

K&F'

Kinloss & Findhorn Church News

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December 2008



From the Manse.....

With Advent and the lead up to our great Christian festival of 'Christ-mas' come the long dark nights and crisp, clear weather that often defies the forecasters. (It'll be cold in the Trossachs!). As I write, I am still mindful of the 90th anniversary marking the end of the Great War. Christmas, during that bloody conflict, recorded the moment when soldiers of both sides sang together 'Still the Night' providing a brief spiritual respite from the constant bombardment. Also that Christmas, there was the remarkable football match played on the front lines by troops from opposing armies! A letter, written during that time, apologizes to his 'girl' that his writing is blotchy and hard to make out, since he is scribbling in a shell-hole that is filling with snow! The writer was a young artist and, as his Generals planned for the onslaught of Passchendaele, his thoughts were on the forthcoming exhibition of his work and how they should be displayed! It's almost as if it were business as usual, despite the wretched war all around him. This Christmas, many will be trying to make business as usual too, even with the worries of 'Credit-crunch' and concerns about redundancies and Interest Rates. Others will be thinking of loved-ones far away and those who are trying to bring peace to foreign shores. It was in such a world of tension and conflict that Jesus Christ was born, in a rudimentary shelter, and to a young couple who were betrothed. Out of that darkness there came a great light and a step change in the lives and love of humankind. ***"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who calls you out of darkness into his wonderful light"***

May the joy and comfort of these words be yours this Christmas - Duncan

Christmas Services 2008

'Festival of Christmas'

The Guild invite you to join them in a

'Festival of Christmas' featuring the St Aidan's Bell Ringers

On Sunday 7th December at 7 30pm

Admission £3 (in aid of Kirk Funds)

Christmas Eve - Watchnight Service 11 30pm in Kinloss Church

Christmas Day - 10am Findhorn Church

(Please encourage families to come and to show us one of their presents!)

Christmas Decoration - Findhorn

For the past 14 years, Mrs Helga Stephen and Mrs Eleanor Scott have co-ordinated the decoration of Findhorn Church for the Christmas Season. This year however, they don't feel able to continue and so, to both, we send our sincere thanks and appreciation for their commitment and the enjoyment they have provided at Christmas. This means however that we are seeking volunteers to take over the task both for this and subsequent years! If you would care to take it on, please don't be shy and contact Bill Barber the Session Clerk at the earliest opportunity. (690349)

Post of Church Officer

Mr John Scott has intimated his resignation from the post of Church Officer, following his imminent relocation to Forres. We are indebted to John for his gentle and kindly ways, especially so at Funerals and his compassion for those who have been bereaved. We wish John and Sheila every blessing in their new home. This means of course that we are now seeking a new Church Officer! Anyone who may be interested in this post are asked to contact either Bill Barber (690349) or Robin Miller (690213)



Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Project

Please don't forget about this deadly disease that is still rife in so many parts of the World. Our World Mission contact, John Scott, reminds us of the Church of Scotland's continuing work overseas in response to this deadly disease. One of our mission partners also sends the following report.

HIV/AIDS can be bad news. In many African countries it reached epidemic proportions quite some time ago, and its dire consequences are all too well known. However, there are many people determined to make the best of the circumstances, as Jenny Featherstone, a mission partner in Zambia, has discovered. Jenny lives in the north of Zambia, teaching at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation and United Church of Zambia seminary. In recent months, she has also begun to form links with a group of HIV positive people who meet in the Kitwe township of Kamatipa, a name that means "mud" in Bemba, the local language. Extreme poverty means it is a struggle simply to survive. Water polluted "by copper mining and ignorance", suggests Jenny, means that residents tend to buy their water. But at a cost of 70 pence a week even this is more than some can afford. The HIV positive support group includes several people who are eager to learn how to read and write. Though Jenny's Bemba is not good enough for her to teach, she is able to pass on methods for teaching adult literacy to two or three facilitators. In turn, they teach lessons in a hired building which has a chalkboard. The group needs to buy exercise books and pens, but costs should be minimal, says Jenny. Another priority for the group is to purchase garden tools in order to grow tomatoes and other vegetables for sale. "The work is tiring," says Jenny, "particularly if you are having a bad day, or have not eaten anything nourishing. With the anti-retrovirals needed to combat HIV, it is really important to eat before taking medication otherwise you can feel very nauseous." The Kamatipa group is now putting together a proposal for funding for both the garden tools and also for materials for a tie and dye workshop – which has the potential to be another source of income. For, despite HIV and against the odds, these Zambian men and women are determined to live life to the full.



Next Moderator !

Reverend Bill Hewitt is Moderator Designate of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Mr Hewitt is currently minister at Westburn Church in Greenock and the vice convener of Presbytery Business Committee and Convener of Discipline.



Church Roll.

Funeral

Our sincere condolences to all who mourn.

5th November – Mrs Jane Souter, Findhorn

Christian Spirituality

We recognize that Christians do not have a monopoly on spirituality and that, since all people are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), all humans have a spiritual dimension which will be expressed in a variety of ways. The word spirituality is also used to refer to the model which gives structure and expression to our spiritual dimension. There are many different models, such as Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim or Christian spirituality.

Christian spirituality is modeled on the life and teaching of Jesus, about whom we have a few central theological beliefs (expressed in the historic creeds of the church) and a wide variety of other understandings. At the heart of the teaching of Jesus is an emphasis on a new and dynamic life coming out of a renewed relationship with God (John 10:10). Christian spirituality is ultimately about our relationship with God. Jesus came to show us more fully what God is like, to show what a life lived in a close relationship with God could be like, and through his death and resurrection to make such a relationship and life possible for us.

Have you ever thought...?

If a pig loses its voice, is it dis-gruntled?

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broke-r?

Why is a person who plays the piano called a pian-ist, but a person who drives a racing car is not called a rac-ist?

Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposites?

Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?

Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one?

A happy, holy and blessed Christmas to you all, from Duncan & Dorothy