

Tayport Parish Church Magazine

Advent Season Diary Dates

Morning Worship every Sunday 11am

Date	Time	Event
DECEMBER 2009		
Sat 5 th	2pm	Christmas Bazaar - £1.50 Adults £1 Children (Tea, cakes, stalls. auction, etc.)
Mon 7 th	6-7pm	Vestry Hour
	7pm	Kirk Session
Wed 9 th	3pm	Sevite House Christmas Service (all welcome)
Sun 13 th	11am	Nativity Service & Gift Day Service (you are invited to bring a gift for our members in hospital or homes)
	2pm	Carol singing around Newport Homes
Mon 14 th	7pm	Auld Kirk Carol Concert
Tues 15 th	2pm	Guild Christmas Party
Fri 18 th	11am	Tayport Primary Service in Church
Sun 20 th	11am	Morning Worship with TPC Choir
THU 24TH	7PM	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH CHURCH BAND (REMEMBER TO BRING A TORCH)
FRI 25TH	10AM	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE (CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO BRING ALONG A TOY)
Sun 27 th	11am	Morning Worship
JANUARY 2010		
Sun 3 rd	11am	Morning Worship with Short Communion Service
Tue 12 th	2pm	Guild – A visit from the Minister

“We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An Angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” (Luke 2: 8-20)

Dear Friends,

I love the story of the Scottish shepherd who won the Christmas Hamper Competition at his local Church Fayre. When asked by the Minister what he was going to do with it, he began to list the items he would open first and those he would keep until Christmas day. When asked what his wife would be getting from the hamper, the shepherd turned in surprise and said " What! Has she won a hamper as well? "

We love our shepherds, none more so than those above who were 'keeping watch over their flocks at night' – something they still do in many countries, such as Israel. These shepherds must have wondered what on earth was going on? No wonder they were terrified, until the Angel of the Lord spoke to them with words of great comfort and joy, ending with the heavenly host praising God and saying "**Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests**".

Reassured with these words, the shepherds ran off to see this baby who was born to be 'Saviour of the world, Christ the Lord'. From this experience they had enough faith to believe that this was true, before they actually saw it with their own eyes.

These shepherds leave us with a challenge this Christmas. From what we have heard of this same Jesus and our own life experiences, can we, like them, believe that this baby was born to save us all? Sadly, for many, the answer is simply no. They cannot believe in a God who showed such humility and love, in coming to us as a tiny, vulnerable baby, as God did, in the baby Jesus. Like them, I am sure many of us can cite some difficult, or terrible experiences in life, which leave us not only doubting such a loving God, but without hope.

Yet it never ceases to amaze me, how it is very often in such dire circumstances in life, that when the light of the Gospel has penetrated the most direst of situations, those involved begin to have a real hope in life, through believing in this same Jesus Christ.

In the Tearfund prayer letter, it tells the story of Patrick, age 16, who lost his dad when he was 14, during the recent 5 year civil war in the

Democratic Republic of Congo. He said, *“We were fleeing the rebels. My father was somewhere behind me. Later I heard he had been shot.”*

Despite his desperate current situation he goes on to say, *“I have faith in the Lord that I can overcome everything and have a long life. I have already forgiven my fathers killers.”* Along with many others, he is now in a Children’s camp run by Tearfund worker, Maman Jeanne. His faith is a challenge to us all.

Yet, the Lord Patrick speaks about is the same Lord the shepherds ran to see. My hope and prayer for us all this Christmas, is that we too can see and believe in this same Jesus Christ, in a real and living way, whereby we can know him as our own Lord, Saviour and Friend.

I leave you with the words of the following prayer:

Almighty God, amidst all my doubts and questions, I pray that you will help me see the light and love of your precious Son, Jesus Christ, in our world and my life. Help me to believe in and know Jesus as the Saviour who came that first Christmas. Hear my prayer, Heavenly father. AMEN

Your friend and Minister,

Colin

Church Notes

Prayer Box – this is in the Church and can be used for all Prayer Requests, which are kept confidential. For those who have and do use this 'Prayer box', be sure that your notes and requests are presented to God in Prayer: God knows your situation.

Christmas Card Competition – Church of Scotland CrossReach. –
Closing Date – January 29th 2010. If interested, please speak to the Minister, for more information. The winner's prize includes a copy of their card mounted in a presentation frame, a supply of their printed cards and a selection of gifts from the CrossReach web shop.

Letter from our Missionary Partner, Ellen Findlay MBE

International Nepal Fellowship

October 2009

“Only do what I say and all will be well” Jer. 7.23

Dear Friends,

My packing for Nepal is almost finished – thanks to a friend who does an excellent job at packing. I leave Scotland on 28th October for Nepal. The next three camps will be at Tate, Bajura in the far western region of Nepal.

We will not be working in a hospital as Tate has a bigger population than Martadi where the hospital is situated. We held the last surgical camp in Tate and the need for ear and gynae camps was obvious.

With the unstable political situation, and the hassle we experienced last time due to road blocks and strikes, we agreed to have the next three camps in the same place. This will be hard work for the core team of Nepalis and myself, as we only have a few days to adjust from one camp and prepare for the next.

Please pray for energy, times of rest between camps and that everything will go smoothly.

The actual dates of camps are:

Ear: 3 – 11 November

Gynae: 18 – 25 November

Surgical: 29 - 7 December

Travelling time to and from the camps is outwith these dates. Please pray for safety in travel and that vehicles will be at the right place at the right time; that the helicopter will be functioning, that hotel bookings will go well; that communication channels will be open between those of us in Bajura and those travelling.

Please remember the Nepali team that works so well:

Mr Eka Dev Devkota (Camps Co-ordinator)

Mr Robin Lama (Theatre in charge)

Mr Rabi Gurung (our Technician – who ensures the equipment is in working order)

Anandi, Ganga and Indra (who ensure that the place is kept clean and equipment is available for the Doctors and Surgeons. The 3 ladies are worth their weight in gold)

Regina Thapta and Dil Kumari (are scrub nurses who join us on camps)

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. Without these, camps could not function.

Sincerely,

Ellen Findlay

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 5th December 2009

2pm to 4pm

In the Church and Church Hall

Get into the Festive spirit and come along and support our Christmas Bazaar, while enjoying a chat with friends over a cup of tea with mince pies and Christmas cake.

Christmas music will be playing softly in the background.

There will be the usual stalls, Home Baking, Books, Gifts, an Auction, a chance to win a Christmas Hamper, a Christmas Cake and a tin of sweets for guessing the Minister's weight on the day, treasure Hunt, plus Santa's Grotto for the children.

Tickets £1.50 for adults and £1 for children

Lotte's tips on how to avoid a Cold

With nearly 200 different cold viruses out there waiting to bring on a cold, here are some ways to fight back.

- 1. Your Granny was right. It has been scientifically proved that wrapping up and keeping dry and warm, does help prevent many colds.**
- 2. Keep your nose covered when possible, as the viruses multiply in lining of the nose when it is cooler.**
- 3. Always wash your hands after being in crowded place or in the same room as someone with a cold.**
- 4. It is now believed that most colds are passed via the viruses on the hands.**
- 5. Don't touch your nose or eyes unless you have to. Cold viruses can last up to three hours on door handles, light switches and crockery.**

The Guild

I write on behalf of Guild members to thank all of you who supported our recent Coffee Morning. I also give thanks for those who worked and made it such a successful venture. Successful, not only in terms of funds raised, but more importantly, in the pleasant company and spirit which prevailed. The bible says that those who serve God will be known for their love. Like the invisible (almost) fingerprints we leave on articles we touch, our influence leaves impressions on others. Hopefully our influence projects the love and goodness of God.

May the love of God be reflected in our lives and church this Christmas.

Ellison Hudson

The Choir

This is a busy time for us what with rehearsing for our Christmas "Presentation", preparing songs for the Group 4 St Andrews day Service in Newburgh, the Auld Kirk Carol Concert, the Christmas Eve service to say nothing of our regular slot on a Sunday morning! It is not too late to sign up for all or any of these - the more the merrier and I do mean merrier - as Christmas gets closer the merrier we become. And you would even get to sit on one of our comfy chairs.

Morag-Anne

An American decided to write a book about famous churches around the world, so he bought a plane ticket and took a trip to Orlando, thinking that he would start by working his way across the USA from South to North. On his first day he was inside a church taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign which read "\$10,000 per call" The American being intrigued asked the priest what the telephone was used for. He was told that it was a direct line to Heaven and for \$10,000 you could talk to God.

Next stop Atlanta. There at a very large cathedral he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. On asking about it he got the same reply - for \$10.000 he could talk to God.

He travelled all across America, Africa, England, Japan, New Zealand. In every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign "\$US10,000 per call" under it. The American decided to travel to Scotland to see if the Scots had the same phone. When he arrived in Scotland the first church he entered had the same golden telephone but this time the sign read "40 pence per call". When he said to the minister "I have travelled all over the world and seen this golden telephone in many churches, I'm told it is a direct line to Heaven but in them all the price was \$10,000 a call. Why is it so cheap here? The minister smiled and answered, "You're in Scotland now, son - it's a local call!". *(Contributed)*

The Spirit of Christmas is Peace.

The Gladness of Christmas is Hope.

The Heart of Christmas is Love.

(Contributed by Mrs Malecki)

Church Notes

The Tuesday House Group now meets in the Manse once a month at 7.30pm., with a slightly different format. Dates will be intimated. All welcome

Thanks to all who contributed, packed and transported the 60 Blythswood Christmas Shoeboxes to the Distribution depot in Dundee.

Glebe Grazing Land in Prime site on the edge of Tayport – 3.985 acres. Available now.

Contact the Minister for details

Remember Friday Coffee Morning in the Church Hall from 10 to 11.30am. All welcome.

TAYPORT PARISH CHURCH Sunday School and Youth