



*With Christmas Greetings*  
  
*from*  
  
*the Minister and Congregation*  
  
*of Banchory East Church*

*Dear Friends*

*Have you ever noticed that many of the fictional heroes wore masks, so their true identity could never be known? Like Spiderman and Batman and Zorro and, of course, the original masked man: the Lone Ranger.*

*People benefited from their kindness; they frequently saved the world from the baddies. But people didn't know who they really were. They may have been heroes, but people's knowledge of them was limited.*

*There's a sense in which the same could have been said about God. In the Old Testament we learned about him, we saw how his people benefited from his kindness, but we couldn't really know him personally, intimately. It was like he was behind a mask.*

*On Christmas Day, the mask was removed. He revealed himself to us fully and completely, so that we may know him as he really is. This is why, when the disciple Philip asked Jesus to reveal the Father, Jesus said, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9)*

*God's plan is not to be our hero. He wants to be more than the one we call on in times of trouble. He wants to be our constant companion, our Father, our friend. He wants us to know him personally, and he made this possible through*

*his Son, Jesus Christ, who was sent to us two thousand years ago. This is why we celebrate his birth.*

*Christmas, a season of good will, the time when we celebrate Christ's birth in Bethlehem and hear again the message of Isaiah announcing that a child would be born who would be called "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".*

*The world needed him then: it needed to hear his message of love, peace and justice, but it rejected him and his message. He and his message are still needed in today's world. So, as we celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world this Christmas, let us not reject him, but rather, demonstrate his love, his peace and his justice in our lives and in our community.*

*I pray you all will have a peace-filled Christmas and New Year and I take this opportunity to use my ministerial office to accord you God's blessing this Christmas:*

*"May God's mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance."*

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

*Your Minister and Friend  
Mary Haddow.*

# *Special Christmas Services in the East Church*

*Sunday Before Christmas - 18th December*

10.30a.m.      *Celebrate Christmas*  
*Children reveal their Big Advent Surprise*



6.00p.m.      *The BIG Carol Sing*  
*Sing along with the Combined Choirs*  
*and Orchestras from Banchory Churches*



*Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th December*

6.30p.m.      *Candlelight Family Service*  
*Bring a candle in a holder if you can*



11.00p.m.      *Carol Sing - choose your carol*

11.30p.m.      *Watchnight Service*

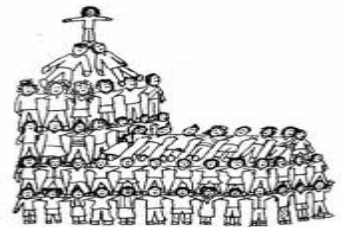
*Christmas Day!*

10.30a.m.      *Special Christmas Day Service*  
*Bring one of the cards or gifts you received*



# *Year Round Happenings*

- Sundays - 10.30 Worship Service*
- Mondays - 10.00 Toms Toms*  
*3.30 Messy Church (monthly)*
- Tuesdays - 10.00 Toddlers*  
*2.00 Crafting for Kandy (Sri Lanka)*  
*Why not come and learn or teach a craft?*  
*7.30 Rock (Fun for S1/S2)*
- Wednesdays - 9.45 Women's Bible Study Groups*  
*(Creche in East Church)*  
*2.00 & 7.30 Guild 1st/3rd of the month*  
*7.30 Mens Group 2nd/4th*
- Thursdays - 12.00 Friendship Lunches fortnightly*  
*7.30 The Edge (Fun for S3-S6)*  
*7.30 Choir Practice*  
*8.45 Worship Vigil*



*Details of all activities available from the office 820380*

# Messy Church



*Once a month Banchory East Church Halls are taken over by children and their carers looking forward to having fun and maybe learning about God as they do.*

*Messy Church is an after-school church programme for primary school children and their families. As many as one hundred people take part in our monthly gatherings for this unique experience of messy fun, learning, worship, and fellowship. It's a great way to allow children to get excited about coming to church - there's a happy, buzzing atmosphere.*

*When you arrive at Messy Church you are welcomed and offered a drink and biscuits. Tables are set up with board games to play while you wait for the main activities to begin. Around four o'clock the day's story is announced and eight to ten crafting activities begin. Each craft has something to do with the story-of-the-day and children do as many of the crafts as they like.*

*After crafting and being we go over to the of singing and some of the things the day's story. act it out ourselves. back to the halls together. This month salad, and we had our pudding.*



*messy for an hour or so, church for a few minutes storytelling. We share we've made, and tell Sometimes we even After this we all head and have a meal it was lasagne and a selection of cakes for*

*Messy Church is on the last Monday of the month - come along on 30th January and see what's happening.*

# ***Sunday Mornings Special Programmes for children of all ages***

*Creche for 0-4 years, The Tent for p1-p3's, The Studio for p4-p7's  
and  
The Front Room for those in Secondary School*

*The Tent and Studio are on a Big Advent Adventure:*

*Dec 11th      Hear the story of the Wise men and help to finish our  
Advent Project*

*Dec 18th      We make our Christmas contribution in church and  
reveal our Big Advent surprise!  
Followed by a wee party.*

*Everyone's welcome and there'll be more special adventures and fun  
in the New Year.*



**Celebrate  
Christmas!**

Spot and circle  
the differences  
between the two  
pictures. Can you  
find at least ten?



The front cover photograph shows the East Church Advent wreath and Bible on the Communion Table, bathed in light from the chancel window.

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