

'K&F'

Kinloss & Findhorn Church News

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May 2009 - 'Year of Homecoming'.



From the Manse.....

The threat of a global pandemic has certainly been concentrating the minds of governments and health chiefs following an outbreak of Swine 'Flu in Mexico. The ready access to air travel certainly increases the rapid spread of infectious disease within today's 'global village'. Outbreaks of such diseases however, have been around for as long as humankind and are well documented. The Plague at Eyam Derbyshire in 1665 for example, raged for 14 months and claimed the lives of at least 260. By 1st November 1666 it had run its course and claimed its last victim. Eyam's selfless villagers, with their strong Christian convictions, had shown immense personal courage and self sacrifice by closing off the village, thus preventing the plague from spreading to other parishes, but many paid the ultimate price for their commitment. Diseases, and the fight to relieve them, have been part of human life since the dawn of history. The Bible frequently mentions personal illness and epidemics and of attempts to prevent or cure . In those days, Jewish medicine was regarded as better than many, largely as a result of its rigorous sanitary codes. The ultimate origin of the word 'quarantine' was the Jewish law setting 40 days segregation for certain illnesses. Today we can thank God for the skills of medical science that have evolved from past generations enabling us to live healthier lives, but let us also pray, especially at this time, for health, healing and wholeness in the world.

May God bless you and keep you. Yours aye, Duncan.

Rev. Duncan Shaw - 4 Manse Rd, Kinloss - 01309 690931



Guild scheme launched in Capital

The Church of Scotland Guild has revealed the six organisations that will be part of its multi-million-pound charitable programme. Members gathered at St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, for the launch of the Project Partnership Scheme for 2009-12.

The six projects are:

1. On the Other Side; which helps prisoners' families (partnered with Crossreach.)
2. A New Hunger; an HIV charity (partnered with the Church's HIV/Aids Project)
3. Terrify No More; an organisation that rescues prostitutes and slaves in Cambodia (partnered with the International Justice Mission)
4. A Place for Hope; an ecumenical centre for reconciliation in Scotland (Partnered with the Ministries Council)
5. Mission Run; which helps spread the Gospel in Madagascar (partnered with the Mission Aviation Fellowship)
6. Interfaith Support; a group that works for peace in Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities in Israel and Palestine (partnered with the World Mission Council).

Guild members are encouraged to support the nominated projects through worship, prayer and action, as well as expanding their own knowledge of the underlying issues of concern in the world.

'The Budget' - How was it for you ?

Last week's Budget, for "the most serious global economic turmoil for 60 years", sought to keep ordinary and increasingly unemployed people afloat while nursing the economy back into life. The Chancellor, Alistair Darling, had seen last year's predictions of a 2.5-per-cent increase in the economy turn to a 3.5-per-cent contraction. However, a Christian Aid climate scientist, Dr Alison Doig, called the Budget a "wasted opportunity" and a £90 million for a carbon-capture scheme inadequate.

Tax Justice

Many people believe that reforming tax regulations on a global scale could help alleviate poverty and create a fairer economic system. Christian Aid is supporting a tax justice campaign to:

- Encourage international co-operation on tax to reduce the scope for tax avoidance and activities such as profit laundering;
- Reduce pressure between jurisdictions to compete on tax rates;
- Establish a World Tax Authority that would monitor the impact of tax policies and prevent harmful international practices; and
- Challenge governments, businesses and individuals to take the initiative to reduce reliance on tax avoidance and profit laundering.

Christian Aid argues that international financial centres encourage rich multinational corporations and wealth elites to take their money elsewhere and avoid paying tax. As a result the tax burden for others is increased. There are also allegations that offshore centres can be used to launder money and can facilitate corruption or illegal trade in arms and drugs. Others believe that international financial centres are an integral part of the world trade system and that they help to promote trade and economic growth, which are essential to poverty reduction. Some of the jurisdictions are well-regulated and illegal activities are strongly policed.

Christian Aid Week

This year, our parish Christian Aid Appeal takes the form of an Afternoon Tea and Sales table in Findhorn Church Hall on **Saturday 9th May from 2pm**. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to support this worthy cause and so help us bring relief aid to where it is most needed in the world. Contributions for the sales table to Marjory please.

Moving Mountains

Moving Mountains Prayer for the Community will now be meeting on the 1st Monday of the month instead of Friday, with effect **from Monday 4th May**. Same time and place - 7.30pm at No 1 Leask Rd. Forres.

Flower Arranging Demonstration

Thursday 4th June - Findhorn Church Hall 2 – 4pm
£1.50 - In aid of Church Funds
Refreshments - All Welcome.

What is Back to Church Sunday?

Back to Church Sunday started in England in 2004 and has since spread around the world, bringing thousands of people back to church.

On the last Sunday of September, parishioners ask a friend or relative if they would like to go to church with them. If the answer is yes, they accompany the person to church and stay with them during the service and for coffee either before or after. "It's something everyone can do," says Bishop Philip Poole, who is heading up efforts in his diocese.

"Our Diocesan Council has this year designated **Sept. 27** as 'Back to Church Sunday' and many churches are already preparing for the big day".

So how about it? Let's give it a try in *our* church. **Start preparing for September 27th** and encourage someone you know to, come back to Church!

'K&F' Transport Issues !

If you are a car driver and drive from Findhorn to Kinloss regularly, spare a thought for the Minister as he edges out of Manse Road, risking life and limb from the increasing number of motorists who should have gone to 'Specsavers' and fail to note the 30mph signs approaching Kinloss. These mean that you should enter the village *AT* 30mph! And no.... it's not all boy racers either! The Minister's speed gun is 'sharper than any two-edged sword' (Heb 4.12)!



...And some *good* news on the transport front! As a result of discussions with the Minister, Stagecoach and Councillor Jeff, a new Sunday bus time-table will come in on May 24th meaning that parishioners from Kinloss **or** Findhorn can attend the 10 am Services. So no excuses about not having transport then ? See you on Sunday!

Funerals

(Our condolences to all who are mourning the loss of a loved one)

14th April – Mrs Nancy Armstrong, Kinloss - late of Cathay Home

And finally Why ...

...if you send something by road it is called a shipment, but when you send it by sea it is called cargo?

and...if a convenience store is open 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the door?