

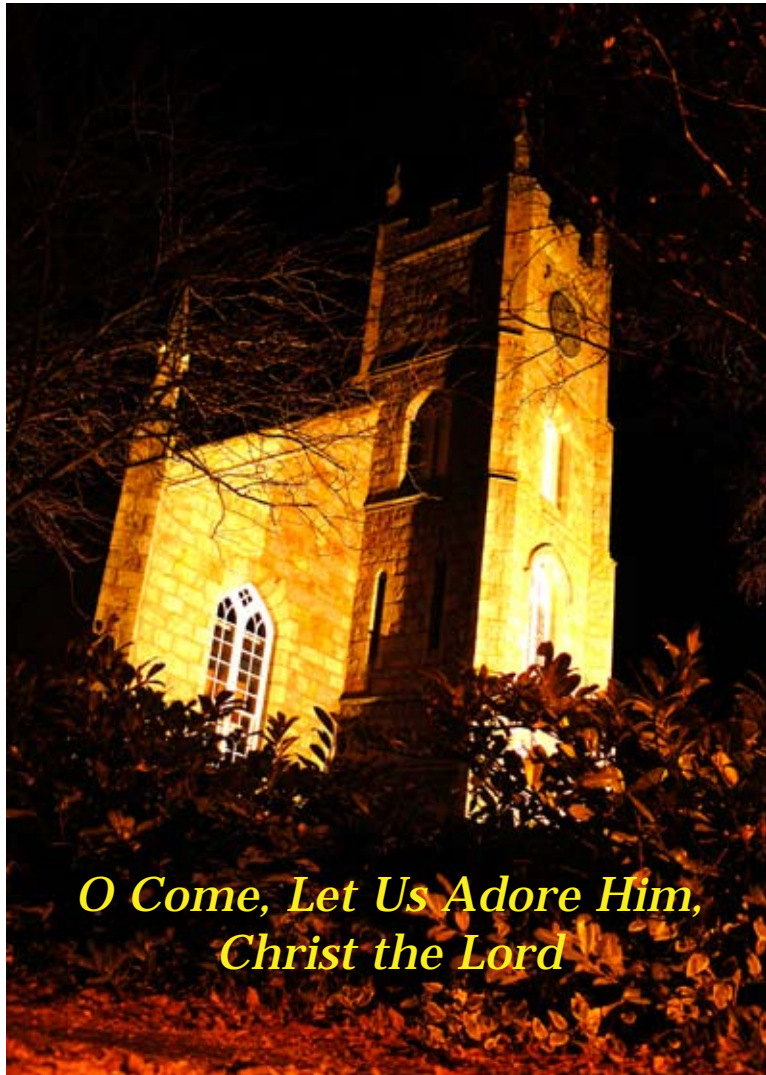


CHURCH MAGAZINE

Christmas

1

2009



*O Come, Let Us Adore Him,
Christ the Lord*

BANCHORY EAST CHURCH

Our Mission

To know Christ and make Him known

www.banchoryeastchurch.org

BANCHORY EAST

PASTORAL LETTER

Christmas

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2009

Luke 2:11 - This very day in David's town your Saviour was born - Christ the Lord!

IT'S that time of the year again when people seem to become overactive, overindulgent and overdrawn. Some run up enormous credit card bills usually by buying things that will be played with or admired for a short while before being discarded or put away in the back of a cupboard. Some create neon displays around their homes that would rival "Blackpool Illuminations" - running up enormous electricity bills and adding to global warming. Others write letters about their year and send them in Christmas cards to people they only correspond with that one time in the year. The music charts suddenly become populated by songs with sleigh bells in the background and nostalgia about how great Christmas used to be - and people buy the songs but only play them for a short period of time each year (although to be fair we only generally sing carols once or twice a year!).



Most of us promise ourselves that this year it will be different: we will not run ourselves ragged, we will not run up bills or over-indulge this year. But come the New Year we find ourselves dozing in a chair after loosening the belt by a notch,

PASTORAL LETTER

CHURCH MAGAZINE

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dreading the first post of January.

Why do we put so much time and effort into Christmas and the New Year? Maybe it's because we get caught up in the hype of the advertising. Perhaps it is because it is a holiday for most people and we enjoy the time off. Maybe there's an element of tradition that we do not want to lose because it connects us with people and memories of the past. But perhaps too there is something so basically good about this time of the year, as we try to connect and reconnect with others, that it has become part of us, and we would be bereft of hope without it. Jesus' birth is (to quote the angel speaking to the shepherds) "good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Without the birth of Christ there would be no Christmas to celebrate. So let's take time to remember that the real story of Christmas is about the one who came to help us to connect and reconnect with God.

The birth of Jesus and a new year both speak of fresh starts and hope for the future - even for those for whom this time of year is a reminder of sadness and loss. My prayer for each of you is that you will experience that good news of great joy this Christmas season and throughout 2010.

Until the next time – The Lord, bless you and keep you.

Your minister ...

Mary Haddow.

BANCHORY EAST

INTO AFRICA

Christmas

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2009

BY now, many of you will have heard that the Rev Donald Walker, who has been minister of Banchory West for the past 15 years, will be leaving to respond to a call to become minister of St. Columba's Presbyterian Church in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Like many of you I (Mary) was surprised to hear the news of his impending departure, surprised but not shocked. For those of us who have known Donald for a number of years, we know that Africa has always had a special place in his heart. He was born in Malawi; he was a minister in Zambia; he was instrumental in nurturing a link between Banchory West and the Aba Health Centre in Nigeria, but I think it's true to say that none of us thought of Zimbabwe as being the place that would draw him back to Africa.

However, having heard what they require of a minister, and knowing Donald and his gifts, I have no doubt that he is the right person for this important and challenging role. I know also that he will be ably supported by his wife Judith who will give of her own gifts and abilities to this new ministry.

Donald has worked tirelessly not only within Banchory West, but also as he sought to bring the churches within Banchory closer together by seeking out ways in which we could share the Gospel in our community.

The Gospel is a Gospel of new beginnings and so I hope you will join me in wishing both Donald and Judith well in their new beginning. They will always have a place in the hearts of those they have met and befriended in this area, and as

we wish them well for the future, let us also assure them of our prayers for their family, their ministry, their health and their wellbeing.

There will be a commissioning service for Donald and Judith on Sunday, 31st January 2010 at 4pm at Banchory West Church, all are welcome to attend. They hope to be in Zimbabwe by the end of February.



Mutare

Next Magazine

CONTRIBUTIONS to Nigel Bowker by 15th February, please.
e-mail: nigel@blackhallconsulting.co.uk

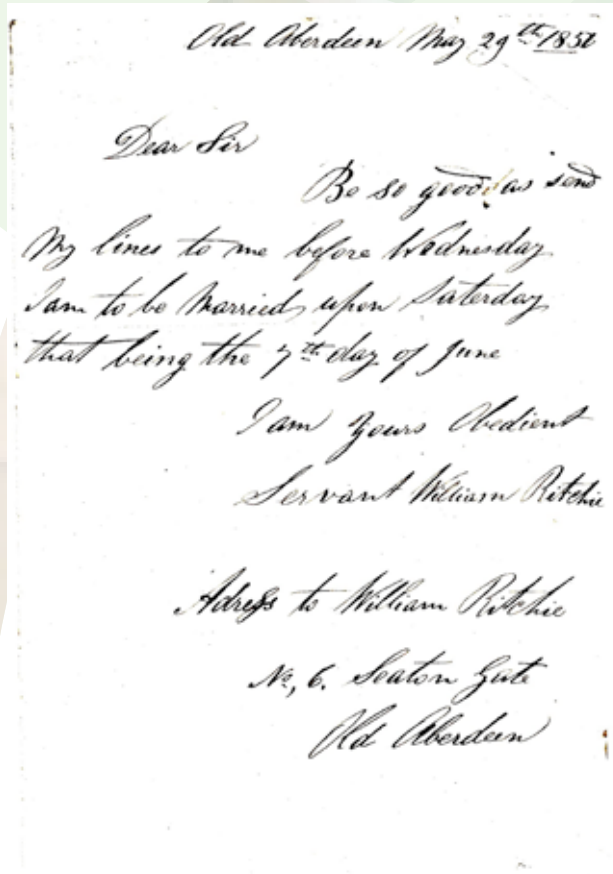
BANCHORY EAST

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Christmas

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2009



WE have recently come across a large steel box full of old church documents. A veritable Alladin's Cave!

It will take a long time to review them all but we'll be bringing some of the findings to your attention as we go along.

We are also scanning them all electronically so that they can be available by computer. That will take a very, very long time

Anyway, here's a letter from 1850 (or it could be 1851 ... the letter and its reverse where his address and the date are also shown seem to disagree; anyway, it was a long time ago) from a chap asking for his lines. The first time I read it, I thought it was signed "Servant William Ritchie". It seemed very quaint. Then I realised that it said, "I am Your Obedient Servant William Ritchie", which meant that he was neither obedient nor a servant. Still very quaint, really.

Incidentally, does anyone know anything about Mr Ritchie?

PHOTO GALLERY

CHURCH MAGAZINE

Christmas

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AGNES Barrack has stood down as the leader of our Toddlers Group. However, she is still going along to give continued support. The photo shows her receiving a “retirement” award.

MEMBERS of The Front Room helping with the service on 21st November.



BILL Stone sharing the contents of his Christmas list with us on December 6th.

BANCHORY EAST

TREE FELLING

Christmas

8

2009



LAST month, the trees around the Manse garden were lopped. Many thanks to all those who were involved.

THANKS to Roy Cowie for the use of the shredder and thanks to Mike Flatters for his time and advice.



REMINDS me of a joke. Two Irishmen were walking through a wood and saw a notice saying, 'Tree fellers required.' One said to the other. "It's a pity that Seamus isn't with us, otherwise we could have applied."

NEW MODERATOR

CHURCH MAGAZINE

THE Rev John Cairns Christie, is Moderator Designate of the General Assembly. Mr Christie, (62), was born in Glasgow and educated at the University of Strathclyde, the University of Glasgow and Jordanhill College, Glasgow. He is a Chartered Biologist and taught for a number of years. After answering a call from God to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, he studied at Glasgow University, graduating Bachelor of Divinity in 1989. He served for one year as Probationer Assistant in Mosspark Parish Church, Glasgow. In 1990, he was ordained and inducted into Hyndland Parish Church, Glasgow where he served for 14 years. He was called to Interim Ministry in 2004. He is currently in St Andrew's Parish Church, West Kilbride and is also spending some time in the Scots Kirk, Lausanne.



In 1972 he married Elizabeth and they had a daughter, Margaret. Elizabeth died in 1993. Mr Christie has been married to Annette, who is a Scottish Indoor Bowling International, since 1995.

Mr Christie lists his leisure interests as watching Annette play bowls; playing 5-a-side football, which he claims to do badly; hill-walking; reading; radio and TV; occasional golf; sailing; DIY and gardening.

BANCHORY EAST

WORLD MISSION

by Johanna Bell

Christmas

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2009

WE received the following email from Kandy:

“Dear Johanna,

Thanks for the E mail with wonderful news [regarding the money that the church sent them, including money for relief work among refugees in Sri Lanka]. As you said, it helps us to organise our work to a great extent as you have guaranteed some funds.

Soon after we receive the money which has sent for the relief work, we can organise a visit for the camps that we work with and that will help me to provide some reporting for your congregational interest. Once again thanks for your congregational assistance.

It is interesting to hear about the family worker with special mandate. Our prayers and best wishes for him as well as for his work!

Our greetings to Minister in charge and all the leaders of the church. May God bless you and guide you in His work as you continually support and promote the Kingdom values of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With every blessing and prayers,

Saman.”

WORLD
mission

WHAT LIES BEYOND?

CHURCH MAGAZINE

Christmas

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A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, 'Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.'



Very quietly, the doctor said, 'I don't know.'

'You don't know? You're, a Christian man, And don't know what's on the other side?'

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, And as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room

And leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, 'Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough.'

BANCHORY EAST

CHURCH FINANCES

Christmas

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WE came into the year anticipating a gap of £15,000 between last year's income and this year's expected expenditure. This was due to a shortfall of £3,000 experienced last year and an expectation of costs rising by £12,000 this year.

So how are we doing? Well, as at 8th November we were showing a surplus of £246.36 (!) and expect to approximately break-even at the year end. This is due to three things: firstly, people have responded positively to the situation by generously increasing their giving during the year; secondly, we have raised additional funds through the special events that we have held this year; and thirdly we have had increased rental income. And, of course, none of the events we held would have been successful without the support of the congregation.

In case anyone thought that we were scaremongering about the rise in costs, they had risen by £11,853 over 2008 to 8th November.

Of course, we will need to be able to continue this level of income (adjusted for inflation, which despite the official numbers, still seems to be there ...) in 2010 and beyond. So we continue to need your support.

One point worth making is that the Congregational Board donates 10% of the money that we raise from special events to other charities. *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded" - Luke.*

SKINHEADS!

CHURCH MAGAZINE

WILL Rowett and Tom Spencer, two of our Rookies, have had their heads shaved to raise money for the Seattle visit.

They raised about £800 and presumably are happy to receive more!

I bet a lot more would have been forthcoming



if Cherie had joined in ...

You can see a video of it taking place on YouTube where it's called "Fund Razor 09 Tom and Will".



Anyway, they'd better be careful or they'll be getting their collars felt by the police for looking suspicious!

BANCHORY EAST

LETTER FROM CAITLIN

Christmas

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2009

HEY All,

The year has been going really fast over here in Calgary, but I'm enjoying the work that I am doing as much as ever! Team leading has been the most challenging but one of the most rewarding jobs I have ever had I think. Each day having to schedule 2 other people as well as myself is a huge thing for me, and every day I remember this is preparing me for my life as I grow older in the kingdom of God.

Our ministry has been so blessed by God and going amazingly well! We got into our first Junior High, Colonel Irvine at the start of October and since then we have seen so much fruit, growth and for me harvest from the seeds that my team planted last year with the students we connected with! Over the past 2 months my youth group has grown incredible and a number of the students are from the JH we work in and also aren't just showing up for the Friday night youth but fully becoming involved in the church



Caitlin, Rob & Desirée

LETTER FROM CAITLIN

CHURCH MAGAZINE

family and attending everything!! It's amazing as last year I didn't see integration into the church like I have so far this year. We have discovered that students want to learn more but we have ask them to come and when we do they most always say "Yes!!"

We also have over the past few weeks connected with a new school and there are plans and schedules being put together for us to start work in the new year! God's hand has totally been all over this as usually its us selling Pais to a school but this time it was them selling the school to Pais! This gives me the feeling that God has opened this door with great opportunities for us, we just have to make it all happen now and accept his call in there.

There are so many amazing things going on here in the ministry right now! But it's so great to have the opportunity to be part of growing the kingdom of God over here in Calgary with the Pais project ! I have been challenged but also have oportunities to try out new ideas with gives me the chance to grow as a person and in my faith! Its amazing!

I would like to thank everyone so much for faithfully supporting me as I do my work in Canada!

I miss you all very much and I'm very excited to see you all at Christmas, and if you are interested I'd be more than happy to share more stories about my time here in Canada

Have Fun in all you do,

Love Caitlinxx

BANCHORY EAST

MESSY CHURCH

THE first “Messy Church” was held on 10th December. It started with a drink and games, then there was a craft session, then a short service and finally tea. Phew!



ABOUT 40 children were there, plus adults. The hall was heaving ..



SOME people were there doing a recce for when they're a wee bit older.

AT the Kirk Session meeting on 7th December, it was agreed that we should move onto the next stage of church development planning by holding a series of consultation meetings with the congregation in the New Year.

What is the consultation about? Well, it's not to discuss plans, because there aren't any. And that's the point. We want to consult at an early stage over what we want to use the church building(s) for so that we can build up some joint thoughts.

After the consultation we will develop an architectural brief that we can take to architects. We are hoping to organise an architectural competition. Out of that will come plans and associated cost estimate that we can use for a further stage of consultation.

Deaths

IT is with sadness that we announce the deaths of the following members of our Congregation and Parish ...

Mr Kevin Martin, Banchory

Mrs Margaret Shirreffs, Pantoch

Mrs Frances Collie, Hanover Court

Mrs Isobel Shepherd, Highfield Avenue

BANCHORY EAST

GUILD
by Margaret Thom

Christmas

OUR Guild session started in October where Rev. Mary Haddow gave an illustrated talk on our theme "Called to act justly". Communion followed this.

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2009

Then at our next meeting we had as our guest Mrs Irene Howat, a well-known author of Christian books who shared with us a reflection of the 23rd Psalm.



At our November meeting we had as our invited guest Chief Inspector Janice Innes relating police work to our theme. Mr David Culshaw gave us an illustrated talk on his bicycle ride from John O Groats to Lands End, which was sponsored for the Macmillan Nurses. At the end of the evening our tea money was handed over for his charity.

In December we are going to be entertained by the Scolty Group and our Christmas meal will be held in the hall. An outside firm will do the catering, so it's a night off for our 'tea ladies'

I would to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

CHURCH MAGAZINE

THERE are different stories about the origin of the 12 days of Christmas. One story dates it back to the religious upheavals of 17th Century England, when the Puritians suppressed Christmas and Christmas Carols. When the season was restored Catholics still weren't allowed to practice their faith, so parents used coded nonsense songs to teach their children the basic doctrine.

“My true Love” refers to God.

THE PARTRIDGE – Christ. The Pear Tree is the cross.

TWO TURTLE DOVES – The Old and New Testaments.

THREE FRENCH HENS – Faith, Hope and Love.

FOUR CALLING BIRDS – The four Gospels.

FIVE GOLD RINGS – The first five books of the OT.

SIX GEESE A-LAYING – Eggs are a symbol of new life. The laying geese stand for the six days of creation.

SEVEN SWANS A-SWIMMING – The gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Encouraging, Giving, Leadership and Mercy.

EIGHT MAIDS A-MILKING – The eight Beatitudes.

NINE LADIES DANCING – The fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.

TEN LORDS A-LEAPING – The Ten Commandments.

ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING – The 11 Apostles who remained faithful to Jesus.

TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING – The 12 vital beliefs of the Apostles' Creed.

(This may not be true, of course - but it's a nice story anyway!)

BANCHORY EAST

SO WHAT SHALL I WEAR?

Christmas

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2009

(This is an article by the Church and Society Council)

CHRISTMAS is coming! The shops are filled with glitter and gifts, people are hurrying to and fro, wondering what to buy. Everywhere is good cheer – or is it? Are we hassled and exhausted, going round and round looking for the ideal gift? But hold on a moment – ideal for whom?

The Church and Society Council are at the moment working on a report for the General Assembly of 2010 looking at the issue of how the need to clothe ourselves has led to a whole industry built around the concept of “Fashion” and “Self image” that can affect many aspects of our lives and the lives of others.



Our report hopes to show that the choices we make about the clothes we wear are an important part of people’s self image, but also are symbolic of many other things, like our values, our status (perceived or otherwise), our ethics or our work. We recognise that in God’s eyes we are all equal. God considers us more precious than the birds, which do not worry about how they are fed or what they wear.

Fashions come and go, even in the Church. Not too long ago, every woman would wear a hat. It is much more common now to wear casual dress. And how about the clergy? They

SO WHAT SHALL I WEAR?

CHURCH MAGAZINE

now have various colours and styles of robes, and some have abandoned robes for a suit because of either perceived or real understanding of what these clothes symbolise for others or for them about their role and values as clergy.

These issues affect both genders. However, it can be children and young people who suffer most. There is a considerable trend to push children into the latest adult fashions, which can lead to inappropriate messages being given. Children are being encouraged to be adults before their time.

Like everything else in life, what we wear affects more than just what we look like to the outside world. We need to be aware of the possible exploitation of workers. And what about the environmental impact of the modern fashion industry - the problem of sustainability for the fashion industry and the pollution and waste involved?

During the production of our report a questionnaire was conducted via the Church of Scotland website, Church and Society Facebook Group and the National Youth Assembly. It gives us some perceptions from Church members and others. 70% of those who responded sometimes wore second hand clothes, 84% took their old clothes to charity shops and 54%



BANCHORY EAST

SO WHAT SHALL I WEAR?

Christmas

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recycled them.

The Church does not hold a solely negative view of things which may seem trivial in the light of other problems. Fashion is an art and in this can be found meaning and beauty and cause for celebration! And the Clothing, Fashion and Advertising industries employ a vast number of people. However, we as Christians should have an awareness of clothing. Ronald Sider writes in “Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger”: “It is not because food, clothes, wealth and property are inherently evil that Christians today must lower their standards of living. It is because others are starving”.

Therefore we should look to the footprint of what we wear – environmentally, in fair trade or illicit, how we dispose of the clothes we no longer need, in what it says about who we are and the image it promotes of all of us – men, women and children. There are no right answers here but there are some wrong ones. So we urge you to have a wonderful Christmas Season, with all of the blessings that Christmas brings, but have a second thought when you shop.

Janet Whyte

Friendship Lunch

THERE were 83 people at the Christmas Friendship Lunch!

CHURCH CALENDAR

CHURCH MAGAZINE

DECEMBER		
13th	10.30 am	A Christmas Service by kids for everyone. Communion
	3.30 pm	Blue Christmas Service
20th	10.30 am	Children's Christmas Service
	6.00 pm	Joint Carol Service
24th	6.30 pm	Kid's Christingle Service
	11.30 pm	Watchnight Service
27th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
JANUARY		
3rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship
10th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
13th	7.30 pm	Men's Group
14th	12 noon	Friendship Lunch
17th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
20th	7.30 pm	Guild
24th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
25th	7.30 pm	Congregational Board
27th	7.30 pm	Men's Group
28th	12 noon	Friendship Lunch
31st	10.30 am	Morning Worship
FEBRUARY		
3rd	7.30 pm	Guild
7th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
8th	7.30 pm	Kirk Session
10th	7.30 pm	Men's Group
11th	12 noon	Friendship Lunch
14th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
17th	7.30 pm	Guild

WE have received the following guidance on the singing of festive songs.

The Rocking Song

“Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir; We will lend a coat of fur, We will rock you, rock you, rock you, We will rock you, rock you, rock you:”

Fur is no longer appropriate wear for infants, both due to the risk of allergy and for ethical reasons. Therefore faux fur, a nice cellular blanket or micro-fleece material should be used. Note: only those who have been through Disclosure Scotland will be permitted to rock baby Jesus. People must be prepared to provide three forms of identification before rocking commences.

Jingle Bells

“Dashing through the snow, In a one horse open sleigh, O’er the fields we go - Laughing all the way”

A risk assessment must be submitted before an open sleigh is considered safe for members of the public to travel on. The risk assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly if passengers are of larger proportions. Permission must be gained from landowners before entering their fields. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, ensure that laughter is not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

While Shepherds Watched

“While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around ...”

The Shepherds Union has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations for shepherds to watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided. Therefore benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Shepherds have also requested that due to the inclement weather at this time of year that they should watch their flocks via CCTV cameras from centrally heated shepherd observation huts. Note: the angel of the Lord is reminded that before shining his/her glory all around s/he must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory.

Rudolph the red nosed reindeer

“Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose. And if you ever saw him, you would even say it glows ...”

You are advised that under the diversity policy, it is inappropriate for persons to make comment with regard to the ruddiness of any part of Mr. R. Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from the Reindeer Games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

BANCHORY EAST

HEALTH & SAFETY

Christmas

Little Donkey

*“Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road;
Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load ...”*

The RSPCA have issued guidelines with regard to how heavy a load a donkey of small stature is permitted to carry. This also provides guidance on how often to feed the donkey and how many rest breaks are required. Mary and Joseph are required to wear face masks to prevent inhalation of dust. The donkey has expressed his discomfort at being labelled ‘little’ and would prefer just to be simply referred to as Mr. Donkey. To comment upon his height may be considered an infringement of his equine rights.

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2009

We Three Kings

*“We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar -
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star ..”*

Whilst the gift of gold is still considered acceptable, frankincense and myrrh are not appropriate due to potential allergic reaction. A suggested gift alternative would be to make a donation to a worthy cause or bring a gift voucher. The traversing kings shouldn't rely on navigation by stars in order to reach their destinations and we suggest the use of the AA routefinder or satellite navigation, which will provide the quickest route and advice regarding fuel consumption. The camels carrying the kings will require regular food and rest breaks. Facemasks for the three kings are also advisable due to the likelihood of dust from the camels' hooves.

SNIPPETS

CHURCH MAGAZINE

Jumble Sale

The annual Jumble Sale was another huge success in terms of numbers of people involved (over 70) and the amount raised (£2700). Once again, congratulations to Victor Skea for organising it.

Guild Coffee Morning

The Guild Coffee on 21st November raised £ 557 for Guild projects. Good job!

Message from Chris Carter

I've been involved in the making of a Christmas single and we'd like it to be the Christmas Number 1 (hope springs eternal

- Ed). It will be released on 14th December. I play bass and trumpet on the track and appear in the video. Take a look at the video; I hope you enjoy it:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NqbTm5l_Yw.

If you like it, pass it on. You can pre-order the track from: <http://www.dittomusic.dloadshop.com/shop.asp?artistid=589> here:

Fashion Show

We are delighted to announce that the church will be holding a fashion show on 26th March 2010 at 7.30 pm. Many thanks to Jean Ainsworth for organising it.

Congratulations

We congratulate the following:-

Baptisms

Katie Rose Hall
Jamie Ryan Adams
Edward Finlay Dehe

Weddings

Jennifer Cook & Paul Gauthier
Rachel Reid & Mark McSheaffrey

CHURCH MAGAZINE

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