

Tayport Parish Church Magazine



All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

Matthew 1: 22-23

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Moderator	Rev Brian Oxburgh _____	553879
	27 Bell Street, DD6 9NS	
Session Clerk	Mrs Frances Dunlop _____	552938
	19 Cowgate, DD6 9DT	
Clerk to the Board	Mrs Joan Peter _____	554647
	34 Grey Street, DD6 9HU	
Treasurer & Finance Convenor	Mr David Barrie _____	350112
	5a Meadowbank Dr, Wellbank, Dundee DD5 3UR	
Fabric Convenor	Mr John Pate _____	553250
	33 Harbour Road, DD6 9EX	
Transport	Mrs Joan Peter _____	554647
	34 Grey Street, DD6 9HU	



LONG SERVICE

On 6th November during the morning service, the Rev. Brian Oxburgh presented Long Service Certificates to the undernoted:-

Mrs E Duncan, Elder
Dr W N Torrance, Elder
Mr Angus MacFarlane, Organist

Each has completed over 30 years service to the Church in Tayport and the Minister, on behalf of the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, extended his appreciation for their loyal and faithful service.

Frances Dunlop

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Tayport Manse

Dear Friends,

It is a year since I preached as sole nominee and yet it seems no time at all. Last year's Advent season felt very unsettling because after preaching as a sole nominee, any minister begins to feel increasingly drawn to the new congregation and feels that a bond is breaking with the old. And so last year felt very unusual; wonderful to be celebrating Christmas with the folks in Saltcoats yet also longing to be here with you. This year will be my first Christmas celebration with you and I am really looking forward to it.

The Lord desires to bless us. Even a casual reading of the Gospels makes that clear. During this Advent season we are challenged anew to 'fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith'. We may do this during Advent and the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, the Hope of the world. Sadly our secular society has largely lost sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Someone once said that if you take Christ out of Christmas all you are left with is M and S.

In these days of austerity, M & S and all the other high street and online retailers will represent for many a pressure to spend, a debt to carry and a worry to endure. Christmas has become a time of high pressure, exhaustion and worry. There is so much pessimism in the world and in the church today. Why? Well the world has precious little to be optimistic about. But why is there so much despondency in the church? I think it is because in the church in Scotland we have, so to speak, taken our eye off the ball. The challenges are great, but Christ is greater, much greater! We have to fix our eyes upon the little baby who is now the crucified, resurrected, and ascended Lord. He reigns in glory but also in the hearts of all who will accept him. It is my hope that as we celebrate this Christmas we will feel that we are caught up in something truly special. Christmas is a time of great celebration as we praise God for the arrival of his Son into the world, the one in whom we have a hope and a

future. Also Christmas can be the platform to launch us into the New Year as we fix our eyes upon him who will lead us and enable us to face the opportunities and challenges of 2012.

We may remember an advertisement with the punch line; 'the future's bright, the future's Orange'. For us the future's bright because the future is Christ's, and we are a part of it.

Linda and I both hope that you all have real joy during this Christmas season and that we will be able to share some of our joy together through our activities in the church and in the community.

May the Lord bless us with encouragement as we rejoice in our celebrations of Christmas and look expectantly towards the New Year.

Yours in Christ

Brian Oxburgh

PRAYER

Philippians 4:4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again-rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. NLT.

Ann Barona - Prayer Secretary

Tentsmuir Bike Ride - 2011

The money raised from sponsorship of the annual Tentsmuir Bike Ride was £496.50 which has been forwarded to CHAS.



With many thanks to all who supported this event in any way.

Norman Crosby

The Weavers Prayer

My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me
I do not choose the colours
And He weaveth steadily.

Sometimes He weaves in sorrow
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I the underside.

Not till the looms are silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God unroll His canvas
And explain the reasons why.

Why the dark threads are as needful
In a skilful weaver's hand
As those of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

Contributed by C Redpath

THE CHURCH GUILD

I am pleased to tell you that the Guild has increased in number this session; after losing a few members last year it has been good to welcome five new members. We have had some good talks for the first half of our syllabus - Guide Dogs, the Joy of being a Headmaster and the Salvation Army. We are looking forward to our annual visit to Dobbies Garden Centre and then, on Tuesday 13th December we are all going to Scotsraig Golf Club for our Christmas Lunch. We will resume on January 10th when our minister will be the guest speaker.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and all the Best for 2012.

Isobel Paterson - Sec/treasurer

Life is fragile, handle it with Prayer!

Contributed by Mrs Malecki

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the Bible there are a number of references about being prepared, from Genesis 6:21 where the Lord told Noah "And remember, take enough food for your family and for all the animals" to Proverbs 6:6 "Take a lesson from the ants" so I don't feel too bad in saying that back in **September** we started talking about the Sunday School nativity! The children have put in a lot of hard work and I am sure it will all pay off on the day (11th December).

We finish up on the 11th December, returning back on the 15th January.

We wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a happy new year.

From us all at Sunday School



Flower Rota ~ Winter 2012

January

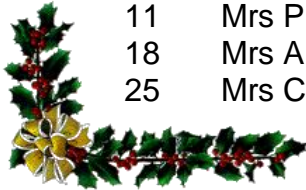
- 1 Mrs Walker
- 8 Mrs R Swanston
- 15 Mrs L McGregor
- 22 Mrs G Adamson
- 29 Mrs M Pattie

February

- 5 Mrs L Rae
- 12 Mrs A Willison
- 19 Mrs J Anderson
- 26 Mrs E Campbell

March

- 4 Mrs S Findlay
- 11 Mrs P Bodden
- 18 Mrs A Borland
- 25 Mrs C Fairlie



Again many thanks to all those who contribute to the flowers throughout the year. Please let me or the Minister know if you are aware of anyone who would benefit in any way from receiving the flowers on a Sunday.

Joan Peter ~ 554647



CHURCH CHOIR

The choir has been busy as usual over the past couple of months. We have been practising with Leuchars choir for an evening service which took place on November 13th. We all enjoyed that very much.

Now Christmas approaches and we have all the Christmas services at church as well as the Auld Kirk Concert (in our church) on Monday, December 12th and a Christmas Carol evening with Balmullo congregation on Sunday, December 18th. WE are also hosting a "Big Sing" on December 15th to raise funds for Christian Aid by singing Christmas Carols and eating mince pies! All are welcome to this , which will be at the normal choir time of 7.30pm - 9pm in the church hall.

Happy Christmas to you all.

MoragAnne Elder

PARISH REGISTER

Deaths

Mr Kenneth Low, Tayport

Mr Douglas Stanford, formerly of Castle Terrace, Tayport

Mr James Taylor, Tayport

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday Morning Worship normally 11am

Dec	Sun	11	11am	Sunday School Nativity Play and Gift Service
	Mon	12	7pm	Auld Kirk Carol Concert in the Parish Church
	Thu	15	7.30pm	The Choir's Big Sing for Christian Aid
	Sun	18	11am	Family Service
	Fri	23	11am	Tayport Primary School Christmas Service
	Sat	24	7pm	Christmas Eve Service
	Sun	25	10am	Family Service <i>The offering on Christmas Day will be in aid of Help for Heroes</i>
Jan	Sun	1	11am	Sunday Service including an informal Communion Service

Note: Closing date for next Magazine — 29 February 2012.
Please hand any articles to the Magazine Team: Jean Massie or June Pate