. The project team later conducted follow-up interviews with the participating families to assess the impact and gather feedback on the use of the BBC. These interviews showed significant benefits in terms of energy efficiency, time savings, and overall household convenience.



Some of the participants showing the Bean Bag cookers they made as part of the training at ECHO East Africa, made possible by the Kirkwall Baptist support

Stories from some of the participants

Sion Mollel daughter, proudly demonstrated how her family has been using the fireless bean bag cooker in their home. After starting the cooking process on the LILO rocket stove, they place the pot in the Bean Bag Cooker to finish the cooking. Despite initially doubting the effectiveness of this method, they were pleasantly surprised by the results. The food, from stews to grains, came out perfectly cooked and delicious—"like magic," she remarked with a smile. With a large family, Mrs. Mollel wishes they had a bigger Bean Bag Cooker to accommodate more food at once. Nonetheless, they are thrilled with how the technology has transformed their cooking experience, saving time and fuel, while providing consistently tasty meals



Christina Hillary, the beneficiary and user of WBC, said that the cooker has significantly increased energy efficiency in her family and also given her more time of working on productive activities.

“I use it frequently. At least two to three times every week. Like yesterday morning, I boiled beans on my rocket stove for a while and then I put the pot into the BBC and then attended the group meeting. The moment when I came back in the afternoon, I found it was ready.

This was very helpful because it normally takes a lot of time cooking beans. It saves my time in the sense that once I semi-cook my food I put it in the Bean Bag Cooker and go ahead doing farm activities. The Bean Bag Cooker helps me finishing the cooking. Not only that but it also keeps the food hot and hence it doesn't need to be warmed again. Yes, it saves both money and time because I use less firewood. Firewood and charcoal fuels are very expensive now days. It can increase my income. I was thinking of making several of these stoves and sell to my neighbours and other people because many are interested and would like to get one”



Mrs. Karani, from Legijave village in Arusha, has embraced the new fireless cooking technology that her husband introduced to her. She begins the cooking process using the LILO rocket stove and finishes it in the Bean Bag Cooker. Recently, she cooked a mixture of maize and beans, as well as beans with rice, and was impressed with the results.

She is grateful to her husband for bringing this innovation home and extends her heartfelt thanks to the ECHO and CREATIVenergie family for providing a solution that meets her household's needs. With limited access to firewood, and the high cost of buying bundles when available, the Wonder Bag has become a much-needed alternative. Mrs. Karani notes that not only does this technology save time and money, but it also helps protect the environment by reducing the need for firewood.



New set of Bean Bag cookers developed in October 2024, ready to be promoted and trialed in the community. The project team wish to promote different types and sizes of fireless cookers based on the preferences of users

Next Steps

This project aims to expand the production and distribution of sustainable bean bags tried during phase I of the project. The next stage involves training local entrepreneurs, refining the product based on user feedback, and collecting data to assess the project's impact on community. The ultimate goal is to develop a sustainable business model where local entrepreneurs will manage the production and sale of bean bags, reducing the need for ongoing external funding.

We are also starting to work with Emmanuel International (<https://www.eiuk.org.uk>) and hope to disseminate the Bean Bag cooker and other clean cooking technologies through their ministry.

Other updates

We continue to work with J-life Malwai (<https://www.jlife.org>). The improved cookstove we installed at the School that is part of their ministry work is now regularly used and much appreciated by the cooks (removes smoke from the kitchen and is much more energy efficient - so uses less wood). We are developing plans to extend this to other Schools in Malawi. We also continue to support J-life in the 'light for life' work - bringing power to unelectrified places, that we kicked off the year before with the support of Kirkwall Baptist

Orkney Bible Festival Report by Mervyn Sandison:



We can look back again with thankfulness to God and his people for the three OBF events held during 2024. In the Springtime, Peter Wright from "Growing Young Disciples" brought helpful messages to equip parents, grandparents and indeed anyone who wants to teach the Gospel to the next generation. The congregation at The Life Church provided venue and hospitality with enthusiasm.

Also in the springtime Ian White made a welcome return visit for a concert at KBC. Then in the Autumn it was back to Firth Church for the main OBF event with Jamie Grant as the speaker. Jamie's messages on lament were very relevant to a number of people who have ongoing struggle in their lives. It was also great to have a few new Christians at this years OBF.

Thank you once again to all the individuals and Churches (KBC being one of them) who support the work of OBF financially. All our bills have been paid. Thank you also to everyone who helped in various practical ways.

Looking forward, we hope to have a visit from "The Word one to one" in the springtime and Paul Mallard hopes to be with us in Autumn 2025, God Willing.

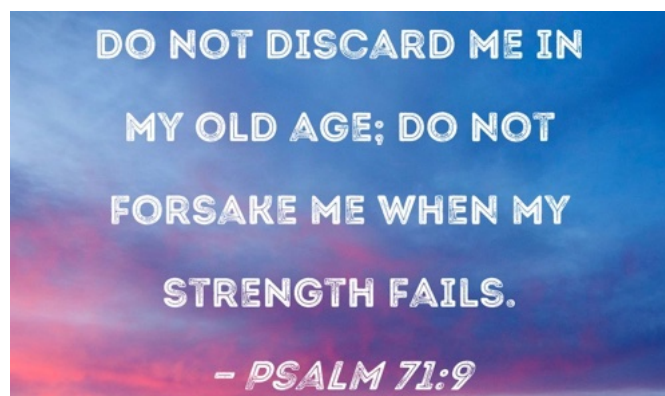
Postal Bible School Report by Eileen Sandison:



Thank you to KBC for your ongoing support for the Sunday School and Bible Class lessons. Sadly, the number of people using them continues to decline. We are now sending out 10 lessons each month to children and adults. Beginning next year, the lessons will be sent out twice yearly rather than monthly. If you know anyone who might benefit from using these lessons, please speak to us.

Thank you!

Services at St Rognvald House and Sunnybrae Centre



Thank you to all who support the ministries to the old and infirm. Services are held at 2:30pm on the first Sunday of the month at Sunnybrae Centre, Eunson Kloss, and on the fourth Sunday of the month at St Rognvald House Old Scapa Road.

Young at Heart Memory Café Report by Liz Bown:



This year saw the 9th anniversary of the Young at Heart memory Café and we have continued to be blessed in many ways, not least our great team of volunteers from this church, other churches and no church. The meetings twice a month continue to be enjoyed by all who attend as we play games, listen to visiting musicians, make craft work and above all build friendships.

Through the years our numbers have varied but at the moment, along with others offering a similar service, our numbers are lower. We have capacity to help more people and we know the need has not reduced. Therefore, we continue to offer love, friendship and informal support to people affected by dementia. This is both people with memory problems but also, importantly, the unpaid carers. Who benefit greatly from making friends with others along a similar journey.

Recently we met Andy who has come to Orkney to work as an Admiral Nurse. We hope to learn from his expertise and hope that he will point people to us who may benefit from what we offer.

Please continue to pray for us, that we can continue to support all the people who attend café including volunteers and visitors, witnessing to them by showing Gods love in action.

Street Pastors Report by Mark Berry:



After 12 years, we continue to patrol the streets of Kirkwall in a team of at least three people on Saturday nights between 10pm and 2am or until the crowd at the harbour end of Bridge Street disperses. We currently have 7 female and 7 male fully trained Street Pastors available for the rota. They are all volunteers and active members of various local churches, including 4 from KBC.

We are currently experiencing problems in having sufficient volunteers to cover every Saturday night. So far this year we were able to cover 33 of the 43 possible patrols. This is very disappointing from our perspective but unavoidable with many volunteers unavailable at short notice due to illness. Please can all at KBC provide prayer into this situation.

We are due to start a recruiting campaign among the various churches but the training programme means that it will be at least 4 months before our numbers could increase. If anyone is keen to find out more about how to be a Street Pastor, please email the coordinator (Barry Cockerham) on orkney@streetpastors.org.uk or speak to Mark Berry, Pat Rowe, Sue Clewett, and Cameron Stout

Good relationships are maintained with the local police. We can respond to situations with which the Police are reluctant to get involved. For instance, we can assist intoxicated revellers to telephone for and get into taxis before they become a nuisance. We provide a very important and necessary shoulder on which people can vent their emotions. We listen, care and help. We continue to value the prayers from all at KBC. We are

confident that our initiative continues to work in God's will and therefore He will provide the necessary funding and personnel to continue to carry out His work.

Our records show that so far this year we have
provided support for 24 people
calmed the situation in 6 incidents before they got out of control
provided basic 1st Aid on 2 occasions
handed out bottled water to 29 people
helped people into taxis on 5 occasions
brought 3 incidents to the attention of the Police.
picked up 560 dis-guarded bottles and glasses – typically about 12 a night
prayed with 12 people
had meaningful, spiritual conversations with 25 people.

Evangelism Report by Fraser Scott:



We ran an Alpha course from January with a group of about 8 people meeting. We also had a fantastic day away, hosted by the Life Centre. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped each week and anyone who provided a pudding. It is the plan to once again begin an Alpha Course in January 2024 with additional plans to run a Youth Alpha at KGS with some of the Youth from Upper Room wishing to organise that so keep them in your prayers as they seek favour from the school and interest by the students. Over the summer months, I have made it a regular occurrence to have the front doors open through the week whenever I

am working at the church. This has led to some great discussions with visitors and locals with many people interested in the building and our church. We also had an excellent Christmas season in December last year. Plans are now underway for this year's events.

Additional Activities

I am continuing with my Studies. This year I have completed a module on the subject of Protestant Reformation and am currently doing "Exploring other faiths". We've also run a few fundraisers with the youth including a recent Quiz Night in aid of Tearfund and a Soup Lunch for Magnitude.

"Good News for Everyone" Report by Rob Proudlove:

GOOD NEWS
for Everyone!
formerly known as **GideonsUK**



When we consider all that the bible means to us, and that there is a growing 'famine of the word of God' in Scotland, it is a privilege to be able to place the scriptures in various places. This year 70 New Testaments were delivered to Stromness Academy and some will be sent to North Isles schools. Sadly KGS remains reluctant to allow access.

Six large print editions were placed in care homes, (in Stromness and Dounby) and a providential opening allowed placement in some Kirkwall holiday lodges. In addition, members have been able to pass on Bibles or Hope Magazines (a production containing John's gospel and extracts from the Psalms) to a number of individuals.

We are part of the Shetland and Orkney branch and the group has had useful presence at various shows and has been contacting Fire Stations. It continues to meet for prayer and planning (we being able to join online).

Please ask the Lord to bless the seed sown, and speak to one of us if you would like to be involved.

Thanks,
Mervyn, Tony, and Rob

Vital Talk Report by Margaret Rendall:



Vital talk has been going through a period of change. In the summer, two of our counsellors finished counselling – one to retire, the other changed to befriending – so that had left us only able to provide a few sessions each week. Thankfully Jamie Firth has now joined us, providing counselling while he completes the final year of his diploma course.

Another development is that Helen Moss (a previous manager) has put us in touch with a Christian counselling service in lowland Scotland that is having to close. One of their counsellors has already contacted us with a view to doing online counselling for us. This is an exciting prospect and we hope to make good use of her services and perhaps others who might come forward too. However we are

still looking for more counsellors locally, either those already trained or people wanting to complete a diploma. The diploma course that we recommend begins again in September 2025 held in Edinburgh and requiring attendance one weekend a month for two years. We would however accept Christian counsellors trained elsewhere.

When we began the service in 2011 about half of our clients were Christians but over the years this proportion has reduced markedly. We would still like local Christian folk to be the prime beneficiaries of our service. There have been times when clients had to wait for many months to begin their counselling but at the moment we have space for clients to start right away. If you know of anyone thinking about having some counselling sessions, this might be a good time to contact us - email enquiries@vitaltalk.co.uk or phone 07510927444 and leave contact details (preferably a phone number).

We thank God for the counsellors that we have, the clients who have been helped and the reputation that has been built up over the years. Please pray for more counsellors to join us. Until now, our counsellors have been volunteers (receiving only expenses) but we may have to consider making payments to them for sessions given – which obviously has cost implications for the service. Grateful thanks to KBC for its ongoing support as we look to the future with its varied challenges.

Orkney Foodbank Report by Alan Scott:



2024 has been another very busy year for Orkney Foodbank. We are a little below last year's record number of vouchers but have had a lot of larger families to help. This has led to us buying in lots of food and in one month we bought in over 50% of the necessary food to fulfil vouchers. We are blessed with a great group of volunteers which helps things go smoothly.

Key Issues

Vouchers. The total number is slightly down on last year but a number of large families have recurring needs. This means that for some, we are into double figures for vouchers. We check with referrers frequently in these cases. Kate also has ongoing meetings with them. Some of these have been and are being referred to the cash first initiative. Almost all vouchers now are e referrals and this helps enormously and makes reporting so much easier.

Staffing

Sadly we have lost Karen due to health issues and so Ray and I share the supervision duties between us with Kate and Linda stepping in if neither of us are available. Two others have also left for college/university and are planning to return. We have one new member of staff too, so overall we are ok. I plan to have a team of five on during December. Linda and Kate are amazing and get through so much work. We couldn't do without them. We also have one or two people who come in in the evening to help with prepacks, isle boxes etc.

Christmas Bags Last year we filled 120 Christmas bags and I expect that a similar number will be required this year. We will start to prepare these from November 19th this year. So far we have been offered help towards our Christmas expenses from 2 local companies and 1 individual.



Other Activities

We continue to attend the YPI charities fair in both Stromness Academy and Kirkwall Grammar School and we get a fair amount of interest from the pupils involved

We continue to provide Tesco/Coop vouchers for our clients (or cash for isles clients), electricity top ups where required. This year we have not had to cut back on this as our finances are in good shape. We have recently agreed to increase the amount for those who use key meters.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Christmas Events Team Report by Claudia Proudlove



Last year we started off our Christmas season with a Prayer and Fasting day on the 1st of Advent which was good, but smaller in numbers. Both the Christmas Nativity Service and Carols by Candlelight Service were well attended and in particular, a lot of visitors came along to the Carol service. One of the attendees also decided to come along to the Alpha course in January. As always the Pyjama Christmas for the kids was a highlight as well as the Ceilidh on Hogmanay. Thanks to all who were involved in the various events and services, we could not do it without you all taking part!

This year, we are thankful again for our great planning team that signed up at the ministry opportunity Sunday. We have Stephanie Krier, Hannah, Paul and Abigail Casey, Hannah Firth, Caroline Christian, Fraser Scott and Elizabeth Bown all helping out with various parts of our Christmas events. We will have an Advent Retreat on Saturday, 30th from 10-12 pm to take time out of our busy lives to prepare our hearts and spend time with God. This year, the Carol Service will be earlier in December – on the 8th of December in order to not compete with other events.

We would all encourage you to invite friends, family and neighbours along. The Nativity and the Christmas Unplugged Service are on December 22nd and the Pyjama Christmas as usual on the 24th. The celebrations will be rounded off with a Ceilidh on Hogmanay. Please join us in

prayer that God will work among us this Christmas and that folk would meet with Jesus Christ as they come and visit our services.



Thank you everyone for your faithful service in all these ministries and more. Please continue to pray!

Phil. 1:3-5 I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...

