

# The Net

The Magazine of Priestfield Parish Church, Edinburgh  
*Living in the Way of Jesus*



Priestfield Parish Church is a Registered Scottish Charity No. SC014499

Web: <http://priestfield.org.uk>

Minister: Rev Donald Scott



*Dear friends,*

It was one of these “in house” magazine pieces. People across the organisation were being asked, “what do you want for Christmas?”

The email pinged into the branch manager’s box. He gave it a quick glance, grunted and fired back -

“a new sports car, a holiday in Barbados, and my golf club fees paid for the year.”

The magazine came out a week later.

Julie in accounts wanted world peace.

Eric in sales wanted to feed hungry children.

Simon in shipping wanted one last conversation  
with his late grandfather.

Ouch!

What do you want for Christmas?

It’s maybe an easier answer this year!

We all want an end to this plague!

We’ve learned all about vulnerability, isolation, frustration and separation.

We know the value of friends and family, and physical contact.

We want things mended!

But what does that mean? Back to normal?

Black Friday fights in supermarkets over TV's?

Youngsters sitting sobbing in the gutter as the Christmas party excesses take their toll?

Family squabbles over whose present costs more?

The message God brought in Jesus was that the world could be different.

That the idea of loving your neighbour wasn't pie in the sky.

That caring, seeking justice and working for peace weren't just nice sentiments for hippies but could change the world.

What do you want for Christmas?

A better, fairer world, where Christ's love is put into action by his followers.....

Oh, and a yacht.... 😊

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year,



## *Christmas Day ~*

We'll be having a very special Christmas celebration this year.

Because of COVID we are doing things differently; but **we can definitely confirm that Christmas is not cancelled!**

We will be having a single on-line worship time for Watchnight and Christmas morning. We'll be posting it around 10:00pm on Christmas Eve (Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>).

So, **join us as we celebrate together**, even if we are physically apart.



# New Year 2021 ~

On Sunday 3 January 2021 we'll be making some special arrangements:

Our on-line service will feature again the Rt Rev Martin Fair, Church of Scotland Moderator.

There will be no service in the church building that day.

Normal service will be resumed the following Sunday, 10 January 2021.



## ~ Christingle 2020 Online ~

**Christingle will be going online during the week before Christmas.** Like everything else this year, it will be different. We can all be involved though.

So, before you watch, you could collect up an orange; a red ribbon, tape or wool; a candle and some cocktail sticks with fruit or sweets.

Now, if you cannot lay your hands on these just **let us know by Friday 18 December at the latest** and we'll drop a Christingle kit in to you at home early the following week. There's only one condition, you need to live in the parish or nearby!



And there's another way to take part too; just watch and see.  
**Sounds interesting, doesn't it?**



**Many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to the recent Gift Day.** Donations received amounted to an astonishing £21,000 which, with the addition of Gift Aid, has produced a total of over £25,000.

2020 had been proving quite a difficult year for us financially. Although most of you have been able to continue with your regular giving, for which we are very grateful, without our usual income from those groups which use the church premises midweek, we were facing quite a large deficit. Thanks to the tremendous success of the Gift Day, however, that

projected deficit has been taken care of and we find ourselves able to carry on with some projects which had been paused during the year because of financial uncertainties.

This is great news indeed. We praise God for his grace and continuing provision at this difficult time.

*Fiona Ferguson and Andrew Steven, Joint Treasurers  
on behalf of the Kirk Session*



# Thank you!

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who gave toys, books or money for the chaplaincy at HMP Edinburgh (aka Saughton Prison).

The chaplaincy will use your gifts to ensure that the children of prisoners receive a Christmas present during this very difficult time for families.



## ~ Priestfield Church ~

### On-line...

- ◆ Weekly on-line worship
- ◆ Fortnightly prayer times



### ...and in the building



Weekly  
Sunday worship  
at 10.30am

## Come along and join us!

**Just ring 07849 352753 the day before  
to let us know you're coming**