

newrestalrig

an evangelical church of scotland

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2006

FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time for giving. Paul writing to the church in Corinth put it like this, 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich' (2 Corinthians 8;9). Jesus came to give.

There is a great hymn by Frank Houghton, which begins:

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake becamest poor.

This is the grace of Christ. This is Christmas. And if we understand anything of what God has done in Christ then we cannot help but be generous ourselves. Christmas is always a time for giving. It must be. It is a time for emulating however weakly and feebly, the unspeakable generosity of God's gift to us – the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us.

This year our Gift Day will be on Sunday 17th December. It is a special opportunity to give to God and to the work of his church and to acknowledge God's goodness to us. I suppose that theologically speaking Christmas is the right time of year to review our giving and to thank God for his indescribable gift.

In His Service,
David Court

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

17th December

11.00 AM

Christmas Family Service

17th December

6.30 PM

Carol Service

24th December

11.00 AM

Christmas Eve Worship

24th December

11.15 PM

Christmas
Watchnight Service

25th December

11.00 AM

Christmas Day Worship

We are sharing our Christmas Services with our neighbours at Holyrood Abbey. All the services will take place at New Restalrig. The preaching and worship leading will be shared by both churches.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Saturday 16th Dec.

3pm-4:30pm - Christmas party for all the children

(C4U Club and Sunday Club)

4:30pm - Parents are invited to join us at the end of the party for the singing of carols.

Sunday 17th Dec.

11am – "The Gift" Family Service

We look forward to seeing you at our Family Service where the children will be singing the songs they have been practising on Sundays after Salt Club and on Thursdays at C4U Club.

Bible Alive!

Bible Alive has been taken into three schools during the past month. Four one hour presentations covering the Old Testament were given in Abbeyhill Primary School, Roseburn Primary School and Blackhall Primary School.

The pupils ranged from P3s and 4s(7-8 year olds) in Roseburn to P6s and P7s(10-11year olds) in Abbeyhill and Blackhall.

Altogether nearly 180 children took part in the programme.

Feedback from the schools has been very positive and an invitation has been extended to return in the Spring to present the New Testament.

The success of this outreach has depended on a team approach and I am deeply indebted to the wonderful support of many individuals. I would like to express my thanks firstly to those who have remembered Bible Alive in their prayers. I know that this has been vital and has carried us through some quite challenging situations.

My thanks also go to Claudencia who has been by my side at every presentation. Her presence has been a reassurance and a blessing. I have also had the help of Peggy Gibson, a former member of our church family here at New Restalrig. I am delighted to say that Peggy is committed to taking presenter training in the Spring and is starting to look for schools where she can take Bible Alive.

The programme is greatly enhanced by the fantastic models produced by Alan Jeffreys, incredibly grand costumes made by Margaret Bennett and Kay Randall, along with superb graphic illustrations by Martin Hensey. My sincere thanks to them for such tremendous efforts.

The tedious job of cutting out the figures for my flannelgraph presentations has been shared by Barbara Ritchie, Betty Munro, Tina Gladden and Rebecca McCombe. Having spent hours cutting out the figures for just one presentation I was immensely grateful to have help with the rest of the cut-outs.

I do hope I haven't forgotten anyone and if I have please accept my apologies. It has been so very encouraging for me to have had so many people supporting this work.

I would ask for your prayers for the work to grow in the city, for more people to come forward for presenter training and for churches to see the potential of using Bible Alive as part of their outreach in their neighbourhood.

Please pray also that more schools would be willing to allow Bible Alive to be presented to their pupils and that those who have had the experience would spread the word.

Agnes C. Guthrie

BOARD BUSINESS

The following matters were discussed and decisions taken as appropriate at the meeting of the Congregational Board on 5th September 2006.

Approval was given to proceed with the plans drawn up by Grant Bulloch for the new kitchen. As it will extend into the present Church Centre area it was decided to include work in the Centre itself such as the lowering of the Centre ceiling and provision of new lighting. Removal of the present office walls is to be considered once a costing has been made. Advice is to be sought regarding the renovation of the Upper Hall floor which is showing significant signs of wear.

The Communication and Presentation Group (CAT) was given permission to go ahead with plans for a purpose built cabinet to house the sound and projection technology held at the back of the sanctuary, and to have an electric drop down screen installed in the Upper hall.

Church Officer: In an attempt to tighten up on security on the premises John Norrie has been appointed to oversee the work of Church Officer. He has taken over the Sunday duties and will be responsible for seeing that a designated person has accepted the task of opening and closing of the halls each day. General maintenance also comes under his remit and to this end a maintenance book has now been set up into which you are invited to enter any fabric problems that you are aware of.

Church Cleaner: Our Brazilian cleaner, Marcia, has returned home and in her place we now have another Brazilian worker. Dulce is a missionary studying English here in Edinburgh. She will be responsible for the cleaning of the premises on a Saturday.

An extraordinary meeting of the Board was held on 1st October. Two matters were discussed.

Kitchen – A costing for the extra work involved in demolishing the present office was presented to the Board. The decision was then taken to go ahead with this and include it in the work of renovation.

Treasurer - The Board accepted the nomination of Mrs Carolyn Higgins for the position of Treasurer. Carolyn has agreed to take up the post immediately and we offer her our grateful thanks and support. Once again the Board wishes to express its sincere thanks to Jimmy Brown for his work as Treasurer and for his patience during these months while a new Treasurer was sought.

A.C.Guthrie
(Clerk to the Board)

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

The Bible tells us

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”. Col.3:17

Thinking about what the Bible teaches us and with heartfelt thanks to God for what He had done for us, a total of 134 Christmas Shoeboxes of presents were sent via the organisation “Samaritan’s Purse” to poor children in different parts of the world who would otherwise have no gifts this Christmas. For us it was a privilege to be part of this project for the third time. I would like to say thanks to everyone who contributed. God bless you.

I wish you God’s blessing at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Claudencia Piedade

This thank you letter came from
“Samaritan’s Purse”

Dear Claudencia

Please pass on a huge thank you to members of your church for donating gift filled shoeboxes to our appeal again. This year the boxes are going to the Ukraine, leaving early December to reach the children in time for Christmas.

In September I was in Simferopol – Crimea and met many of the children who will be receiving your boxes. Some were in a City Shelter for street children, other in an orphanage. I can assure you they will be absolutely delighted with their gifts.

Kind regards

June Vasey

Area Co-ordinator for Samaritan’s Purse
International Relief Aid.

ASSEMBER, BRAZIL CHRISTMAS CARD APPEAL

Instead of the members of the church family giving out large bundles of Christmas cards to others in the church in the weeks before Christmas, you are all invited to take one of the Christmas cards provided in the church and put them up on the display at the back of the sanctuary with your own Christmas message. Donations can be left in the box and will be sent to Brazil to Help with the Assemer Project. Last year we sent nearly £500 To Assemer from the Christmas Card appeal.

JANUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

Submissions for the January Newsletter should be sent to David Urminsky at 01314673319 or editor@newrestalrig.com by no later than 27th December.
