

PULSE

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Christmas 2021



Jesus

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

It's not very often we get something for nothing and when we get such an offer we tend, most of us anyway, to be suspicious, conscious always of the



old adage, "there's no such thing as a free lunch."

Well, I reckon we have seen something of a first in that we all got something free from the government in the form of a "spend local" card. It comes down of course to the extraordinary times we have lived through.



The principle is sound, to encourage us to spend locally and help small businesses, particularly those heavily affected by the Covid-19 crisis. Good news for traders and the public alike.

We are told of course never to look a gift horse in the mouth so honestly; this is good news but, is it the best news?



The time is fast approaching when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. I've already seen at least one Christmas tree in a home and by the time you receive the Pulse Magazine for this quarter your preparation may be well underway, in fact, you may be sitting reading this in the light of your Christmas tree.



It's not uncommon for us to think and speak about the coming of Jesus as representing God's gift to humanity but it really signifies the gift of grace, "*good will toward men*" which was the conclusion of the angels' message.

In the same way as the "Spend Local" card was a gift probably never to be repeated, so we have but one opportunity to receive the gift of eternal life freely offered in the gospel.



That is why there is always some urgency in the Bible, an encouragement to receive salvation for it will not always be offered.



The writer of the letter to the Hebrews puts it well:

"So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it. For the message God delivered through angels has always stood firm, and every violation of the law and every act of disobedience was punished. So what makes us think we can escape if we ignore this great salvation?"

Hebrews 2 vs 1 - 3
(New Living Translation)



I trust that you and your loved ones enjoy a peaceful and blessed time together this Christmas season.

Greetings from our family to yours.

Your pastor and friend,

Robert Beggs



SPECIAL SERVICES

19 December @ 4.30pm

Family service

25 December @ 10am

Christmas Day service

26 December @ 11am

Boxing Day service

2 January @ 11am

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

6 March @ 11am

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

We plan to undertake our annual outreach to the local shops and businesses in December to thank them for their contribution to our local community. If you can help with donating some shortbread we would really appreciate that support.

Please let me know if you can donate shortbread or wish to assist with the distribution.



Many thanks.

Linda Wray
07933 278626

ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

Transformers

On Thursday 4 November 2021 Transformers met in the church for the first time in 20 months. Even though we were keeping in contact via Zoom it's not the same as seeing the children in person. It was such a lovely evening for the leaders and children to come together to thank God for his faithfulness.



Though our evening is slightly different as there are still guidelines we have to adhere to, the children enjoyed themselves. Each week is different because we might have games, a craft or a quiz, but the one thing we do each week is have a Bible story and prayer. We are mindful that some of the children don't necessarily hear the word of God, which makes it even more important that they do at Transformers.



It won't be long until Christmas, only a few weeks. This is the time that we tell the story of Jesus' birth and why we celebrate Christmas. Our last night is also party time when they get something nice to eat and drink and of course get a selection box to take home.



We hope to start back in January for our 2022 session. If the congregation could pray for the children that would be great. Jesus loves the little children.

Heather Sergeant

Storehouse

The work of the Storehouse continues as usual, thanks to everyone who supports this outreach either by donating food or money. As we approach the Christmas season it is important that we remember these families who are facing difficulties in providing food and heat at this time.



If you wish to support this work, donations including Christmas related items such as selection boxes, candy canes, crackers and gingerbread men can be left in the halls complex Monday to Friday between 10am and 3.30pm. It is very much appreciated by those who receive it.

Alan Bousfield

Senior Members' Fellowship

Although we're still apart and not meeting just yet, our members are very much in our thoughts and prayers. We give thanks to God for his faithfulness and protection over the long, challenging months since we last met.



As we approach the Christmas season, we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Saviour. Now there's a reason for joy! Even though we still can't meet in person, we're planning to call with our seniors with gifts in early December.



The big news is that we are planning to welcome all our members back to 'the meeting' on Tuesday 11 January at 2.15pm.

We'll still have to adhere to all that keeping safe will involve by then, but we have so much to catch up with! Imagine all the stories and news to be shared - how we kept ourselves safe, who we kept in touch with and prayed for and how we cared for each other. So much to talk about and there'll be lots of time for that as we enjoy a cup of tea and treats that afternoon.



From everyone on the committee of the Senior Members' Fellowship, we wish you a very blessed, peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year. We thank God for the gift of His Son - too wonderful for words!

Don't forget - Senior Members' Fellowship - starting back Tuesday 11 January at 2.15pm, God willing.

Etta Halliday

Lunch Club

Unfortunately this Club will not be starting in the foreseeable future. Further details will be given later next year.



Sheila McAllister

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Visitation

Hi folks, as I write this update on pastoral visitation I notice the nights are drawing in and a wee nip in the air. As we begin to enter into the winter months our visits continue to be carried out outside, although in recent days I have been invited into homes wearing a mask and sitting well apart from each other. This has been good a little step forward where we are able to chat and pray with those we call to see.



Care home visits remain the same each with their own set of rules so Eileen and I still call, speak to staff and leave a gift. This is so important that our folk in care homes and their families know they are thought of and prayed for by their church family.

By the time you read this Christmas will be almost here and as we approach the Christmas season we will in Gods will and in his strength we hope to see you outside or inside your homes. We want to take this opportunity to wish you all and your families a happy and blessed Christmas, God bless you all.

Hilary and Eileen

Presbyterian Herald

There will be a 2021 autumn edition of the Presbyterian Herald and then we will return to our usual 10 issues in 2022, starting with the February edition. The annual subscription is £15. You should have received your payment envelope with the autumn edition, so if you wish to continue to receive the Herald please let Sheila McAllister have the envelope with subscription by January. Thank you.

Presbyterian Children's Society

Undoubtedly this has been a considerably challenging year for us all but not least for the Society's continued support to the families in need. We will be grateful for your donations this year as usual. Please give your donations to Sheila McAllister. Thank you.



FWO Envelopes

With this magazine you will have received your envelopes for 2022. Please note that for some members your envelope number will have changed. This has been necessary in an effort to cut back on the number being printed as more people are now paying by standing order. If you would wish to avail of this facility please speak with Tim Graham or myself.



Joan Gardner

Free Will Offering



Please note that if you wish your Free Will Offering or giving to other funds to be credited to 2021, these must be received no later than morning worship, Sunday 26 December 2021. Any monies received after this will be credited to 2022.

Organisational Accounts

Please note that all Organisational Accounts should be audited and returned to myself no later than Sunday 13 February 2022.

Tim Graham

Better Reading Partnership



Heather Sergeant and Linda Wray have completed training to volunteer in Elmgrove Primary School to assist with assessment of reading levels and help develop the child's literacy. This is a great opportunity for McQuiston to be reaching out to our local community.

Operation Christmas Child

A massive thank you to all members of the congregation who contributed in any way to this year's Christmas Shoe-box Appeal. 80 shoe-boxes were filled which is a tremendous effort given the late notice this year. These will bring hours of great delight to children abroad.



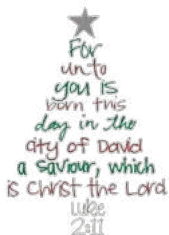
**“But you are a chosen people,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God’s special possession, that you
may declare the praises of Him who
has called you out of darkness into
His wonderful light.”**

1 Peter 2 vs 9

We are approaching Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Saviour.



At the beginning of this story, Mary was visited by an angel and was troubled by the words that the angel said, *“Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.”*



Then to hear of God’s plan regarding the birth of a son, who was to be called *‘the Son of the Most High’*.

Although stunned, Mary humbly replied *“I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.”*

Meantime, an angel also visited Joseph to advise him that he should marry Mary, that a son would be born to them who should be named ‘Jesus’ – *“because He will save His people from their sins”*.



This all happened in accordance with God’s plan and purpose for the salvation of His people and His whole world.



It is interesting that some children today can tell what they will do when they grow up, and it happens. For the majority, however, it takes longer in life to determine what they should be doing.

The Bible tells us that, even at the age of 12, Jesus was clear that His calling *‘was to be about His Father’s business’*.

As followers of Jesus we are clearly instructed in scripture that each of us has a specific ‘calling’.



1 Peter 4 vs 10 says *‘Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as a faithful steward of God’s grace in its various forms.’*

This means that, whatever our individual ‘calling’ from the Lord, it will point others to the power of the gospel, His kingdom and righteousness.



We are to serve the Lord in word and action – loving others, caring for the poor and needy, seeking justice for all (in a humble and gentle manner, patient, and dealing with one another in love).



In the world of today there are so many refugees; people dispossessed of land and country; very many knowing hunger and poverty; folk who are outcasts, strangers, on the edges of society. Drought and famine is spreading as outcomes of climate change. There is desperation, sorrow, great suffering.

Let us take the opportunities that will present themselves to us over Christmas and into a New Year 2022, to seek a closer walk with Jesus. Then, with wisdom and guidance from the Lord, we can serve Him in bringing blessing to the people who are part of our lives, or who touch our lives day by day.



Micah 6 vs 8 says *'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'*



Wishing you the joy, peace and love of Jesus this Christmas.

Anna Johnston

BAPTISM

"Suffer the little children to come unto me"

21 November

Molly Hillis, infant daughter of
Darren and Sarah Jayne Moore
7 Carnamena Avenue

NEW MEMBER

"Be ye not forgetful to entertain strangers"

Darren and Sarah Jayne Moore
7 Carnamena Avenue

★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11

World Development Appeal

The 2021 Appeal is entitled 'Weathering the Storm'. For many in the world, the Covid-19 pandemic will continue to wreak havoc for years to come. Combined with a changing climate, and the increased uncertainty and extreme weather events which that brings, millions face a very real threat: a perfect storm of Covid-19 and climate.



As creation groans, so many communities are struggling to sustain even the most basic of livelihoods, fighting hard to provide for their families and loved ones.



Over the summer of 2021, Ethiopia has been impacted by a severe drought creating near famine conditions compounded by conflict in some areas.

In Haiti a large earthquake resulted in a tragic loss of life and many damaged homes. Both of these emergencies have been made even more devastating and dangerous because of the ongoing challenge of both Covid-19 and climate change.



By God's grace, through this year's Appeal, we hope to support those who have moved past the immediate urgent need, to a situation where ongoing sustainable development is making a difference to the lives of many.



These are the two featured projects for 2021 although the Appeal will also support similar projects in other areas of the world.

You will receive a World Development Appeal envelope with this edition of the Pulse magazine. This can be returned on any Sunday in December.



VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

“Be ye not forgetful to entertain strangers”

January

John Shivers, Angela Shivers,
Irene Murray.

Convenor: Joan Gardner

February

Raymond Wray, Linda Wray,
Judith Connolly, Phil Kemps.

Convenor: Alan Bousfield

March

Richard Hughes, Roy Noble.

Convenor: Joan Gardner

April

Sheila McAllister.

Convenor: Ken Galbraith



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

W	Z	M	S	M	T	B	C	N	S	I	B	Z	O	G	S	S	X
P	S	L	M	A	A	I	E	S	L	U	J	K	V	W	P	B	F
M	C	B	R	H	V	R	I	T	O	P	U	O	H	K	R	J	W
A	F	U	A	C	H	I	Y	W	H	M	S	Z	S	H	B	E	I
N	A	M	I	B	G	J	O	G	X	L	H	I	H	E	G	G	S
G	X	N	I	Z	Y	E	B	U	N	D	E	H	I	F	P	O	E
E	J	O	G	S	R	S	L	N	R	D	P	H	J	V	M	H	M
R	B	J	L	E	Z	U	K	Q	A	B	H	G	E	Q	Q	V	E
I	R	B	S	P	L	S	O	Y	Y	X	E	V	V	M	D	O	N
S	T	A	R	S	T	A	B	L	E	I	R	F	W	E	N	I	N
J	O	S	E	M	V	L	L	A	Q	J	D	I	J	R	Y	J	F
M	N	K	D	O	N	K	E	Y	J	V	F	Q	U	B	B	M	I

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ANGEL
BABY
BETHLEHEM
DONKEY
JESUS

JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY
SAVIOUR
SHEPHERD

STABLE
STAR
WISE MEN

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