

Contact



Because He lives...

EK South Parish Church
Autumn 2011

Mission Statement

By the grace of God,

In the spirit of Christ,

We are a people called by God

To live and act by His Word,

And spread the Good News

In our community and beyond.

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear friends,

I am sorry to begin on a negative note but the fact is East Kilbride South is evidently struggling in some respects at present. Elders report that both attendances and income are diminishing.

Last night the Presbytery met for a conference session when Rev Alan Vint addressed the subject of church health. He began by presenting graphs of the membership trends in both the Church of Scotland as a whole and the Presbytery of Hamilton. Needless to say the graph in each case indicated a steady decline from the late 50's on with the decline in our Presbytery being slightly greater than the national average. The fact is that almost every congregation in the Church of Scotland is declining numerically. It would be all too easy to allow the seeming inevitability of decline to lead us to despair and consequently apathy but that would not be a fitting or spiritual response. One reason is that the work of God's kingdom is largely unseen. It is possible for outward success to mask hidden poverty of spirituality and of outward decline to divert us from present and future blessing. Is every large congregation a godly congregation? - not necessarily. Does financial viability ensure an effective spiritual harvest? - again not necessarily.

Listen to what God said to the Church in Laodicea "You say I am rich I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. But you do not realise that you are wretched pitiful poor blind and naked". In contrast to the Church in Smyrna he said "I know your afflictions and your poverty - yet you are rich" (Rev.3:17,2:9).

I would encourage you all to dwell not on the present circumstances of the Church of Scotland or your congregation but on the power of God who is not a prisoner of circumstances but is sovereign over all circumstances. Look actively and prayerfully to the future in hope because our hope is in a God who can make all things new.

Yours faithfully

Cameron McPherson

From Our Parish Assistant

Dear Friends

Although I've lived in Scotland since 1963, I'm still not sure what to make of the Scottish weather! I seem to remember that April was warm and sunny but May, June, July and August weren't! Then September arrived and I realised that summer was probably over and, once more it had passed me by. Before we know it, the clocks will be going back and the long dark winter nights will be here.

Now don't get me wrong! I'm not a sun lover, would get bored on a beach holiday and realised many years ago that I'll never get a suntan. But the problem is, I always *anticipate* a good summer and look forward to the days that Nat King Cole sang about all those years ago;

“Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer
You'll wish that summer could always be here”

Ah, such sweet memories.

The truth of the matter however, is that the summers were never lazy, hazy or crazy. There weren't weeks of non-stop sunshine, and yes, it did rain.

So why the nostalgia for “the good old days”? Maybe I, like most people, don't want to remember the times when life didn't pan out the way I expected, when things went wrong or when I felt disappointed and let down. We want our lives to be orderly, planned and trouble free. So when things aren't going the way we hoped, we often of try to ignore the events by putting on our rose coloured glasses! More song lyrics, slightly more obscure perhaps, but probably true

“I see it all through rose coloured glasses
And I only see what matters to me”

Perhaps these words can help to explain the discontent many of us experience in our lives. We all have desires and expectations, and assume that, if we want something, it will take place exactly when and how we want it to. So when life throws us a curve ball, instead of feeling disgruntled and annoyed, we should maybe ask ourselves a few searching questions like.....

How do I live my life? Do I expect to get my own way whatever the situation? Do I only ever consider the personal consequences of my actions? Am I really interested in other people or is my primary consideration always “self”?

We are given some very good advice in **Galatians 6:7-8**

⁷⁻⁸”Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.”

For years we've heard the expression “you will reap what you sow”, but perhaps it's now time to ask ourselves “what exactly do I sow and do I honestly want to reap the rewards due?”

By listening to God, by following his instructions and allowing Him to grow our faith, our lives can be transformed and fulfilled. We don't need to wallow in the past, trying to conjure up pictures of idyllic summer days. Nor do we need to look at life through rose coloured glasses pretending our lives are perfect. We just need to allow God to do what He does best. That is to lead us, teach us and show us the path we should follow. And if we do this, our days will be full to the brim with joy, happiness and contentment.

God Bless,

Christine Johnstone



**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
(Psalm 107:1)**

From Our Reader

In Isaiah 43:19 the Lord says “Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already – you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there.” [GNB]

What a tremendous word the Children of Israel received from God “Watch for the new thing I am going to do”

As we wait on a new minister there is a real anticipation that God is going to do a new thing in our Church. We are watching for the new thing confident that God will bless us with the person he has chosen to lead us and minister to us.

But we should also be aware that “It is happening already – you can see it now.”

The midweek meeting has been re established by a group eager to study the word of God and then to spend time in prayer for the church and for those in need. A ladies group has been launched and a group to cater for teenagers on a Sunday morning is being planned.

The evening service on Sundays is being attended by those who wish to take advantage of every opportunity to worship God. More are attending the time for prayer before the morning service.

“It is happening already”.

The road is being driven through the wilderness, it may just be a dirt track, the stream of water may still be a trickle, but it is happening.

God is moving in our Church and he wants every member to be part of the new thing that he is doing.

He wants his people to spend time in his word and to pray and call on him to burst into the wilderness, to flood the stream with the living water of his Gospel.

It is happening, and it is God’s desire that each of us experience his renewal, his new thing and I urge every member to look and see what God is doing and become part of it.

Make time to come to the bible study and prayer meeting, make time to come back again to worship not just on a Sunday morning, but also to come again in the evening and be part of the new thing that God is doing.

“It is happening already – you can see it now!”

Stuart McIlroy

Reader

Presbytery Matters

This month I have attended no Church and Society meeting but 2 other gatherings related to it. Early in the month I was present at the Lanarkshire NHS Spiritual Care Committee's meeting which meets twice a year. Did you know that all chaplains are now appointed and paid by the NHS? Chaplains are not necessarily ordained ministers, but they have a duty to contact your minister if you so request. On this occasion, all faith groups were asked to describe how they dealt with a bereavement. Three different Christian denominations were present. Christians view the body of the deceased very differently from the other main religions.

On Saturday 17th September I attended a conference in Carronvale on Supporting the Next Generation/Education and Early Intervention. An inspirational speech was given by Tam Baillie, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People. We must do more for our children seeking higher standards of care and practice, rather than give them more. In the field of Child Care, wonderful practice is going on, but not enough, and training needs to be improved. There are conferences where the standard of contribution varies greatly. This was not one of these.

Stefan Stoyanov is Scotland's Policy Officer for Children and Young People. His presentation and workshop on Child Trafficking was first rate, challenging and revealing. However little a part we can play in detecting which children have been trafficked or not, we should be alert and aware. The watch word is report any suspicion you have. I have excellent literature distributed at the above conference on Trafficking. Please contact me if you would like to see it.

Some of the best things come from the people you meet. I am now reading and responding to a blog which belongs to a minister in Lanarkshire. For me it is hugely uplifting.

I would be happy to engage with anyone on any of the business contained in Presbytery Matters.

Alasdair Sutherland

Finance Report from our Treasurer

At the most recent meeting of the Congregational Board I presented figures indicating the congregation's financial position at the end of September. This position has worsened considerably in the last few months and as a result of this I have been asked to make the current financial position clear to all members.

When I last reported to you, the finances were such that income levels were sufficient to pay our ongoing bills; but not sufficient to pay for any property repair bills or other unplanned expenditure. In the last 13 weeks however the position has become even weaker.

Over the 13 weeks covering July, August and September our average weekly freewill offering has been £788. This is £100 lower than the average for the first 6 months of the year and almost £150 lower than what was budgeted to allow us to break even with expenditure in the year. It is a similar story with cash offerings, as they are now barely half the budgeted level of £110 per week, and our standing orders are now well over £100 per month down on the first half of the year.

The effect of all of this is that our total offerings for the months of July, August and September was more than £3,000 behind budget, and it is now anticipated that there will be a further £3,000 shortfall in the remainder of the year. Perhaps more worrying is that if this trend continues in to the future then the level of offerings in 2012 will be £12,000 down on the levels for 2010.

In the current year, and until a new minister is in place, there will be some savings principally through lower Ministry and Mission payments to the Church of Scotland. There will also be a reduction of some of the other costs of having a full time minister occupying a manse. We should not however see this temporary reduction in costs as some sort of balance against lower income. Firstly, the current savings are significantly lower than the reduction in income and secondly, it is likely that a new minister will be in place within the next few months. On top of this I would remind all members that before a new minister takes up his appointment a considerable amount of work will need to be done on the manse to bring it up to the standard accepted by presbytery.

The situation is therefore much more serious than at any time during which I have been treasurer. Although we currently have a reasonable level of reserves these will be seriously depleted by the essential expenditure which has to be made on both the church and the manse.

If the current trend continues it could threaten the financial viability of the church within a few years.

Given that there is very little expenditure which can be avoided the obvious solution is that we need our offerings to return to previous levels. Without this we will have to return to the situation where we have a continuous round of special appeals in an attempt to keep us financially solvent.

I would therefore urge all members to review their offerings to try and help us avoid the situation in a few years where we will be unable to meet our financial commitments.

Gordon Lockie



Thank You

John and Allison Sharp

Blackwood

1 August 2011

Dear friends,

Allison and I are now settling down to our new life in Blackwood. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their best wishes – and for the generous gifts that we received from the congregation. The picture is now hanging in my new study.

We also very much appreciated the lunch that was provided on our last Sunday. Despite being a little worried at what was coming – we really enjoyed the short drama from the Youth Group.

Although the weeks seem to have swiftly gone by we are still trying to sort out all sorts of boxes and packages. Moving from the manse to our new home was the most stressful part of all. I for one had to say a sad farewell to around three quarters of my library!

We have enjoyed joining the church fellowship at Kirkmuirhill – where John is organist. On my first Sunday as a retired minister I had the pleasure of conducting the baptism of Laura, John and Caroline's second daughter. So our new home was rather busy that first weekend as we had Andrew and his family staying with us.

As we journey on into this new chapter of our lives we do so with many fond memories of the South Parish. We wish you well as you continue to seek to serve the Lord in these difficult days.

John and Allison Sharp

I would like to thank everyone for the support you have given me following my husband's recent illness. I know that many people have been praying for Kenny over the last 6 months, and whenever I have been in South Parish, numerous people have spoken to me to ask how he is. We have been touched by your kindness and concern during this time.

I am glad to say that, after a few setbacks, he is now making steady progress, and we both hope that it won't be too long until he is fit and healthy again.

Thank you once again for all your kind words and thoughtfulness. It has been greatly appreciated.

God bless

Christine



Church Flowers

We would like to thank everyone who donates flowers for the chancel each Sunday, also those who donate by the Flower Box.

Hairmyres no longer accepts flowers for the patients, but we try to see that flowers are delivered to people when they get home.

M. McCallum.

Flower Convenor



Summer magazine questionnaire

I received fifteen completed questionnaires regarding the format of the Contact magazine and would thank those people for taking the time to do this.

I realise that this is not a significant number of our congregation to gauge the majority view point, however of those who did return the questionnaire the vast majority did not want to see the magazine reduced in size, produced monthly nor distributed by post. So the way that the magazine is distributed shall remain the same.

As for the content, a small percentage would like to see it remain as it is, a few more would like to see it completely updated and around half would like to see a few changes made. These would include a letters style page, congregational news, a devotions page and a young people's page being added.

There was a very interesting point made that a lot of households that receive the magazine have family members that don't come along to church and this magazine reflects our church to them. We should therefore remember this when considering how it is presented.

Wendy Kerr



Nominating Committee Update

To keep you up to date with what's happening in our search for a new Minister, here's what the Nominating Committee has been doing.

With the guidance of our interim Moderator and in cooperation with the Kirk Session we have been discussing the kind of Ministry we would prefer as we look into our future.

The result of these discussions has been the production of a Parish Profile which describes our current situation and our hopes for the future. This will be available to all those who apply for the post of Minister here. And an advertisement has been carefully drawn up which will be appearing shortly in the Life and Work inviting applications. In addition to that the vacancy has been circulated internally to existing and newly qualified Ministers.

Also a new website is in the process of being constructed so that anyone interested in applying can have access to information about the South Parish.

So the groundwork has been done and the next stage is to receive applications, organise interviews and arrange visits to hear prospective candidates.

One thing that has been stressed to us is the need for confidentiality. It's not easy to accept this but for the sake of the candidates we ask that you will please respect this.

This may take some time but it is important that we are led to the right person to Minister to us in the years ahead. We would appreciate your prayers as we go through this process.

Keith Offor

Chair

What would you want us to look for in our new minister?

We would like to give the whole of our congregation a voice in the selection of the minister to lead and work with us over the next chapter of the life of our church. Therefore we request that you would please take a few moments to complete and return the questionnaire that is inserted into this edition of Contact magazine. Thank you, The Nominating Committee.

LOVE

Everybody, particularly a Christian, has some idea of what the word *love* means. I am sure we are all familiar with the great passage of Scripture in I Corinthians 13. However, we cannot begin to appreciate the full significance of love until we have meditated (thought) in depth about the love of Jesus Christ. The Son of God who came from the Father's side, at the Father's will and humbled himself, becoming God Incarnate (in the flesh), visiting us as a poor and insignificant man, to become our substitute on the cross.

The more we know of the divine attributes of Christ, our Creator and sustainer, the more we can but wonder at it all. Believing in, and being overwhelmed by, this amazing reality of God's divine love for us sustains our love for God and neighbour that the two great commandments require (Matt 22: 35-40). Our love expresses our deep wholehearted gratitude for God's gracious love to us.

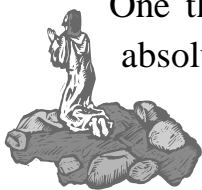
The indispensable mark of our Christian life is Christ-like love. In seeking to become like Him, we also should humble ourselves daily and become the servants of others. The measure and test of love.....

- ✝ To our **God** is - Obedience (John 14:15,21,23; 1 John 5:3)
- ✝ To our **Neighbours** is - Laying down our lives for them (1 John 3:16; John 15: 12-13).

John 13:34-35 – "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

This sacrificial love involves us giving our time, labour, money, and even impoverishing ourselves for the well-being of another. Love is a principle of ACTION rather than of emotion. It is a matter of doing things for people out of compassion for them. We are

called to feel personal affection for them. It is by their active love for one another that Christ's disciples can be recognised (John 13:34-35). It is a fundamental part of our witness to the world.



One thing I would like to leave you with, to ponder: Christ knew the absolute necessity of prayer. He knew how dependent we human creatures are upon the mercies of God. Yet Christ did not stay in the Garden of Gethsemane and say "I will pray for you". He stood up and left the Garden and walked resolutely to the cross and there sacrificed his life that you and I might live. So we all should seek to progress from our place of prayer and sacrifice ourselves for our neighbours.

Activities

Badminton Club

The Badminton Club would like to invite you to join them on Tuesdays from 10.00 - 12 noon. Men and ladies of any age and ability will enjoy the chat and laughter so much, while you play, that you will hardly notice that you are exercising.



LADIES' GROUP

It is good to take time out, to share with others, to chat and enjoy fellowship.

The newly formed ladies' group does just that and more!

Our first meeting was lively and friendly with not a little laughter, and it's good to laugh!

We would love it if you would join us - ladies young and old and everything in between will be welcomed with open arms. Come along and give it a try!

We plan to meet (very informally) twice a month until the end of the year and decide which way to go thereafter.

The meetings are 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm (cake provided on a rota basis)
 3rd Tuesday of the month at 12 noon (bring your own lunch)

Your prayers would be valued as this new venture takes shape.

Kirk Lunch 30 October

Minimum donation £2 (children free)

To raise funds towards the upgrade of the manse.

For an indication of numbers please add your name to the list in the hall of friendship.

For more information speak to Ishbel Campbell or any of the ladies group.



YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group has just started back after the summer break.

If you know any youngsters from Secondary 1 upwards then please do encourage them to come along to the group. These youngsters are the future of the Church and need to be nurtured and encouraged in their faith.

There are only a handful of very faithful young people in the group at the moment and it would be such an encouragement to see the group outgrow my living room!

We meet after the Sunday evening service. Transport home is provided.

Please pray for the Youth Group as we seek God's guidance for the year ahead.

Further information from Ishbel Campbell

Autumn Fair / Coffee Morning

Saturday 5 November

9.45am - 12.15pm

Please come and support this event

Thank you,

Ways & Means Committee



Around the Congregation

Praise Group & Music Matters

Sadly the Praise Group has become a lot smaller over the past few months and we are continuing to look for new players.

We had Kirsty Campbell playing while home on holiday, but she has returned to her studies in Aberdeen. Rachel Wilson, an occasional member, has also gone to Aberdeen to study music. We wish both girls well in their studies.

Lesley Crawford was in charge of SU's first Junior Music Camp in July. Kirsty Campbell and Eilidh Wilkinson helped at the camp which was a great success. Another former member, Matthew Wilkinson, was at the Senior Music Camp which ran at the same time. The camps finished with an excellent joint concert in Kinross High School.

The Big Sing for Christian Aid will take place in Moncreiff Parish Church on the evening of Sunday 30th October when there will be some items from a choir made up from all the East Kilbride churches and items of congregational praise, with all the money raised going to Christian Aid. As there will be no evening service in the South Parish on that date, your support of the Big Sing would be appreciated.

Seven members of the congregation took part in the recent Praise Gathering concerts in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall in mid-June. The choir of just over 400 people sang to packed houses and there was a tremendous atmosphere of worship. Four members took part in the second Edinburgh concert in the Usher Hall a week later and three are travelling to Belfast for its first concert there on 6th October. A CD of songs recorded at the Glasgow and Edinburgh concerts will be available in November.

We will also be looking forward to organising musical items for the Christmas period. Keep a watch on the intimations for details.

Barrie Crawford



Girls' Brigade

The company have enrolled and we have seen a slight rise in numbers which is great. The officers are looking forward to the new session as some are taking a new section for the first time.

The Explorers are looking at the theme of Celebrations and have already been busy in the kitchen icing cakes, most of the icing got onto the cakes but I think the Explorers were wearing some of it as well!!! The Juniors are also looking at the theme of Celebrations this year which will begin with Harvest. We are following a story of a boy in Uganda who is being supported by Tearfund to help with his schooling and food for his family. We hope to have a Coffee Evening in October to raise money for Tearfund and run it in conjunction with our annual enrolment and dedication service. The Brigaders are taking on some DIY (watch this space!!!!) and are undertaking some wall climbing!! (Rather them than me!)

The Explorers and Juniors are off to the Kelvin Hall in October for a giant party with all the girls from Glasgow Division which I am sure will be a great day.

We currently have 2 Brigaders who have completed Leadership 1 Training and hope that they will continue on to Leadership 2 and be able to help in the younger sections of the company. We also have Brigaders undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and we hope they will be able to go out on expedition next spring when the weather improves!!

We would like to thank the congregation for their continued support to the company.

Eleanor Duffy

2nd East Kilbride Company Boys Brigade

Yet another new session is now well underway with the membership in all sections showing an increase on last year. It is a tremendous encouragement to the staff that young men and boys are still eager to be part of the Boys Brigade when there are so many other things to attract them. There is still plenty room for more so encourage your sons and grandsons to come along.

We have a major fund raising event planned for October and will be bag packing in Sainsbury's in the town centre and would be delighted to pack your bags. Check the notice board for more details.

The usual activities are planned for the new session and we hope to have additional members of staff complete their Youth Leader Training.

The Boys Brigade is thriving because we commit it to God in prayer and we rely on your prayer support as we work with young men.

Stuart McIlroy

Captain

**GOD
IS
LOVE**

"God is not what you imagine or what you think you understand. If you understand you have failed."

- St. Aurelius Augustine

"A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word, 'darkness' on the walls of his cell."

- C.S. Lewis

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."
(Matthew 19:20-22)



As I write this, the Sunday School has just hosted the first coffee morning of the new session. It was really encouraging to see so many of you joining us for coffee and chat. The donations of home baking were greatly appreciated too! We raised the sum of £113.75 which we thought was not bad for the first coffee morning of the 2011-2012 session.

Our next project is collecting food (non-perishable) and adult clothes (in good condition, please) for the Loaves and Fishes Ministry. For the past few years the Sunday School has supported this and all donations have been gratefully received. It has even rubbed off on Murray Primary School as they also support Loaves and Fishes as their Harvest charity. Dennis, from Loaves and Fishes has visited the school and has given talks on the need for our donations. If you can, please join us in donating tins or non-perishable food for us to pass on to Dennis. As I have already said, adult clothes which are in good condition will be happily passed on too. This appeal will run until 4th December and hope that as we celebrate Christmas with our loved ones we will remember the less fortunate in our area.

We also support the Shoebox appeal for children in underdeveloped countries. Ask any member of the Sunday School about this – all contributions, as long as they conform to the guidelines, will be gratefully received.

You may have noticed that numbers have fallen in the Sunday School. This is due, primarily to the pull on young people's time to sporting activities on a Sunday morning. Having said that, we rejoice in the children we do have attending week by week. It is a joy to teach them and you can be assured we put as much effort into preparing for a few children as we do for a big crowd!

We rely on your prayers and the interest you show in us, so please keep it up!

God bless you all, from everyone involved in the Sunday School.

Elizabeth Crawford



Operation Christmas Child or as we more commonly know it, 'the shoebox appeal' has been running since 1990. Mrs Sharp ran it in our church for many years but now Dorothy Offor and Wendy Kerr will be the contacts.

The leaflets that are available in the hall of friendship and they have all the information on what to fill your box with, it also has stickers to put on your box to say if it's for a boy or girl and what age group it is suitable for. It also has an envelope to place £2.50 per box in to cover the costs of getting your box to a child, although you can donate online if you prefer and if you donate this way you can trace where your shoebox went.

Suggested items to put in a box include: toys, toiletries, stationery items, puzzles, sweets. (These must all be new items to conform to import/export regulations).

Don't include: food unless it is non chocolate sweets, war related toys, clothes unless it is gloves, a scarf or a hat, glass or mirrors, liquids although toothpaste is okay, sharp objects, reading books as most children would be unable to read in English but picture books are okay.

We have to deliver the shoeboxes between 1st and 18th of November so please bring your shoeboxes to church by Sunday 30th of October. If you feel that you are unable to do a shoe box but would still like to contribute there is a box at the entrance to church for donations.

Go to their website for more information. www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk

Thank you.





REMEMBRANCE:

Cenotaph

Every year, on Remembrance Sunday, the television will show pictures of the Queen, politicians and those who have served in the armed forces at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. They stand in silence for 2 minutes to honour those who have given their lives for others.

But do you know what the word 'cenotaph' means? It comes from two Greek words 'kenos' meaning empty and 'taphos' which is a tomb. The cenotaph is a monument to people whose bodies are somewhere else. Have you ever seen a war cemetery? They have rows and rows of simple tombstones and while there are flowers and the grass is carefully mown there is such a sense of sadness.

The Cenotaph was unveiled in 1920, the same year that the body of an unknown soldier was buried in Westminster Abbey. So many people have had their lives taken in wars and each one matters, not just to their families, or us, but to God.

WORK IT OUT?

The drawer where you keep your socks has five pairs of grey socks and five pairs of black socks. If you can only take one sock from the drawer at a time and you can't see what colour sock you're taking until you've taken it, how many socks do you have to take before you know you will have at least one matching pair to wear to school?



Answer at the bottom of this page.

Who always goes to bed with his shoes on?

A horse.

There is a girl who lives in a bungalow. Everything in her home is pink. The lamp is pink, the bed is pink, the television is pink, the computer is pink, the mirror is pink, the kitchen is pink, the windows are pink, even the plants are pink. What colour are the stairs?

There are no stairs – it is a bungalow.

Answer: Three. At worst, the first two socks you take out will be one black sock and one grey sock. The next sock you take out will match one or the other.

Wider Church



Every year, thousands of young people leave the church and for many of us, this is a personal concern. However many of them don't actually turn their back on God, but on something else.

This tour, presented by Care for the Family, is an opportunity for parents, church leaders and youth workers to join Rob Parsons, Saltmine Theatre Company and Phatfish as we discover together what that 'something' might be, and try to change it.

The event will feature a challenging message, inspirational drama and worship, partner exhibitors, resources and more!

Wednesday 2nd November 2011

7.30pm to 10.00pm

The Clyde Auditorium, Glasgow

If you fancy going along to this please speak to Wendy Kerr.

Have an *ALTER* nativity

Ideas taken from Christian Aid's *ALTER* nativity campaign by Ruth Jarman

Christmas should be a time of great joy and real celebration for everyone. But many people struggle through it - getting into debt, feeling pressurised or stressed, guilty or lonely - and unable to participate fully in the meaning of Christmas.

Is how we celebrate determined by prevailing traditional customs or by the expectations of others around us; or is our Christmas really about what we want it to be about?

Take Christmas cards as an example. When your first card drops through the door on the 1st December do you eagerly open it with joy, murmuring a prayer for the sender, or are you reminded of you how hopelessly disorganised you are again this year and how there's no way you're going to get all the Christmas cards and presents done in time for Christmas and how you wish you were a hedgehog?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is sending Christmas cards and giving presents a chore and give them just because people expect it?
- Do you consider the impact on God's world by what you buy?

- Do you consider the cards and presents to be part of the celebration?
- Do you give yourself time to stop and wonder at what it is all about?

This Christmas why not challenge yourself to:

- remember the simplicity and meaning of the Incarnation, with the freedom, joy and peace that is offered in the coming of the Messiah
- resist the excesses of consumerism, which cause many people to incur unpayable debts and cause such harm to creation.

Here are some ideas:

- Purchase presents from charity shops - buying second hand is as important as giving away your old things to the shop.
- If you do buy new, buy minimally-earth-damaging things like books or fair-trade items and steer clear of plastic.
- Give gifts of charity (e.g. you can send someone a card saying that you have given to World Vision)
- Give theatre tickets or dinners out.
- Get up half an hour earlier during Advent to meditate on the Nativity or read an inspirational book.

For Your Information

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Ass Session Clerk	Eleanor Woodburn	9 Newlands Place	237928
Praise Group	Barrie Crawford	96 Colonsay	239850
Treasurer	Gordon Lockie	19 Strathmore Grove	226271
Church Officer	Frank McIntosh	33 Mull	238470
Magazine Editor	Wendy Kerr	wendyhkerr@hotmail.com	238453

Congregational Activities

Sunday	10.00am	Prayer Time
	10.30 am	Morning Service (Crèche available)
	7pm	Evening Service

Organisations

Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday School & Youth Bible Group
	8.30 pm	Youth Group
Monday	7.15 pm	The Guild
Tuesday	10.00 am	Badminton
	7.00pm	Ladies Group (1st Tuesday)
	12 noon	Ladies Group (3rd Tuesday)
Wednesday	9.45 am	Smartenies Toddler Group
	6.00 pm	Girl's Brigade
	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer Time
Thursday	6.15 pm	Boy's Brigade
Friday	7.30pm	Boy's Brigade