

Contact

November 2023 No. 435



The Magazine of Lenzie Old Parish Church

One remarkable thing about the first Christmas is that the Bible prophets describe it in detail hundreds of years beforehand. For example, Micah tells us Jesus will be born in the tiny village of Bethlehem: *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel..."* (Micah 5:2). Just as with all the other Bible prophecies about Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection – this is exactly what happens.

We live in a world of such uncertainty. Our hearts continue to go out to the people of Ukraine as the war with Russia grinds on. None of us knows how it will end. In more recent days, we have been greatly troubled by the Israel-Gaza war and long for it to end. Yet again, the path to peace is far from clear. At a very personal level, in our own individual lives, we just don't know what will happen next. Similarly, as a church, we are living through times of significant change and that can be most unsettling.

How reassuring then it is to know that God, who sent his Son Jesus to be born in Bethlehem, is the God of history and is never taken by surprise. Jesus entered our world of change and uncertainty to be Immanuel, "God with us". God with us whatever we face in this world. God with us till the day we see Him face to face in the world to come.

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

I do wish you a Christmas full of joy and peace and God's blessing in the New Year. May the light of the Prince of Peace shine brightly in our world, and in our lives, today.

Your Interim Moderator and Friend,

Philip

email: PWright@churchofscotland.org.uk

Tel: 07427 623 393

PRAYER GROUP – LENZIE PRAYS

Over the past few weeks people from the cluster group of churches, namely Lenzie Old Parish, Lenzie Union, St. Mary's and St. David's Memorial Park have been meeting at St. David's and participating in a Prayer Course led by Rev. Dan Carmichael (Lenzie Union) and Rev. Ruth Morrison (St. Mary's).

The course is based around the book by Pete Greig "How to Pray". As I write this we are approaching week 6 of the 8 week course and there have been some very interesting and enlightening discussions. The format of the evening is that we watch a video in which Pete introduces a topic concerning prayer, then we form groups to discuss various questions regarding the topic, e.g.

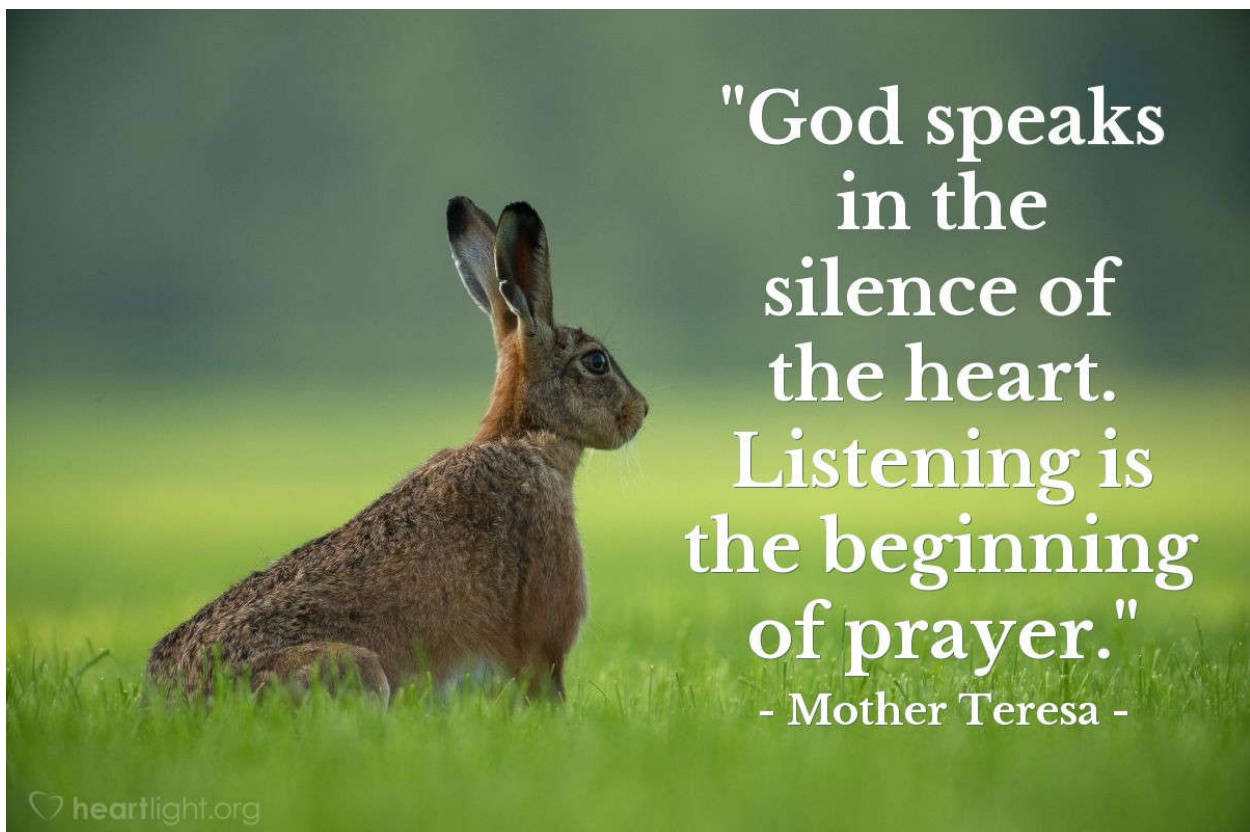
week 5Unanswered Prayer.

There is an index at the back of the book showing 30 Prayer tools and lots of useful resources can be found online as part of the course.

I would recommend this book if you are keen to learn more about praying and enhance your prayer life.

It is also worth noting that meeting together has been beneficial and can only bring strength for the future of our Churches and our Faith.

Liz Laird (Prayer Co-Ordinator)



CONVERSATIONS

"Conversations" has been postponed until the end of the cluster Prayer Course being held in St David's church. Five of us have been taking part in this 8-week course based on the writings of Pete Greig. The course takes the Lord's Prayer as the focus of the video and questions/discussions.

We have all enjoyed this experience and have found it a great opportunity to make new friends and get to know

members of our cluster churches. We have certainly found much to discuss and learn!

Zoom meetings will begin again at the end of the course.

ECO CONGREGATION

Superdrug is no longer taking large quantities of the blister packs. They are only taking small individual household amounts. We will not be collecting any after Sunday 29th October.

Thank you to everyone that has contributed their packs over the last few years.

We will still be collecting dental products.



COME & SING

We are now settled into a busy session. Our attendance is in the upper sixties and for the first time since lockdown we have a care home attending with 5 residents and 2 staff. We also have 2 pupils from Lenzie Academy, who are quickly making friends.

We have had several entertainers recently – including a young piper, our friend John Thomson and most recently “The Nanas and the Papas”. All have been greatly enjoyed.

In September we had a tea party to celebrate the 10th anniversary of “Playlist for Life” and some of the helpers joined in a celebration concert in the Fruitmarket in Glasgow.

An article about the day and our group is now on Playlist for Life website.

“The Happy Songsters” our outreach group, has been busy and has bookings until Christmas, visiting care homes in Stirling, Bearsden and Kilsyth in recent weeks. Our outdoor session at Marie Curie will be remembered for a long time. Lynette and the grand piano made a great impression when we came indoors at the end! Maureen Meredith, one of our committee looks after this team and does a great job getting singers along and organised!

The Willow Tea rooms have again invited us along and we’re looking forward to our visit there just before Christmas.

Lorna recently attended a conference organised by the council to encourage voluntary groups for Seniors in our part of East Dunbartonshire. Lorna has passed on our concerns about parking on a Tuesday. This has been taken on board -watch this space!

We know how much our sessions are appreciated by those living with Dementia and very much so by their carers. This session we have been delighted to welcome some more members of the congregation. We thank those who collect and bring along some members who have mobility difficulties.

We appreciate the work of the volunteers who look after us all working in the kitchen setting up, clearing up and helping to create a welcoming atmosphere. We couldn’t run without them. The afternoons really are a blessing!

Our upcoming dates are

January 9th, 23rd, February 6th, 20th March 5th and 19th.

Do come along and join us. See what it's like, bring a friend, you will be made most welcome.

The Come & Sing Team

COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

Country dancing is a fun night of gentle exercise and the obligatory cup of tea. Members come from the extensive community and are of a wide age range. New members of any gender are welcome.

Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in the new hall.

June Blanchard 0141 779 1706



We've had such enjoyable and varied meetings since we met up at beginning of September. Just recently we attended a production of The Vicar of Dibley in the Turret Theatre. The Kirkie Players put on a great performance.

Soon we will be sharing easy recipes, visiting Lenzie Union Guild, making a Christmas decoration and hosting a Carol Party on 11th December at 7.30. This evening will provide entertainment, singing of favourite Christmas carols and supper. I do hope some of you will join us.

Before we know it, 2024 will have rolled in.
Have a happy Festive Season.

FINANCE

Church organisations please send your completed accounts to Stuart McIntosh for the end of December.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Help get November off to a great start for Lenzie Old Parish Church by signing up to support them for FREE on #easyfundraising. You can raise donations whenever you shop online with over 7,500 brands including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos, M&S and more. This will make a real difference to them during this busy shopping month! Plus, sign up today and you'll also give them an entry into easyfundraising's latest giveaway to win a BIG donation prize:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/lenzieoldparishchurch/B5QC4L/s2s/64wqJEj4/R3015/facebook/>

THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

We continue to meet fortnightly in the Church hall from 2pm till 4pm. Everyone who attends enjoys tea/coffee and homebaking followed by a game of rumikub, dominoes or scrabble or just sits back and chats.

We have welcomed some new people who are now regular attendees and as always we are very grateful to all those who help with the running of the Club and provide transport and baking!

On the 21st December an outside caterer is providing us with a 3 course Christmas dinner in the hall followed by some games, entertainment and finishing with everyone singing Christmas Carols.

Dates for the Club are as follows:-

December 7th and 21st

January 18th

February 1st, 15th and 29th

Everyone is welcome to come along to the Thursday Club and can contact me on 775 1150 for more information.

Mary Calder
775 1150

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Thursday 30th November from 1.30pm.
If you can help please come along.
You will be most welcome.

A big plea is issued for greenery for decorations.

If you need a lift contact
Aileen Tel: 07592029879
aileen.nicol0809@gmail.com



QUILTING AND CRAFT GROUP

The Quilting and Craft group meets every Wednesday.
We have 2 new members and room for more.

The usual time: 10am – 12pm. All welcome.

Elaine Fulton

LODGING HOUSE MISSION “KNIT TOGETHER” PROJECT

The Lodging House Mission is planning a “Knit Together Exhibition” and sale of work at their Carol Service on the 13th December at 2.30pm. The Quilting and Craft Group and members of the church have created a blanket for the exhibition and sale.





10th Anniversary of "Playlist for Life"





*To you and your loved ones
from
the Kirk Session*

Upcoming Services and events

Saturday 2nd December at 5pm
Lenzie Christmas Lights Switch on
gather around Lenzie Old. Refreshments served in
church hall afterwards.

Sunday 17th December at 11am
Choir lead worship in annual Lessons and Carols
service.

Sunday 24th December at 4pm
Christingle service for families.

Sunday 24th December at 11pm
Refreshments served in hall and then at
11:30pm Watchnight Service in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Day Service at Lenzie Union 11am



HOLY LAND PRAYER FOCUS – LENZIE PRAYS

29 OCTOBER – 4 NOVEMBER 2023

As I took a walk this week in the beautiful autumn sun, admiring the wondrous creation we have been gifted from God I became overwhelmed with sadness for the situation in the Holy Land, for the families unable to enjoy this season as they pick through the rubble of their homes and communities.

Join with all of the "Lenzie Prays" Church family and pray this prayer for everyone in the land where our Saviour once walked.

Father of Peace, as war devastates lives in the Middle East, we cry out for your shelter and protection for all involved. Shine Your light of hope on them.

In Your mercy hear our prayers.

Prince of Peace, in the land where you walked, may leaders there sense your peace and bring a speedy and Godly end to this war. Keep safe and strong those who are helping and caring for those affected.

In Your love hear our prayers.

Spirit of Peace, comfort all who mourn, Israelis and Palestinians. Bring healing for all who are injured.

In your Grace, hear our prayers.

God of Peace, rest in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank we pray. Let your tender mercy, unfailing love and grace be the water that soaks these lands.

In your Faithfulness hear our prayers.

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

In Jesus' name we trust and pray. Amen

Are you lost for words over the situation in the Holy Land?

Do you want to pray but are at a loss where to start?

Maybe you would like to pray the same prayers as lots of others on the same day?

If so this Prayer Diary for a week might help

Sunday- O God of all, of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac and Ishmel. Our hearts are broken at the suffering. We cry out to You for peace and justice.

Monday- Pray for comfort for those who grieve. Console and heal the injured. Pray that God will be close to those in fear and to restrain those who perpetrate violence.

Tuesday- Pray for strength for all those who are providing care and aid for all those affected by the atrocities.

Wednesday- Pray for God to put an end to the turmoil and provide some stability in the area.

Thursday- Pray for aid to get to the people who need it and that evacuation camps are safe places.

Friday- Ask God to protect the innocent and vulnerable.

Saturday- Pray Psalm 122 and Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. "May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels." For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say "Peace be within you"

Amen



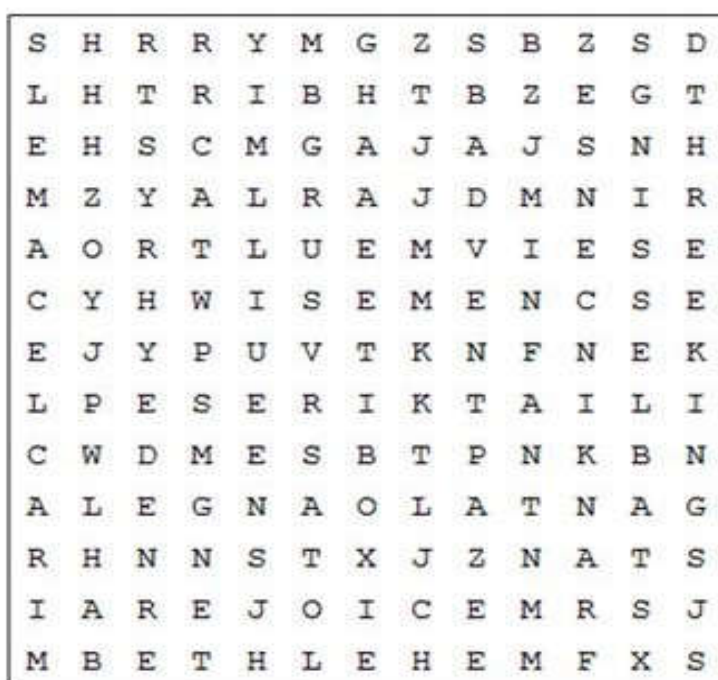
Kirkintilloch Ladies Choir Presents Carols By Candlelight

Monday 11th December 7.30pm
St David's Memorial Park Church.

Tickets Adults £7. Children £3.



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



Presbytery Report for Board/Kirk Session

The meeting was held in Giffnock Orchardhill on 10 October 2023.

Presbytery was constituted by the Moderator and included a reading from Psalm 37 - Exhortation to Patience and Trust of David. This was followed by prayer, including reference to the deteriorating situation in Israel and Gaza. Rev Muriel Pearson (Associate Minister for St Andrew's Church of Scotland in Jerusalem and Tiberias) had been emailed by the Clerk; her reply indicated that, as yet, they had not been told to return to the UK.

The General Assembly had instructed Presbyteries to consider an overture on Confessions of Faith. This overture proposes a substantive change to the confessional basis of the Church of Scotland. Currently, the Westminster Confession of Faith is the sole subordinate standard of the Church. Under the proposal in the overture, there will instead be a Book of Confessions, containing 5 documents from different stages of the Church's history. The vows taken before ordination by ministers and elders will also change to reflect the revised confessional basis. The book will act as a guide and the content are not to be seen as laws.

A video has been prepared which can be viewed on the Church of Scotland YouTube channel at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Cmq_tGmWw

Following representations by several presbyters pointing out that the adoption would lose all connection to the Reformation, an amendment was proposed to include the 'shorter catechism'. It was noted that as the shorter

catechism is not a confession, it required to be an appendix.

The voting on the amendment was FOR 117 and AGAINST 5.

However, when a vote was taken to accept the overture, the vote was FOR 61 and AGAINST 59.

A minister announced that he was leaving the Church of Scotland on 11 November 2023 and would be taking the majority of his congregation with him. A member of his congregation stated that this action was with regret but could not see Presbyterianism in bureaucracy, and the controlling and coercive behaviour of the Church.

The first Soundbite presentation on Safeguarding was made by Rev Adam Dillon, Presbytery, and national Safeguarding Convenor. He outlined the need for caring for the increasing number of children who suffer mental stress. Note should be taken of any signs of financial abuse of a church or group member.

In line with the Church of Scotland advising churches to sell manse rather than renting them, 4 churches, including Lenzie Old, were given permission to sell their manse.

Kings Park Church has been given permission to call a minister but on a reviewable tenure basis. Knightswood churches have been unable to decide which buildings should be kept. Accordingly, an independent group (of 4 people) is to review the situation and report back to Presbytery in May 2024. The first Review date of December 2023 as outlined in the Presbytery Plan, when cluster churches have to decide which buildings should

be kept (that may be all buildings), is unlikely to be met as Presbytery has been unable, despite several appeals, to attract a Convenor.

The speakers at the meeting included a presentation by the Lodging House Mission detailing their new logo and the continued need for volunteers. Thanks were expressed to all the contributors to their Harvest appeal.

Rev Dr Carolyn Kelly, a chaplain at the University of Glasgow, accompanied by the University Chapel choir, outlined her role which dealt with many different student cultural backgrounds. This was interspersed with unaccompanied singing, led by Dr Katy Cooper. Of note was the singing of the Ukraine Kiera.

A Basis of Union leaflet had been made available at the entrance of Giffnock Orchardhill for Carmyle Church, Kenmuir Mount Vernon, Gairbraid and Trinity Possil and Henry Drummond churches. Neither explanation had been given nor the churches concerned consulted. This caused considerable upset; representations were made to the Clerk.

The next presbytery meeting is a conference to be held on Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 7.00 pm in Giffnock Orchardhill. The conference will focus on the work of HeartEdge.

HeartEdge is a network grown from St Martin in the Fields CoE, London. HeartEdge exists 'to help you discover what God is doing in your church and community and equip you to develop your plans to be a transforming presence for good'. Greyfriars Kirk are involved in the HeartEdge network, and Rev Richard

Frazer and Gillian Cooper, from Greyfriars, will lead Presbytery in a conference session. **This conference session is open to all, please do invite others to attend.**

The meeting closed with prayer.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid held an Advent Coffee morning in St Mary's church on Saturday 18th November! In excess of £1200 was raised. Thanks to all who contributed and attended.

Thanks to all who contributed to the retiring collection for Christian Aid's emergency appeal for Libya. £500 was sent from Lenzie Old.

As I said last year, Christian Aid no longer produces the collection boxes we have been using for many years. There are a few still available in the church, but thanks to those who empty and reuse or use a jam jar or make their own -there are labels lying on the table at the front door. Could I ask that you bring along whatever you have before Christmas?

One glance at the news and you will know the awful emergencies that are continuing around the world. It almost seems an impossible task to eliminate the suffering, but we all can do a little to help. I received the email below from Val Brown who is replacing Sally Foster Fulton as Director for Christian Aid in Scotland while Sally carries out her duties as Moderator.

The View From Here

The world has watched in horror at the unfolding events in the Middle East. The horrific attack on Israeli civilians

by Hamas on 7 October and the subsequent siege and bombardment of Gaza have left thousands dead, hundreds forcibly taken, thousands injured, hundreds of thousands displaced and two peoples further traumatised.

Christian Aid has a long history of working in the land we call Holy, with Palestinians and Israelis, with Christians, Jews and Muslims. Working with people who are committed to building a just peace for all, with the people who refuse to 'other' their fellow humans, but rather are willing to do the hard work of community building and peace building.

Having had the privilege of visiting Israel and the West Bank on several occasions, I am continually moved and impressed by the resilience and courage of people working under enormously difficult circumstances to build peace: those living under the rigors of daily occupation, water shortages, movement restrictions and everyday injustices who refuse to be enemies and rather put their energy into supporting those living with even fewer social and economic opportunities in order to keep hope alive. Our Middle East Crisis Appeal is providing much needed supplies to the people of Gaza who are living in unimaginable conditions. We are also exploring how we can offer psycho-social support to people in Israel. With the West Bank also under restrictions, as we turn our thoughts to Christmas and that little town of Bethlehem, it's difficult to shift our focus from the Middle East.

However, we still have a full complement of amazing partner work going on around the world that needs to be celebrated and sustained.

Our Christmas appeal this year focuses on our partner 'Aid Comilla' in northern Bangladesh, who support young women to use the internet to market and sell their products, giving them viable sources of independent income, enabling them to stay in education and avoid marrying young.

Kakoli Khatun (21) is one of those to have benefitted. Following training she's now selling beautiful hand-crafted quilts online. As one of Aid Comilla's 'change agents', Kakoli then recruited and trained nine other women from her village to join her new business. She's passionate about preserving nakshi kantha, the centuries-old Bengali art of quilt making. She said, "nakshi kantha is from an old era. It's getting lost and no one is paying attention. It's very beautiful. If we can make it and sell it, we will earn and it will spread," she said.

Kakoli is now earning a regular income and studying at college: "I didn't have any dreams a few years ago because I didn't have any money to do anything. To do something, I had to ask for money from my brothers and father. Today, I have a dream to grow this business so I can support my parents. I love this work... I have a dream to make this business bigger."

If you are able, please consider supporting Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal, or purchasing one of our charity gifts for your family and friends. Please visit:
caid.org.uk/shine

Thanks for all you do to support our work and I wish you a peaceful Christmas.

Val Brown

May I repeat Val's greetings to all in Lenzie Old. Please remember all who are working for Christian Aid and its partner agencies in your prayers.

Lorna Hall, Coordinator, Kirkintilloch and Lenzie Action Group

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

There are many facets to the Bible Society and many activities and projects taking place both here in Scotland and across the world. Here are two of them.

SHARING THE BIBLE THROUGH THE HORRORS OF WAR.

The Bible Society in Ukraine is bravely supporting Ukrainian people as they seek comfort and encouragement in the midst of the horrors of war.

There is an overwhelming spiritual mobilisation in Ukraine with The Bible Society working with churches and Christian organisations to bring supplies to the frontline areas, offering shelter, support and sharing the Gospel in full confidence that this is the only truth that could guide their nation through their valley of darkness.

There is an unprecedented demand for Bibles. Every day pastors and priests ask for free Scriptures as they reach out to people living next to the frontlines, to the military and their families, and to others across Ukraine.

People are in desperate need of certainty and firm ground - and it is through God's Word that people are receiving this.

BIBLES FOR BAIRNS

Almost 3 in 10 children don't know that the story of Jesus' birth is from the Bible. *

We want to give Scotland's children the opportunity to hear Bible stories from the first year of their lives. That's why we're launching 'Bibles for Bairns' - a programme to give a Bible to babies born in Scotland in 2023.

HOW IT WORKS

- The child will receive a **Share a Story Bible** on their first birthday.
- Each year, we'll send birthday cards and resources to help them engage with their Bible.
- When they turn five, they'll receive a children's Bible to explore with the adults in the family and on their own as they start to read themselves.

Register a baby you know on the Scottish Bible Society website.

Thank you for your support of the Bible Society here in Lenzie. The annual quiz will be out soon!

CONTACT MAGAZINE

Articles for the next edition of contact should be submitted by 7th February 2024. Pictures to accompany the articles will also be appreciated.