

WINTER 2009

EFC News

We hope you enjoy our newsletter

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and more...



PULL OUT SECTIONS



Elgin & Forres

Free Church of Scotland

www.elginandforresfreechurch.com

Manse View

Joy at Christmas

There may be many reasons why you don't feel particularly joyous at Christmas. It may be too full of less than happy memories, or it may have delivered less than you would have wished. It may even be that you find the whole commercial circus not to your taste but it's worth reflecting on how the Bible writers encourage us to **enjoy** the birth of the Son of God.



Let's begin with the **peoples' joy** described by Isaiah who speaks of *increasing joy because there is light in a dark place*. He reminds us that before Christ came to this world people struggled in the gloom of a world of problems with no solution. Christ was unveiled as the wonderful counsellor, the everlasting father, the mighty God and the prince of peace (Isaiah 9: 6, 7). Earlier in his peoples' history a prophet called Balaam foretold of a star arising from Jacob (Numbers 24: 17) – a glimpse of the brightness that is Christ Jesus, a ruler who brings real government for the people.

Then there is the **servant's joy**, the wonderful upside down way the heavenly kingdom works. There is *joy because the humble are exalted and the proud are brought low*. Even in the choice of Bethlehem Ephratah (Micah 5:2) God's marvellous choices of the lowly and the oppressed brought joy to his people – for God taking note of the smallest of creatures and places is a message of joy for everyone. In Mary's wonderful song (Luke 1: 46-55) she reflects and rejoices in God's goodness in being mindful of his servants and of filling the hungry with good things. Whether we are rich or poor – the birth of Christ is surely a reminder to us of the grace of God – not to the deserving but the undeserving; not to those who have but to those who have not.

We find the **angel's joy** as a company of them came to remind us that there is *good news of great joy at the birth of a Saviour* (Luke 2: 10-14). In this remarkable episode from our history God's messengers announced to a group of obscure sheep herders the birth of the Saviour – the hope of the nations. Their bright praise and their message of God's favour is indeed reason to be joyful. He was called Jesus because he would save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). Of course the angel's joy is also most definitely **our joy** since they came to bring the message of joy to us.

Although John in the opening words of his gospel doesn't use the word joy – it cannot bring anything else besides joy for a person to know **joy incarnate**, *the Word become flesh*. The Son of God coming and taking up residence among us in order to bring us the gifts of grace and truth must surely bring joy to your hearts and lips. As Isaiah (so long before the event) said, Jesus truly is 'God with us' (Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:23). He came into our world in order that we might believe in him and so be welcomed into his world.

And finally Paul reminds us that *the Lord Jesus Christ – though he was rich became poor so that you through his poverty might become rich* (2 Cor 8:9). Born in a stable, raised in humble circumstances, he did this in order to give us riches that cannot be purchased from any store on earth, and to grant us **everlasting joy**.

Colin

Book Review

'Reformation' by Harry Reid

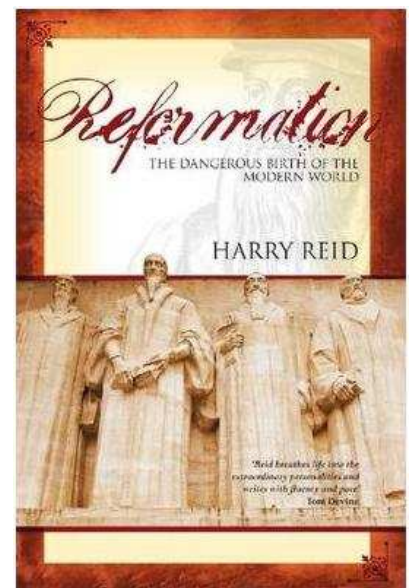
Included in my recent reading is this book published by St Andrew Press. The author is a gifted journalist and former editor of The Herald.

In historical terms it covers the period from 1483 - 1638 and includes all the extraordinary personalities. They are all given space in the historical sequence covered by this remarkable and very readable book.

Those included cover Reformers such as Luther, Calvin and Knox; Kings and Queens, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots. Martyrs. Popes, Arch-bishops and Politicians all are mentioned and presented with fairness.

When purchasing a book now I ask myself 'will you read it more than once?', that will certainly be the case with 'Reformation'. As one reviewer says it is a book to be 'devoutly devoured'.

Bob Henderson



Interview with Calum MacInnes

Calum MacInnes is the APC minister of Kingsview Christian Centre in Inverness. He has kindly agreed to answer a few of our questions.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I was born in Glasgow, and remember as a little boy the bombing of Clydebank because we had to run down into the air-raid shelter which was under the tenement building on Scotland Street. I also remember Winston Churchill driving along Scotland Street in an open car at the end of the war, standing up and with his hand held high was giving his famous 'V for Victory' sign.

My parents moved back to Skye when I was seven, so, I continued primary school in Vatten, and then on to Portree High School. From there, at the end of sixth year, I went to Dounreay Atomic Energy Station, to work in a laboratory with the exalted title of Assistant Scientist ! From there I did two years National Service in the Royal Air Force.

After that I started training to be a Bank Manager, working in the Bank of Scotland in Uddingston, and one of my memories from there is that the bank branch had the Tunnock's Caramel Wafers account. That was beneficial come Christmas time, because the company sent in a large bag of mis-shaped caramel wafers for the staff! It was during my time there that I could no longer refuse the call to the Gospel ministry.

How did you become a Christian?

I love preaching the Gospel, but I was not converted under Gospel preaching. My grandparents, on both sides were committed Christians, so they no doubt prayed for us as children, and followed the practice of Family Worship in the home. That influenced my parents, and they in turn continued the practice, although in my childhood days neither of my parents professed Christianity, as far as church membership was concerned. I left home to go to Portree Secondary school which meant staying in a school hostel. I was dreadfully homesick, and going home at the weekends only meant an added flood of tears on the Monday when I was back in Portree.

I joined the Army Cadets, and pretty well did the things that teenagers did, although may I add, drugs were not the addiction in Skye in those days. By the time I left school, I was sufficiently seasoned, and away from parental influences, that I felt I could go anywhere. I rather enjoyed the freedom and

independence which I thought I had. I always loved, and still do, Scottish Dance music, and Jimmy Shand was one of my big favourites. I remember clearly looking forward to Jimmy Shand being in Thurso. The adverts gave the dates of his playing, and I had calculated that I could be there to hear him and his band in person.



I went off to work at Dounreay, with this mental note of the upcoming highlight in the near-future. Things however did not work out that way. On my first night away to Dounreay, I was struck with the most unexpected and strong homesickness. I did not know what had hit me. I thought of what they would be doing at home, and knew they would be having Family Worship. I knew then, I had to do the same. My older sister had been converted a year earlier, and had put a Bible into my case. If she had not done that, I would not have had a Bible to read. That was the beginning for me. God used unexpected

homesickness and the practice of Family Worship at home to make me turn to him. I did not realise at the time what was happening, but as I look back I see now that the Lord was bringing me to realise my need of him. Over the next week I stayed in the home of a Christian retired nurse in Thurso, and it was in her home that I came to have my heart fixed on the Lord for salvation.

How did you know you were being called to the ministry?

During the early part of my Christian life, I tried to arrange prayer meetings and to 'witness' to those around me. Looking back I realise that there was a large amount of legalism in my religious life. However, I have a very distinct memory of an experience that some people may find hard to accept, but it was mine. One time while in Thurso, I was on my knees, praying about my life as to what the Lord would have me do. I felt the distinct touch of a hand on my shoulder, confirming for me the reality of God's presence and the desire to tell others about salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.

Then, during my years in the Air Force, I backed away from the thought on Gospel ministry and instead decided that I wanted to be a banker, with weekends free. That is how I went to work in Uddingston, pushing away from my mind any sense of the Gospel ministry. I was not long at the bank when I went home one day from work, fell on my knees beside my bed and found myself saying, 'Woe unto me if I preach not the Gospel'. With that, I felt as if a burden fell from my back. I resolved to obey the call of God on my life.

Can you tell us about your church and its links with the local community?

I am the minister at Kingsview Christian Centre in Inverness. It is a congregation of the Associated Presbyterian Churches. It is a Psalm Singing church in our worship services, but we do sing selected hymns in some of our social fellowship times. We have Christian friendship with any evangelical Christian Church and so we have a variety of preachers from different denominations during the year. We believe strongly in the catholicity of the Christian church and the communion of the saints.

The sub-title on our notice reads, '*For God and For the Community*'. The building is an ideal venue for Conferences, Camps, Training Sessions etc., and is used for all of these and more. We have an outreach programme to the community, with a Lunch Club, distribution of a quarterly magazine, called *The King's View*, into the community. We encourage the use of the premises, for whatever we consider suitable!

What has made your church grow?

I just wish that I could answer this with a loud positive response. We have seen some increase and decrease also. We have a wide range of ages, and each is counted precious in God's sight and in ours. We need an active Youth Worker to contact the schools and develop the use of the premises we have. Although we have not always seen a large response to our efforts at outreach, there is one activity which has been a blessing and has been noticed by people in the church fellowship. That is the Prayer times. That should not surprise us because that is where we cast ourselves upon God acknowledging that he alone can build his church. That must remain our confidence.

We hear you are planning to retire next year. What will you do then?

I have felt that the time has come for me to step back from pastoral responsibilities, but not from preaching. I love my work of preaching, and sometimes the thought of stepping back from a congregation after what will have been forty-one and a half years of work in congregations, Ullapool, London, Toronto, and Inverness, seems almost unreal!

The Lord has been good to me, my wife and family, and I can only say, *The Lord has been mindful of us, and he will bless us still.*

Don't Forget Jesus

Christmas is a special time
To reflect on Jesus Christ
The wonder of His lowly birth
Brings meaning to our lives

There really is no other reason
We celebrate this day
The birth of God's precious son
And the life He willingly gave

We need to stop and reflect awhile
Remembering our precious Lord
His birth, His life and sacrifice
And all that He stands for

For though the world may celebrate
It seems though for other reasons
Let's keep in mind that Jesus
Christ
Is the true meaning of the season

© By M.S.Lowndes



But so much seems to distract us
In the busy-ness of our lives
We lose our focus in all the
happenings

Not knowing, we leave out Christ

We lose sight of the true meaning
As we endlessly rush about
Trying to find that perfect gift
Seems to cloud our Saviour out

The Loop Cycle Challenge

The Lord provided a beautiful sunny day for us to enjoy some great scenery. The 109 mile route began at Gairloch heading for Braemore junction and on to Garve. We found this a very rewarding challenge and a well organized event by the Gairloch Church of Scotland with 30 participants over the 40 and 109 mile routes.

Alice's spinning classes were useful in tackling the head wind back to Gairloch via Kinlochewe.

A big thank you to all who gave so generously we were able to raise £229 for the work detailed below.

Saturday 11th September 2010 is the date set for next year so there is plenty of time to get fit if you want a good day out!!

More information can be found on the website -

<http://www.theloopcyclechallenge.co.uk/>

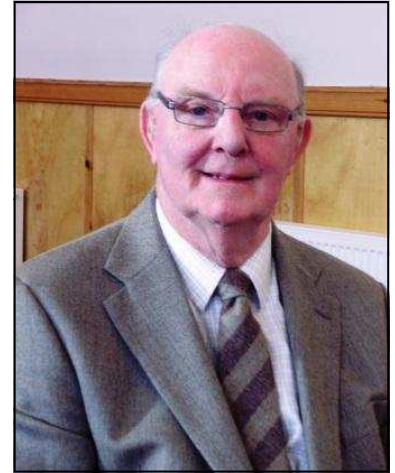
The Loop sponsored cycle is held to support the work of The Acts Trust. This is a U.K. charity which supports young people in 2 homes in the Hunedoara region of Romania, an area blighted by unemployment and poverty. Acts aims to make these homes as self supporting as possible but at present financial support is still needed.



John & Alice Urquhart

Some of the children in the care of the home in Baru Mare

Bob's Bit



Dear friends,

I have been exercised of late by the situation confronting the church in the United Kingdom and especially here in Moray. I am in no doubt that the Church in our land is crying out for showers of blessing, for our Lord to rend the heavens (Isaiah 63) and for the Holy Spirit to descend upon our troubled nation once again in revival power!

We in the Elgin and Forres Free Church are fortunate to have a full time ministry where the Word is faithfully preached on a regular basis. Many Churches do not have a minister at present including a number in our own denomination.

Bearing all this in mind, are we a Church with a full time ministry and a part time congregation? I trust that readers of our Newsletter will not feel hurt by that remark.

We are all in different situations, some in the work place with young children or again with older children. Others are working with additional outside commitments, some like myself are retired. In short we are a mixed bag and none the worse for that!

We are asked in 2 Corinthians 13 v 5 to examine and test ourselves.

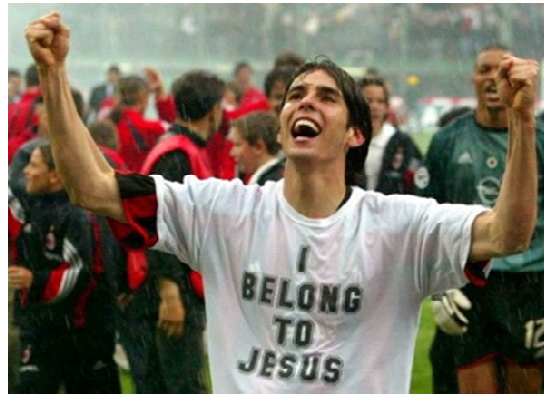
We are I believe in many ways a loving, living, caring, sharing Fellowship but can we do more individually and collectively for our Lord and His Church?

Yours in the fight of faith,

Bob Henderson

PS - If anyone wishes to discuss what I have written please feel free to do so!

Kaká: Football's Most Famous Evangelical



Goal celebrations generally fall somewhere in between raw displays of emotion, incredible athleticism, and sheer ridiculousness. Recently, however, a new type of celebration has made its way into soccer: the religious celebration. And no player is more overt in praising God after scoring than the Brazilian Kaká.

Kaká's celebrations initially appear simple. He raises both hands and lifts his head to the sky as he runs away from the goal. But the significance of these gestures is far more than meets the eye and begins to tell the story of one of the world's most devoted religious soccer players.

Ricardo Izecson dos Santos Leite was born on 22 April 1982, in Brasília to Bosco Izecson Pereira Leite (a civil engineer) and Simone Cristina Santos Leite. He had a financially-secure upbringing that allowed him to focus on both school and football at the same time. His younger brother, Rodrigo (known as Digão), is also a professional footballer.

When he was seven, his family moved to São Paulo. His school had arranged him in a local youth club called "*Alphaville*," who qualified to the final in a local tournament. There he was discovered by hometown club São Paulo FC, who offered an assignment.

Kaká is an evangelical Christian. He told the group Atletas de Cristo (Athletes of Christ) that he grew up in an evangelical family. "My parents were already saved and I grew up in the presence of the Lord."

The young Brazilian's faith became even stronger after he was baptized into the evangelical Reborn in Christ Church. He told Atletas de Cristo that was "when I began having a relationship of Father to son with God. ... something supernatural happened to me. I can not explain it, but after that experience I got closer to God, more in-tuned with Him."

Kaká is one of a growing number of evangelical Christians in Brazil. While Kaká's homeland still has the largest Catholic population of any country in the world, the rise in evangelicals in the past few decades has been phenomenal.

As he put it once: "My family and my belief in God and Jesus are the things which determine my life. I do want to live my life in the right way and live my life close to God."

Indeed, such piety informs every aspect of his life. He identifies the Bible as his favourite book and gospel as his music of choice. He has also not been shy of boasting about his virginity until marrying in December 2005.

The greatest test of that faith came in September 2000, at the age of 18. Kaka slipped on a swimming pool slide and broke a vertebra.

"The doctors said that I was lucky to be able to walk normally," he said. "They were talking about luck, and my family was talking about God. We knew that it was His hand that had saved me."

Kaká has become the "Ambassador Against Hunger" for the World Food Program of the U.N. as he has actively worked to uplift those who are struggling in poverty all over the world. As a believer in Jesus Christ he understands that faith is not just manifested through words but also through action as Jesus said of the righteous "I was hungry, and you gave me food."

In a world that glorifies the rich and famous, it is refreshing to see Kaká has not become caught in the trap of self importance but instead has pointed (literally) to the one who deserves all the glory, Jesus Christ.

<http://www.smh.com.au>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kak%C3%A1#Personal_life

<http://paulrudatsikira.wordpress.com/2008/07/02/kaka-and-the-christian-testimony/>

Keeping Faith in Schools

All over Scotland, churches contribute positively to the life of their local schools, seeing it as a vital way of serving their community.

Church leaders may act as chaplains, youth workers are involved in extra-curricular activities, parents and other church members volunteer to help in a host of practical ways. When you consider only 6% of children in Scotland will ever darken the door of a church, this highlights the importance of Christians going into schools.

CARE For Scotland has produced a DVD which presents examples of how some churches have developed innovative and constructive partnerships with schools in their local area and illustrates the benefits the schools derive from these relationships.

The examples chosen represent only a brief snapshot of some of the good practice from around the country, but it is hoped that they will inspire and encourage other churches with a desire to develop their schools work.

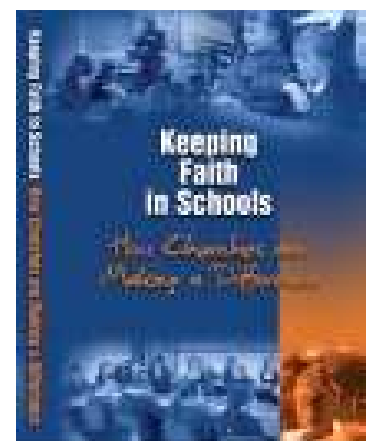
The DVD contains:

- A 'trailer' to the main film (2 mins 45 secs)
- The main film (20mins)
- Documentation to enable churches to audit their involvement with schools

The trailer can also be viewed on the CARE website (www.care.org.uk and click on Care for Scotland).

To obtain your free copy of the DVD contact CARE for Scotland on 0141 332 7212 or e-mail cfs@care.org.uk or write to CARE for Scotland, Challenge House, 29 Canal Street, Glasgow G4 0AD.

Please let them know which church you belong to when asking for your copy.

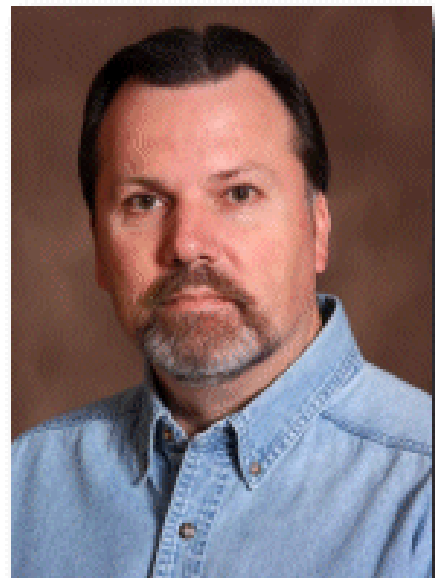


Ask Colin

Former White House official, Gary Kah, has claimed Barack Obama secretly plans one global currency and one world faith possibly heralding world-wide persecution of Christians. What do you make of this?

One response to this is that already there is world-wide persecution of Christians, that there always has been persecution of Christians and that Jesus told his followers this would happen. It has happened, it is happening and it will happen.

But what about Barack, hailed by some as a Messiah and by others as the anti-Christ. My sympathy goes out to him! He is neither – just a frail human being with an incredibly difficult job. Some people in our nation see Europe-power also in sinister terms. Yet we need to be aware there have been empires in the past which all have fallen. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome, the Mongol empire, the Chinese empire, Hitler, the Communists and even the British! (You know Rule Britannia is not one of the songs the righteous sing before the throne and while you bemoan its passing the only global domination that benefits the world is that found in (for example) Psalm 72.



Gary Kah

All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no-one to help.

He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

Speaking strictly on Obama's plans – I cannot comment on whether there is any ground for the one currency/one faith claims. One currency may be less absurd than it initially seems – after all 50 years ago who could have predicted the Euro? However the idea that **Obama** could accomplish that is bizarre; he has 18 months or so before he has to start campaigning for re-election and there are far more pressing issues for him to deal with.

I'm also afraid that Mr Kah is suffering from the very prevalent A.D.D.;

American Dream Disease. Like many before he is very concerned about the erosion of 'American freedoms' which should be an instant warning to Christians of any nation or creed – after all it's not American or British or even evangelical freedoms that we are called to defend, or hold dear. The only freedom truly worth having is the freedom bought by Christ and that is a freedom nobody can deny you or me.

Of course there is no doubt the Bible teaches us to beware of a sinful world increasingly taking over and the peril of living as a Christian in that situation. However it is well worth recalling – Jesus lived in a day of one world power (Roman) and one world currency (with Caesar's head on it), and in that day God did a mighty work – first at Calvary and then at Pentecost, a work that has continued to this day. So, global dominance of whatever may in God's providence be just the beginning of another considerable outpouring of his Spirit to the benefit of the nations, as it was at the beginning.

Quotes

A Christian is a keyhole through which other folk see God.

Robert E. Gibson

The spirit of Christmas needs to be superseded by the Spirit of Christ. The spirit of Christmas is annual; the Spirit of Christ is eternal. The spirit of Christmas is sentimental; the Spirit of Christ is supernatural. The spirit of Christmas is a human product; the Spirit of Christ is a divine person. That makes all the difference in the world.

Stuart Briscoe

Death is not extinguishing the light from the Christian; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.

Author Unknown

You might as well try to hear without ears or breathe without lungs, as to try to live a Christian life without the Spirit of God in your heart.

D.L. Moody

Jokes

A truth that a little child learned -

If your sister hits you don't hit her back. It's always the second person that gets caught.

A truth about growing old -

Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

Bulletin Bloopers

Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy."

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.



At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" – come early and listen to our choir practice.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

SUNDAY

Morning Service

10.30am - Pre-service prayer time in the small hall.

11am - A crèche, and Sunday School are available during the service.

Evening Service

6pm

2nd Sunday of month - 6.30pm - Dufftown Memorial Hall.

Youth Fellowship

7.15pm - The YF is held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month throughout term time. Anyone aged 9+ welcome.



For further details contact -

Rev Colin Morison

Tel - 01343 542196

Email -

colin@elginandforresfreechurch.com

TUESDAY

Prayer for Schools

12.45pm - Fortnightly prayer time for schools throughout the term.

WEDNESDAY

Midweek Meeting

7.30pm - Our weekly meeting for prayer and Bible study.

Elgin & Forres Free Church of Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC016070

THURSDAY

Road to Recovery

12 noon - Light lunch and chat for anyone struggling with addictions.





Winter 2009

Events

Ladies Meeting

MONDAY 11TH JANUARY 2010

Kevin Barton

Chocolatier

7.30pm in the church.

December's bowling evening has been rescheduled for February. For further



Communion

At a meeting of the Kirk Session it was agreed to vary the time and frequency of communion. The next communion will be on Sunday December 27th; there will be no pre-communion meeting that weekend as it falls around the Christmas holiday.

The next communion following that will be the weekend of 26th – 28th February. On that occasion we will have a meeting on Friday February 26 at which two visiting speakers will tell us something about their Christian experience. In 2010 we hope to have a visiting minister at the April

New Year's Day Service

As in previous years we will be having a short service on New Years Day. It will be at 10:30am in the Church.

All welcome.

Children's Christmas Party

The crèche and Sunday school children will meet at The Playbarn in Lhanbryde on Saturday 19th December at 1:30pm.

If you would like to come please speak to Fiona.



Congregational Meal

We hope to have a congregational meal after the morning on Sunday 20th December. Please add your contribution to the list in the foyer.

It would be great to see you there so please try and keep this date free in your diary.

Christmas Message Board

There will be a Christmas Message board in the front foyer of the Church during December.

Please write your Christmas messages on the board to help save some trees!!!

Donations will be taken for Blythswood.

People

Congratulations to Alice Urquhart on her new job as school nurse based in Buckie.

Best wishes to Allison and Bruce Crawford on moving to their new home in Fochabers.

Congratulations to Anna and David Ford (ex-Elgin) on the birth of Molly Elizabeth on the 22nd July.



Prayer Points

Please pray for the proposed upgrade of the church kitchen. If you have not already done so please have a look at the plans and drawings at the back of the church. The Deacons' Court is looking for honest feedback about this project. Any other comments about how to develop our congregation would also be appreciated.

Remember the YF. The numbers have dwindled lately and your prayers for this work would be greatly coveted. Links have been made with the Nairn YF and we hope to develop this in the coming year.

Also pray for the Dufftown Services and Tuesday evening Bible Study.

Please remember the work of Road to Recovery.

Rotas

Crèche Rota

6th Dec	- Glen & Katrin
13th Dec	- John C & Sylvia
20th Dec	- John & Alice
27th Dec	- Don & Shelagh
3rd Jan	- Colin & Yvonne
10th Jan	- Richard & Marie
17th Jan	- Helen & Maureen
24th Jan	- Glen & Katrin
31st Jan	- John C & Sylvia
7th Feb	- John U & Christine
14th Feb	- Don & Shelagh
21st Feb	- Colin & Yvonne
28th Feb	- Richard & Marie

Door Rota

6th Dec	- John U & Sylvia
13th Dec	- Bob & John C
20th Dec	- George & Helen
27th Dec	- John K & Sylvia
3rd Jan	- Tony & Maureen
10th Jan	- John U & Sylvia
17th Jan	- Bob & John C
24th Jan	- George & Helen
31st Jan	- John K & Sylvia
7th Feb	- Tony & Maureen
14th Feb	- John U & Sylvia
21st Feb	- Bob & John C
28th Feb	- George & Helen

Tea Rota

6th Dec	- John & Alice
13th Dec	- John & Sylvia
20th Dec	- Christine & Mina
27th Dec	- Richard & Marie
3rd Jan	- Glen & Katrin
10th Jan	- Tony & Maureen
17th Jan	- Grant & Fiona

24th Jan	- George & Helen
31st Jan	- Colin & Yvonne
7th Feb	- John & Alice
14th Feb	- John & Sylvia
21st Feb	- Christine & Mina
28th Feb	- Richard & Marie

If you are unable to fill your allocated slot, please swap with someone else on the list.



Welcome to Kidzone

WINTER 2009

Dates 4 U



Sunday 20th December at 86 Knockomie Gardens, Forres. This is the last YF of 2009!

The theme for the evening is - **You are not alone.**



Friday 18th December 2009, 7:30pm in Inshes Church of Scotland, Inverness.

The Angelic Visit

The Angel Gabriel was sent from Heaven to a far corner of the world, to a little town called Nazareth in Galilee. And there he appeared to a young woman named Mary who was engaged to be married to Joseph, who was of the house of David.

The angel said to Mary, "Greetings, most highly favoured one! For God is with you!"

But Mary was afraid, and wondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for God has found great delight in you. You shall have a child and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. To him will the throne of heaven be given, and he will reign for ever, his kingdom will not end."

"How can this be?" Mary asked. "I am not yet married."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will wrap around you, and so the one born to you will be called the Son of God.

"And that you may know what I am saying is true, behold, your cousin Elizabeth, whom everyone thought too old to have a child, is carrying a child inside her even now.

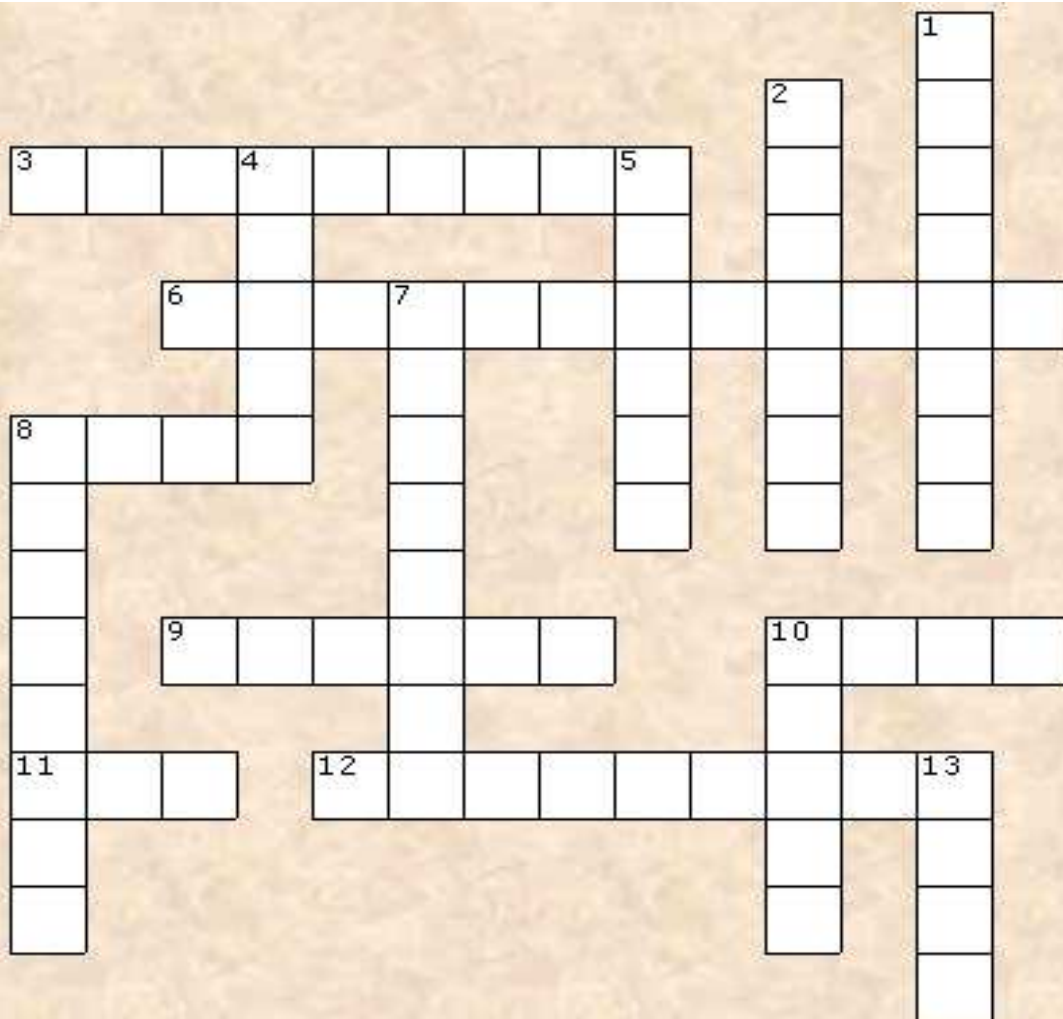
"For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary said, "May it be to me as you have said."

When the angel had left, Mary hurried to her cousin Elizabeth, and found everything to be just as the angel had said.



Christmas Crossword



ACROSS

- 3 City where Jesus was born
- 6 Gift brought to Jesus
- 8 Gift brought to Jesus
- 9 Mary's husband
- 10 Jesus' mother
- 11 There was no room for Mary and Joseph at

- the ____
- 12 They visited Jesus

DOWN

- 1 "Caesar ____ issued a decree that a census should be taken"
- 2 They visited Jesus (2 words)
- 4 King who

- wanted to kill Jesus
- 5 Jesus' crib
- 7 City where Jesus grew up
- 8 "On earth peace, ____ toward men"
- 10 Gift brought to Jesus
- 13 Guiding light for wise men



Colour in