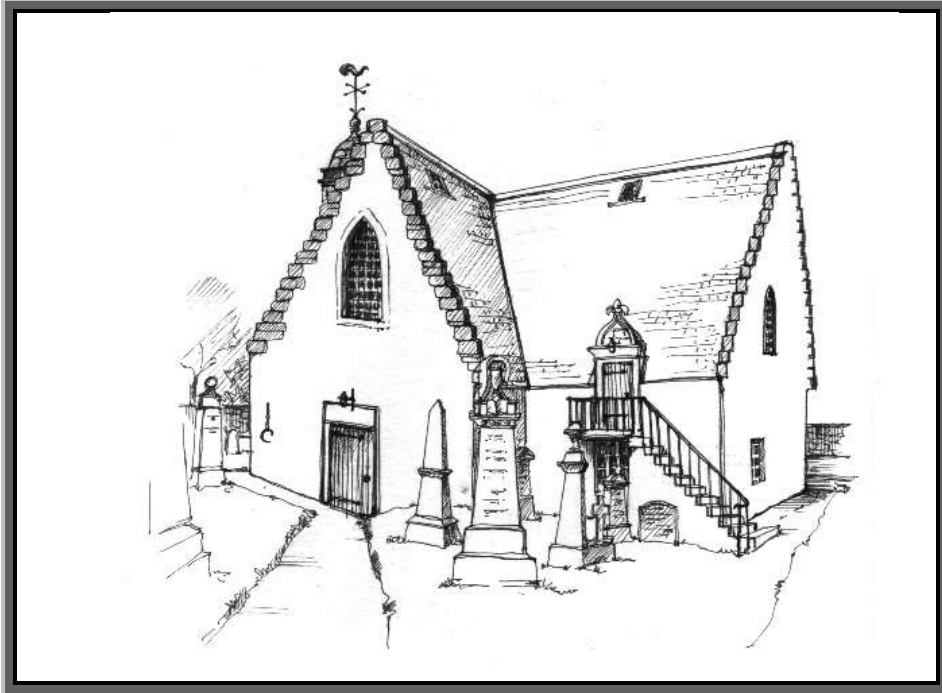


THE COVENANTER

DEC/JAN 2025/2026



FENWICK PARISH CHURCH COMMUNITY



MAGAZINE NO 549

THE COVENANTER DEC/JAN 2025/26

CHURCH SERVICES – SUNDAYS 10.30AM

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Phone no 07881680982

Session Clerk and Roll Keeper: Mr Donald McCorquodale
5 Rowallan Wynd, Fenwick 07917 014021
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The Covenanter can now be found on the internet as part of the Church website at
[http://fenwickparishchurch.org.uk/catgory/the-covenanter /](http://fenwickparishchurch.org.uk/catgory/the-covenanter/)

All copy for the magazine should be received at least two weeks before the first
Sunday of the publication month

Fenwick Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Registered Scottish Charity No
SCO10062

Dear Friends

Don't we all like a good story? It might be an unputdownable book, it might be a gripping box set series on Netflix, it might be the recounting of a hilarious event over the dinner table with family or friends or a favourite bedtime story we get to read to our children or nowadays for me, our grandchildren.

This is the season of stories, throughout Advent and the Christmas season, the greatest story ever told comes into its own and we look forward to all the variations of the story of Jesus' birth, stories told in songs and carols, poems and rhyme, nativity and theatre. We tell these stories dressed for the part, as shepherds, angels and wise men and very occasionally as Mary, Joseph and sometimes as the baby Jesus himself. We love to see the children from the school come into the church to tell the story of the Nativity their way. We listen to accomplished musicians and choirs sing the story in the twinkling lights of a vast cathedral and gathered congregations singing the well loved carols.

This year, on the third Sunday of Advent, the congregation will once more hear the Christmas Story through scripture readings and carols in our Lessons and Carols Service and then on the last Sunday before Christmas we'll gather to worship God in our congregational Nativity Service.

On Christmas Eve, at our Follow the Star service, we'll make our own stars, sing the story in carols, listen to Luke's Gospel and visit the stable by candlelight. Details of all these activities and services are on other pages of this edition of the Covenanter.

One of my favourites is Zechariah's story. He was the husband of Elizabeth, Mary's cousin and the father of John, known as John the Baptist. He was elderly and childless until a visit from the angel Gabriel giving him the news of Elizabeth's pregnancy and the instruction to call his new baby son John, changed their lives for ever. Zechariah was astonished at the words of the angel as he described this new son John, a joy and a delight, great in the sight of the Lord and with the vocation of going on before the Lord, to make ready a people, prepared for the Lord.

Zechariah's story becomes a song when John is born. After most of a year being unable to speak, Zechariah can hardly contain himself and bursts into song in a deep mature voice used to temple worship, (think of Chaim Topol here!). He holds his baby son tenderly and proclaims in song 'and you my child will go before the

Lord to prepare a way for him, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins and to guide our feet in the paths of peace’.

Zechariah is the ‘prequel’ to the main event of the Christmas story but nevertheless, has great meaning and inspiration for all of us, for once more, we are surprised and delighted that it is ordinary, and in this case elderly people who become extraordinary people with an extraordinary experience of life and their own unique part in the Christmas story which becomes our own story as Jesus becomes our own saviour and friend.

This season of Advent, Christmas and the New Year to come, may these wonderful stories from scripture bring warmth, hope, wonder and light to your heart so that you feel the blessing of the presence of the Lord surround you.

I wish you a very Happy Christmas and God’s presence with you as you go into the New Year.

May God bless you and keep you.

Kim

Your locum minister and interim moderator.

Parish News

During the last month, the funerals of Mrs Rae Murray, Mr Watson Muirhead, Dr Fiona Macdonald and Mr Davie Morton all took place.

May they all rest in peace and marvel at the Lord’s glory.

Kilmarnock & District History Group

December talks: Thursday 4th Dane Love “Old Roads of Ayrshire”

Thursday 20th Barbara Graham “Polar Explorers”

Meet in the Ayrshire College in Hill Street, Kilmarnock. 7.30 – 9.00pm. All welcome. Non members - £5 per night

Musicians and Minister at the Hallhouse Service of Remembrance



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Church Duties for Dec 2025 and January/Feb 2026

Beadles		Finance Team		Welcome Team	
December		December		December	
7	G Watt	C McInnes		I Wotherspoon	
14	J Logan	J Bryson		S Murray	
21	K Geddes	S Greer			
28	K Wadsworth				
January		January		January	
4	W McNab	J Bowes		G Watt	
11	G Watt	A Borthwick		M Young	
18	J Logan				
25	K Geddes				
February		February		February	
1	K Wadsworth	T Geddes		N Shanks	
8	W McNab	K Geddes		A Naismith	
15	G Watt	M Anderson			

Flowers		Tea & Coffee	
December		December	
7	Janet Park	John Douglas & Lynn Smith	
14	Syllvia Murray	John Logan & Nora Shanks	
21	Mary Howie	Nan Tivendale & Averil Murray	
28	Lesley Hamilton	Robert & Janette Dunlop	
January		January	
4	Averil Murray	Alastair & Anne Naismith	
11	Angela Welsh	Anne Borthwick & Sheena Greer	
18	Mary Templeton	Catherine McInnes & Janet Park	
25	Jean Brown	Catherine McInnes & Moira Anderson	
February		February	
1	Anne Borthwick		
8	Janet Park		

If you would be willing to join the flower rota for Church services, please contact Janet on 01560 320730

Reading and Prayer Rota Dec/Jan/Feb

December	Reading A	Reading B	Prayer
7	Anne Naismith	Alistair Watt	Donald McCorquodale
14	Lessons and Carols		
21	Nativity		
28	Irene Couper	Averil Murray	
January			
4	Martha Speirs	John Douglas	George Seaton
11	Janette Dunlop	Lesley Hamilton	
18	Nora Shanks	Gordon Watt	Mark Young
25	Irene Couper	Alistair Watt	
February			
1	Donald McCorquodale	Lesley Hamilton	Anne Naismith
8	Alastair Naismith	Averil Murray	



The Shepherds and the Angels (Luke 2: 8 – 20)

There were shepherds taking care of their flocks at night. An angel appeared to them and told them not to be afraid as he brought good news. **“This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born – Christ the Lord”**

They would find the baby wrapped in cloth, lying in a manger. Suddenly many angels appeared, singing praises to God. **“Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased”**

The angels left and the shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem. They found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. The shepherds returned, praising God for all they had heard and seen.



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line at

**[fenwickparishchurch.
org.uk/the_covenanter](http://fenwickparishchurch.org.uk/the_covenanter)**





Fenwick Garden Club

We were delighted to welcome David Blatchford to the Garden Club on Thursday evening. David is an acknowledged photographer from Ayr Photography Club and is also the official photographer for Scotland's Garden Scheme. After giving a potted history of the Garden Scheme, David went on to entertain us with amusing anecdotes. He included a wonderful photographic tour of many of the beautiful gardens which open their gates in Ayrshire including the Open Gardens in Fenwick in 2021. He also shared photographs, interesting facts, and care advice about the myriad of exotic plants in his own "Jungle Garden" in Dalrymple.

There will not be a meeting in December. Our next get together will be the **Burns Supper on Thursday 15th January 2026 in the John Fulton Hall, Fenwick at 7.30pm.**

Tickets are available for members, friends and family at a cost of £27 per head and include a 2-course meal, tea and coffee. You are invited to Bring Your Own Bottle. The musical programme will be provided by members of the Aeolian Male Voice Choir who never fail to provide an entertaining and jovial repertoire

Anyone wishing to purchase tickets should contact Lena Baird, Garden Club Secretary at FenwickGC@outlook.com

We would be delighted to welcome new folks to the Club. No need to be an expert gardener but if you enjoy learning and hearing about gardens and planting, it is a friendly group with time for teas, coffees, and chat at the end!

Activities during this season of Advent and Christmas

Saturday 29th November 5pm onwards: Light Up Fenwick, gather with lanterns at the Church Hall



Sunday 30th November 10.30am: First Sunday in Advent

Thursday 4th December 3pm: Carol Service at Hallhouse

Thursday 4th December 4.30pm Carols round the Christmas Tree in the Hareshaw Community Hall Waterside.

Friday 5th December: Fenwick School Christmas Fayre

Saturday 6th 2 - 4pm : Hallhouse Christmas Fayre



Sunday 7th 10.30am Second Sunday in Advent

Monday 8th 10am: School Nativity in the church

Wednesday 10th 10am: School Nativity in the church

Thursday 11th 6pm: School nativity in the church

Sunday 14th 10.30am Advent 3 - Service of Lessons and Carols

Tuesday 16th 2pm: Fenwick Guild Christmas Party

Sunday 21st 10.30am Advent 4: Nativity Family Service

Wednesday Christmas Eve 6.30pm: Follow the Star Family Service

Thursday Christmas Day 10.30am: Christmas Day Celebration Service

Sunday 28th 10.30am: Christmas Story Service



Can you remember the year when these Christmas songs were first hits?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 White Christmas | Bing Crosby |
| 2 Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer | Gene Autry |
| 3 Jingle Bell Rock | Bobby Helms |
| 4 Rocking around the Christmas Tree | Brenda Lee |
| 5 Merry Christmas Everybody | Slade |
| 6 A Wonderful Christmas Time | Paul McCartney |
| 7 Last Christmas | Wham |
| 8 Merry Christmas Everyone | Shakin' Stevens |
| 9 Mistletoe and Wine | Cliff Richard |
| 10 All I want for Christmas is you | Mariah Carey |

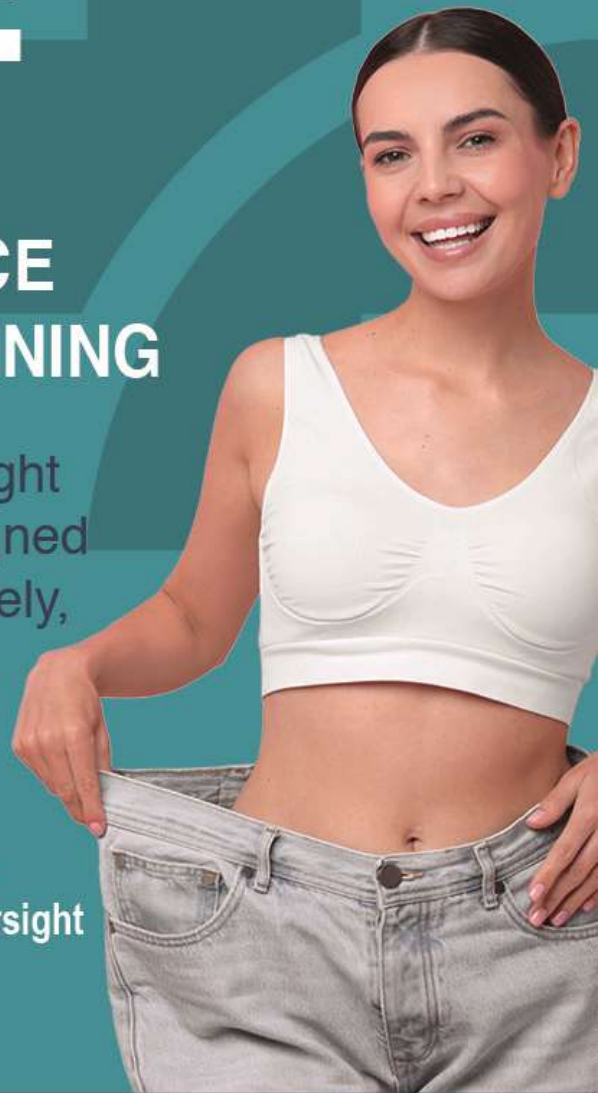
Answers later

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What lies around the Corner

What lies around the corner?
From here I cannot see
The promise of a hope fulfilled
Could be awaiting me!

I sit and gaze upon this scene
The sea so blue and cold
I think about my life thus far
And stories yet untold

Out on the far horizon
A golden ball of light
As winter sun sinks slowly
A truly wondrous sight

White clouds illuminated
As rays shine from below
Each fluffy mass reflecting
A peachy, luminous glow

The calming power of Nature
Can always soothe and heal
December breeze upon my face
I now begin to feel

And so I rise and pray to God
That I might understand
The power that rules the rushing tide
That crashes on the sand

I pray that He will lead me
And guide my steps each day
Deliver me from darkness
Into the sun's bright rays.

KG

This poem was inspired by a walk along the prom at Troon on Christmas Eve a few years ago

December
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SAVE THE PLANET



This planet is rich with vibrant plant life but littering is destroying our wildlife

In Fenwick we have lots of lovely greenery including The King George Playing Field, the Fenwick Primary School garden and the big, beautiful trees and the gorgeous green grass in the park. But sadly, all these natural-filled places are dying because people are littering which makes all the plastic affect our plants and that can reduce growth and nutrient absorption, while other waste can release toxins that poison plants. This is a problem because it doesn't just affect plants; it also affects our ecosystem, air, water, and soil.

So, you may think one person can't change something as big as this, but every person counts. So, make your change today by putting your litter in the bin. Jessica and the Fenwick eco volunteers



Newsflash from Fenwick Primary Parent Council!

School Christmas Fayre on Friday 5th December 9.15am - 12.15pm!

Stallholders are warmly welcomed; please get in touch at eafenwick.ps@eastayrshire.org.uk if you'd like to take part.

Fenwick SWI

On the 13th November we had a most interesting slide show and talk by Terry Wright on the Commonwealth War Graves.

Norma Barr won the prize for a handmade poppy, Margaret Dykes came second, and Irene Currans was third.

Norma Barr also won the competition for her old coin, which dated back to the early 1800s, Lorraine Smith came second and Marjory Seaton third.

Our Christmas lunch outing is to Caulders Garden Centre at 12.30pm on Thursday 11th December

On Thursday 8th January we will have a talk and slide show by Whiteleys Retreat.

The competitions are “a new year resolutions” and an embroidered article. Old and new members are most welcome to our meetings which start at 1.30pm in the Church Hall.

Stewarton History Group

Monthly talks are held at **2pm in the Stewarton Area Centre** on the first Tuesday of the month.

Tuesday 2nd December Robert Watt (Past & Present) “Basic, Better, Best”

Members £1 Non Members £4

Covenanter Deadlines for Contributors

2026

Sunday 18th January for the February Covenanter

Sunday 15th February for the March Covenanter

Sunday 22nd March for the April Covenanter (Easter is 5th April)

Sunday 19th April for the May Covenanter

Sunday 24th May for the June/July/August Covenanter



The Gift (A prayer of Thanks)

Thank you for the gift of TODAY
The pleasant things it brought my way
The countryside and good, fresh air
Companionship of those who care

Thank you for the gift of LIFE
The troubled times and all the strife
For without these we would not learn
How to laugh and love again.

Thank you for the gift of FRIENDS
True bonds formed will never end
For all the things we cannot buy
Be truly grateful – always try

Thank you for the gift of LOVE
Blessings showered from above
Sometimes they may come in disguise
This we don't always realise

Thank you for the gift of GRACE
When we look upon God's face
He walks with us and holds our hand
Footprints beside us in the sand

Thank you for the gift of PRAYER
Communion with God that we can share
Send healing balm to those in need
In quiet moments, thoughts and deeds

Thank you for the gift of PEACE
In midst of turmoil, find release
From pain and worry, doubt and fear
As we approach another year

Hall Booking December 2025*

DAY/DATE	HALL	TIME	EVENT
<i>Sundays:</i> ALL ALL	Guthrie Paton	11.30 – 12.30pm 11.30 – 1pm	Tea and Coffee Count Team
<i>Mondays</i> 1 1, 8,15	Paton Guthrie	7.00 – 9.00pm 9.30 – 11.30am	Kirk Session Mothers& Toddlers
<i>Tuesdays:</i> 2,9 16	Paton Guthrie	12 – 4.00pm 2.00 – 4.30pm	Warm Space Fenwick Guild Christmas Party
<i>Wednesdays:</i> 3, 10 3 3, 10, 17	Guthrie Paton Guthrie	10 – 12noon 2.00 – 4.30pm 6.30 – 8.00pm	Badminton Bowling Club Whist Tai Chi (TBC)
<i>Thursday:</i> 4,11,18	Guthrie	4.00 – 6.30pm	Jam Street Dance Class
<i>Fridays</i>			
<i>Saturdays:</i>			

At 23.11. 25 Bookings taken after this date not shown.

- To enquire about booking the halls, phone Irene Couper (01560 600520) or email irenecouper@btinternet.com

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Moscow SWI

At the November meeting, Jodie McFarlane warmed up the Hogg Hall with her talk on her charity the "Night before Christmas" charity. Jodie is director of the charity, aka chief elf, and she told the story of how the organisation has grown over the last ten years or so from donating 90 boxes to over 8,000.

The scope has widened from gifts at Christmas (for children and adults) to providing Christmas jumpers, warm coats and Halloween costumes so children do not miss out on school activities. There is also baby equipment for new arrivals.

All the volunteers, who range in age from primary school to 90+, with their many talents, organise and transport the gifts around Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway and Glasgow. Apart from giving new items, money donations can be made and items can also be chosen from the charity's Amazon wish list making it easy to contribute.

Vice President Christine Taylor, standing in for President Mai Lawrence, gave the vote of thanks. Vanda and Marian distributed tea and coffee and the scrumptious cakes were provided by Anne and Catherine.

The competition results are as follows:-

Best wrapped present

1 M Cunningham, 2 Christine Taylor, 3 Catherine McInnes

Article beginning with "U"

1 V McTaggart, 2 M Seton, 3 M Cunningham.

The last meeting of the year is on **Monday 1st December, 2pm in the Hogg Hall, Galston, when Robert Struthers will give a demonstration on Christmas wreath making**

The competitions will be "favourite Christmas decoration" and an article beginning with "V".

The January meeting is on Monday 5th at the Hogg Hall at 2 pm

Anne Walker will be giving a baking demonstration and the competitions will be 3 pieces of traybake and an article beginning with "W".

Fenwick Bowling Club held their November whist drive in the Paton Room, within the Church Hall, due to upgrading work being done in the clubhouse. Marilyn Morton was cardmaster and ladies secretary, Nancy Shanks, drew the raffle and presented the prizes.

The whist winners were –

Pink cards 1st Nan Tivendale; 2nd Frances Thomson; 3rd(equal) Jean Caldwell and Margaret Woodburn; booby Margaret Donaldson.

White cards 1st Margaret Paterson; 2nd J Murdoch; 3rd T Paterson; booby Jean Cuthbertson.

The work in the clubhouse is going well, but there is still painting to be done and cleaning, so the **December whist** will be held in the Paton Room again on **Wednesday, 3rd December at 2pm**. All are welcome. If you require any information, please contact Marilyn on 07811530476.



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Where in the world are you if you hear the following on 25th December?

- A Joyeux Noel**
- B God Jul**
- C Feliz Navidad**
- D Wesolych Swiat**
- E Buon Natale**
- F Nadolig Llawen**
- G Frohe Weihnachten**
- H Vrolijk Kerstfeest**
- I Feliz Natal**
- J Boldog Karacsony**

You might be in Berlin, Paris, Budapest, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Warsaw, Lisbon, Madrid, Cardiff or Rome

Answers later

Share Your Skill: Help Us Plan Our 2026 Taster Sessions!

The John Fulton Hall is the heart of our community, and we want to fill it with fun, friendly activities throughout 2026! We're planning to host a series of **taster sessions**—short, casual events where neighbours can get together, learn something new, and connect.

But we can't do it without you! Are you a master baker, a crafting wiz, a keen gardener, or just someone who loves organising a good chat?

We need volunteers who are willing to **lead a session** in 2026. This could be anything from hosting a **Coffee Morning** to leading a simple **Craft Workshop**. It's a chance to share your passion and help bring a smile to your neighbours' faces!

If you'd like to get involved and help shape our 2026 schedule, please **send us a message** with your idea! Let's make our Village Hall a hub of activity next year.

What kind of taster session would YOU love to see in 2026? Tell us by emailing Donna@fenwickCl.onmicrosoft.com
Or find us on Facebook.

Fenwick Community Initiatives is a Scottish Charity - SC051347 - regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

Fenwick Guild

After an excellent craft session at our October meeting, the results of our labour can be viewed in the lobby of the Church hall. Please feel free to drop in and admire our work. Thanks to everyone who helped with or supported the Guild Church service.

Our members' Christmas Party is on 16th December at 2pm in the hall. Tickets are £5. There will be games, Secret Santa, a raffle and a special afternoon tea - so don't eat too much before you come!

Secret Santa gifts should not cost a lot but please wrap them in Christmas paper to differentiate them from normal raffle prizes. We will also be collecting our annual subscription of £20.

Our first meeting in 2026 will be held as usual in the Church hall on 27th January when Donald McCorquodale will be telling us about his time in Texas.



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- **Phone:** [07760 665440](tel:07760665440)
- **Email:** alistair@kilmarnockfootclinic.co.uk

Hall Booking January 2026*

DAY/DATE	HALL	TIME	EVENT
<i>Sundays:</i> ALL ALL	Guthrie Paton	11.30 – 12.30pm 11.30 – 1pm	Tea and Coffee Count Team
<i>Mondays</i> 12, 19,26 12, 19,26	Guthrie Guthrie	9.30 – 11.30am 5.00 – 7.30pm	Mothers& Toddlers Exercise Class
<i>Tuesdays:</i> ALL 27	Paton Guthrie	12 – 4.00pm 2.00 – 4.00pm	Warm Space Fenwick Guild
<i>Wednesdays:</i> ALL ALL	Guthrie Guthrie	10 – 12noon 6.30 – 8.00pm	Badminton Tai Chi (TBC)
<i>Thursday:</i> 9 ALL	Guthrie Guthrie	1.30 – 3.30pm 4.00 – 6.30pm	Fenwick WI Jam Street Dance Class
<i>Fridays</i>			
<i>Saturdays:</i>			

At 23.11. 25 Bookings taken after this date not shown.

- To enquire about booking the halls, phone Irene Couper (01560 600520) or email irenecouper@btinternet.com

Answers to Christmas Hits Quiz

- | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|
| 1 1942 | 5 1973 | 9 1988 |
| 2 1949 | 6 1979 | 10 1994 |
| 3 1957 | 7 1984 | |
| 4 1958 | 8 1985 | |

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- **Email: info@sunshine-electrical.co.uk**
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If you are new or not so new to the village, please consider joining us at the church services during Advent. You will be warmly welcomed and invited to share this special time with your friends and neighbours. Please come!

Where in the World Answers

A France B Sweden C Spain D Poland E Italy F Wales
G Germany H Netherlands I Portugal J Hungary

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Fenwick Guild	Irene Couper	01560 600520
Fenwick SWI	Martha Speirs	01563 524466
Moscow SWI	Catherine McInnes	01560 700283
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Fenwick Garden Club	Tricia Woodward	07789 717939
Badminton Club	Steve Beeley	07415214790
Fenwick Carpet Bowling Club	George McGavin	01560 600225
Fenwick Bowling Ladies	Marilyn Morton	01560 600650
Fenwick Bowling Gents	George Seaton	01560 600039
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Fenwick Farmers	Martha Speirs	01563 524466
Fenwick Community Council	Irene Wilson	01560 600771
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Fenwick Taekwondo Club	Gavin Butler	07779013971
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MSP	Willie Coffey	01563 537300
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	Ellen Friel	01563 576043
	Stephen Canning	07717440992
	John McGhee	01563 576057
East Ayrshire Council		01563 576000
Police		101
Fenwick Junior Church	Susan Wadsworth	01560 485439
Fenwick Church Choir	Alistair Peter	
Fenwick Pharmacy	Ash Ahmed	01560 600639
Fenwick Tennis Club	Angus Rodger	01560 600592



Happy New Year 2026

