



# Ferryhill Parish Church

The Church of Scotland

Christmas Eve  
24 December 2017  
11 a.m.



You are very welcome to Ferryhill Parish Church. Please sit wherever you like. If you are visiting then please sign the visitors' book in the foyer. Children are always welcome and the foyer is available during the service should you wish to use it.

Please note that we are experimenting with live streaming of worship. If you do not wish to be seen on the broadcast stream, the seating below the gallery and in the gallery is beyond the view of the cameras.

Today's worship is led by:

Peter Johnston (Minister) and Mary Whittaker (Auxiliary Minister)  
Margaret Barclay (Reader)  
Kevin Haggart (Organist)  
Doug Guy (Beadle)

The flowers in the Sanctuary are donated this week by the Guy Family.



Gathering Praise      Before the world began      CH 317

Call to Worship:

Leader:      In the beginning, before time was,  
there was the Word,

everything was made by the Word,

**All:      without the Word, nothing existed.**

Leader:      The Word was Life,  
the Word was Light,  
the Word was becoming

**All:      a tiny cry in the darkness.**

Leader:      Eternity stepped into time  
and so was born a baby  
who would live and die for us all,

**All:      our Lord and our Saviour.**

Leader:      Let us celebrate the Word made Flesh...

Praise      Of the Father's love begotten      CH 319

Welcome and Church Notices

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

Praise      The Candles At Advent

*Words: Cecilia Young*

*Music: Peter Johnston*

1.      The candles at Advent as Christmas draws near;  
their strong and unfaltering flames we hold dear.  
And each has a message God's promise reminds,  
in sending our Saviour, whose life to us binds.
2.      The first of the candles brings Hope with its light,  
through times of despair or whatever our plight.  
When reaching to touch its most delicate ray,  
the faithful and trusting through him find the way.

*Light of darkness, Hope is to come,  
for God will send his Son.  
Hope everlasting when he shall come down,  
the long awaited One.*

3. The Love that this candle tells of shall endure;  
is always forgiving, and caring and sure.  
Our Lord is to come and he comes us to lead:  
to teach us to love in our word and our deed.

*Light of darkness, Love is to come,  
for God will send his Son.  
Love everlasting when he shall come down,  
the long awaited One.*

4. Now, Peace is the candle, its elusive flame,  
some search for relentlessly; striving in vain.  
In quiet reflection, considering God's grace,  
then those ever thankful shall surely find Peace.

*Light of darkness, Peace is to come,  
for God will send his Son.  
Peace everlasting when he shall come down,  
the long awaited One.*

5. The light from this candle, emitting great Joy,  
bring thoughts of our Saviour who comes as a boy.  
So let us be joyful, while singing his praise,  
and welcome his coming then follow his way.

*Light of darkness, Joy is to come,  
for God will send his Son.  
Joy everlasting when he shall come down,  
the long awaited One.*

Opening Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come,  
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us the wrong we have done,  
 as we forgive those who have wronged us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from  
 evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power and the glory are  
 yours, now and forever. Amen.

Reading

John 1:1-18

Anthem

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

*Words: Liturgy of St James*

*Tune: French Carol Melody arranged by John L Bell*

Welcome Bunting

Praise

Love came down at Christmas

CH 316

We Believe In A Word

**All: We believe in a word  
 that forms on the lips of the creator  
 and echoes in our souls:  
 a word that is LOVE.**

Male: We believe in a word  
 that breaks the silence of evil  
 and disturbs the noise of ignorance:  
 a word that is LOVE.

Female: We believe in a word  
 that brings life out of death  
 and laughter with the morning:

a word that is LOVE.

Male: We believe in a word  
that tears up the darkness  
flooding it with light:  
a word that is LOVE.

Female: We believe in a word  
that speaks to all loneliness  
with self-giving compassion and care:  
a word that is LOVE.

**All: We believe in a word  
that speaks to our futures  
calling us by name,  
to trust anew,  
and believe once more  
in a word called LOVE.**

The Offering

Offering Praise

○ little town of Bethlehem

CH 304

Act of Dedication

*Please remain standing*

The word became flesh  
and freely offered himself for us.  
○ God, receive our offerings  
given freely by us  
take them and use them  
for the worldwide body of Christ.  
May they be a symbol  
of all that we offer this day  
and always.  
Amen.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

Praise

Hark! the herald angels sing

CH 301

Sending

Leader: God of the Waiting:  
**All: come live with us,  
 show us how  
 to walk bravely  
 and speak boldly  
 wherever we are this week.**

Leader: In the name of God,  
 Creator, Immanuel, Breath,  
 go with God's blessing  
 on this Christmas Eve.

Sung Amen

Amen, amen, alleluia, amen.  
 Amen, amen, alleluia, amen.

## Christmas at Ferryhill

### Christmas Eve

#### Sunday 24 December

6:30 p.m. Christingle Service for families

11:00 p.m. Carol Singing

11:30 p.m. Watchnight Service

### Christmas Day

#### Monday 25 December

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service - a short family oriented service to which children are welcome to bring a present to show.

#### Sunday 31 December

11:00 a.m. Worship for all ages



1. **Sunday Club:** There is no Sunday Club today. We will begin our new term on **Sunday 7 January**.
2. **Christingle Preparations:** Will take place in the **large hall** after morning worship **today**.
3. **Cowdray Club:** Our next service at the Cowdray Club will take place on **Wednesday 3 January** at **11:00 a.m.** The service will be led by Lorna Glen.
4. **Café Connect:** We will resume on **Sunday 7 January** at **6.00 p.m.** in the **foyer**. Please join us for discussion and fellowship.
5. **The Cosy House:** Will be back in action on **Sunday 14 January** at **6.30 p.m.** when we will enjoy fun and fellowship in the **large hall** and **foyer**.
6. **The Big Christmas Card:** Why not support our Christmas Charities, The Living Well Project and the Vine Trust, and pass on good wishes to your friends in the congregation by signing the “Big Christmas Card” in the foyer and making a donation. Many folk find this a suitable alternative to sending individual cards and at the same time helping others in our community and overseas.
7. **Instant Neighbour:** Please continue to bring donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries to support those in need in our community.
8. **Coffee Shop Break:** Our Coffee shop is now closed for the annual break. We will reopen on Monday 15 January 2018. This will allow the team of volunteers , who are on duty once a fortnight, a well-earned two week break. We look forward to welcoming you back after the festive season.



# Useful Information



## Eco-Tip - Clearing up the Christmas Dinner!

After dinner, consider using natural cleaning products that are less harmful on the environment. Reusable cloths that can be put through a rinse cycle can be better than disposable paper towels, especially if contamination with cleaning fluids means they cannot be recycled.

Give some thought to everything you clean from your dinner table – don't just put it all in the general waste bin for landfill, when just a couple of minutes out from your Christmas celebrations could allow much of it to be sorted and put into recycling bins instead.



## Contacts

Please contact the Minister, Rev Peter Johnston, for information about Church Membership, Baptism, or being married in Church, or complete one of the cards available in the Hymn Book and hand it in as you leave.

## Ferryhill Parish Church

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## Minister

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