



NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends

As we enter December our thoughts turn towards the celebration of Christmas. Remembrance Day was hardly over when the streets seemed to be full of Christmas lights, and the shops were calling us in to make sure that we make the day special for those who are closest to us.

No doubt we are caught up in all the preparations. Sometimes it's easy to become a bit cynical about everything that surrounds Christmas, but as Christians we also feel a special sense of the wonder of this time of year. As a Church we, are excited about doing special things to make clear out delight in the special gift that we receive at Christmas, the love of God made known in the birth of a child.

Last year we held our first Christmas Tree Festival. A highlight was the carol service that took place in the afternoon, just as it was getting dark. As the sun disappeared the lights on the trees shone all the brighter. The truth about Christmas, that into the darkest of times the brilliance of God's love shines all the more brightly, became obvious to us.

This year we are holding another Christmas Tree Festival on the weekend of the 16th and 17th December. The two highlights are our carol service at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday 16th and our Gift Service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday 17th. There will be more trees this year than last, and we are delighted that local schools will be participating, along with groups and organisations in our Church. Each tree will have its own theme, and the festival will capture something of the joy and the meaning of Christmas. I hope that many of you will be able to come and join us for the Carol Service, to sing carols, to hear again the story of Jesus' birth and to share the good news with people from all across the community of Cambuslang and beyond. We will catch in a fresh way a sight of what God is doing among us as we find him, not in the splendour of a palace or beyond our reach in the glory of heaven, but as a baby crying in the earthiness of a stable.

I know that Christmas can be a time of mixed emotions, of joyful sharing and, for some, of times, places and people they miss. There are many different services during the Christmas period at Cambuslang Parish Church. It is my prayer that the people associated with our congregation will find something that speaks to them of the excitement, the joy, the hope and the promise of God as we come together in worship. I warmly invite you to come and share in our services, and to find encouragement from the God who makes the light shine in the darkness.

Wishing you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Leslie

News To The Pews

DECEMBER 2017

Kyle MacCorquodale: We were delighted to learn that our musician, Kyle, has been appointed as principal bass trombone with the Halle orchestra in Manchester. This is a wonderful achievement, and we offer Kyle our warmest congratulations. Kyle will be starting with the Halle at the beginning of 2018. We will have an opportunity to express our appreciation of all he has done as our musician at the carol service on the afternoon of the 16th December

Leslie Milton

PREPARING FOR LEADERSHIP GROUP: The group will meet on Saturday 2nd December from 9.30 to 11.00 AM at Wetherspoons, Cambuslang.

Christmas Tree Festival - Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th December. A wonderful display of trees decorated by various church groups, organisations and some of our local primary schools. The church will be open on Saturday afternoon from 2-6pm with a Community Carol Service at 3.30pm. There is no charge for entry and we will be serving festive themed refreshments. You will have an opportunity to vote for your favourite tree so come along with your family and friends and join in the fun!

Unfortunately I have 1 death to report - Miss Isobel Irons, 311 Albert Drive, G41 5RP who passed away on 29/10/17

This will be David Beveridge's last month as editor of the Newsletter. Thanks to David for all he has done in the time he has been producing the magazine for keeping us up to date with what is going on in our congregation, and for sharing his faith. David wants to continue his regular Bible Study notes, and these will be available as a separate supplement.

Leslie Milton

The “I AM’s” of Jesus

In the providence of God, I have no doubt, we come to the second metaphorical statement of Jesus wherein He states in John 8:12 and 9:5; **I am the light of the world.** It is entirely appropriate that we consider this statement of our Lord at this time of year, for it is perhaps supremely at Christmas that the full import of His words bears upon our minds. Again we note that no other person in the history of the world could make this statement. Only Jesus Christ can say this and be taken seriously. So let us examine His words and consider their meaning.

I recall once visiting a cave complex in County Clare, in Ireland, called Ailwee Cave. The tour involves walking for about half a kilometre underground along a path which is lit. At the end of the walk they turn out the lights. The darkness is almost palpable – there is no light whatsoever. It is very disturbing. When a light was produced there was a tangible sense of relief amongst the visitors.

The Bible begins by stating in Genesis 1:2,3 **“The earth was without form and an empty waste and darkness was upon the very great deep. The spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light; and there was light”** (Amplified Version). God called light into being in the midst of utter darkness by His mighty power or as theologians would say by Divine Fiat – which is to say by His word of command alone.

When the inspired Apostle John records the creation event some thousands of years later, he does so like this in the Gospel of John 1:1-5. **In the beginning {before all time} was the Word {Christ} and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. He was present originally with God. All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being. In Him was Life and the Life was the Light of men. And the Light shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it {put it out, or has not absorbed it, has not appropriated it, and is unreceptive to it.}** (Amplified Version)

From John’s Gospel we can see that Christ co-existed with God the Father always. The Son of God was not created. For this reason we say in the Nicene Creed:

We believe ONE GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible: and in ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, GOD OF GOD, LIGHT OF LIGHT, VERY GOD OF VERY GOD, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.(That is by Christ all things were made).

These words take us to the very heart of the Trinity, and they speak to us of things of staggering complexity; if we find ourselves confused, it is only to be expected because we are considering the very Being of God insofar as HE has revealed it to us in Scripture.

So how are we to consider this Jesus who is the Light of the world? If we go to the Book of the prophet Isaiah 9:6 it reads thus: **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in the land of intense darkness and the shadow of death, upon them the light has shined.**(Amplified Version)

What is this darkness wherein we walk? It is the darkness of sin and unbelief. From the time of Adam’s fall it has been like this. It is the darkness which refuses to acknowledge God as God. It is the darkness which places EGO at the centre of one’s existence usurping the place rightfully to be occupied by God. It is the darkness which places idols of whatever kind before God in the hearts of men and women. People erect all manner of idols as they live their lives. The home, the job, the new furniture, the new car, the new kitchen, the boat, the holidays, even the family and the church, can all become idols. In the Ten Commandments God says in Exodus 20:3 **“You shall have no other gods before (or besides) Me.”** And we are all guilty of it.

But here is the wonderful thing. God became incarnate; He took on flesh as a baby in a stable in Bethlehem, so that He, having lived a sinless life might take upon Himself all your sin and mine and suffer and die instead of us on the cross at Calvary. When we grasp this, and give ourselves; heart, soul and mind and strength to Christ, LIGHT - God’s Light, shines into the heart of the believer and completely chases away all that which would separate the believer from God. All things become clear because the believer is able to see all things in the brilliant light of Jesus Christ. If you do not know Jesus as Saviour come to Him now, repent of your sin and be washed by His shed blood and dwell forever in His Light.

May you have a truly blessed Christmas.

David Beveridge



Phoenix Choir Concert - Sunday 4th February 2018. Following on from the success of last year's event we are delighted to welcome back the Phoenix Choir for a concert in February. Tickets will be £7.50 and on sale soon. Please make sure you mark this date in your diary.

Walking Group

Walking Group: As usual we will be having a walk between Christmas and New Year. This year it will be a morning walk at Chatelerhault followed by lunch at Wetherspoons. Those interested in going should meet outside the Church at 9:00 am. Travel will be in shared cars. Everyone is welcome to participate on this walk which is a great chance to walk off the excesses of Christmas Dinner!!

David Black

Freewill envelopes

Freewill Envelopes: Elders are now delivering Freewill envelopes for next year to those who use this method of making their offering and you should have them before the end of the year, If you have not received your envelopes by the end of the year please contact your Elder or myself, David Black. Finally on behalf of the Church I would like to thank everyone for the contributions they have made over the past Year

HOSPICE

Construction of the new Hospice building is nearing completion and in June 2018 patients will be moving into this spectacular facility. The target was £21m and thankfully "only" £1m has still to be found. CPC has kindly supported the Hospice. Christmas badges will again be available in the vestibule in the Church during December and I hope you can kindly continue your support for this wonderful establishment.
Isabel Crinean

Thankyou!

Agnes McLachlan, 18 Mansion Street, Would like to record grateful thanks for the flowers she received.

Family Ceilidh Party - Saturday 13th Jan 2018 in the St Andrews Halls. We welcome back our talented Music Group for another family ceilidh night to mark the start of a new year. More details closer to the time.

Notices for the January Newsletter should be submitted to the Editor, Susan Young by the end of December 2017 [-susan.young43@talktalk.net](mailto:susan.young43@talktalk.net) .Any articles for publication on the Website should be submitted to Richard Black - rblack2604@gmail.com.