

'Echoes'
of
ST. JOHN'S
PARISH CHURCH
KIRKCALDY

No.30

December, 1990

15 Harcourt Road,
Kirkcaldy.

CHRISTMAS REVELATIONS

Dear Friends,

Not long ago a school collapsed during an earthquake killing most of the children. A little boy was rescued from the rubble and rushed to the hospital.

A team of doctors and nurses worked seven hours trying in vain to save his life. When the boy died, the surgeon took it upon himself to go and tell the anxious mother the sad news.

Exhausted and drained from her long wait she became hysterical. She ran at the doctor pummelling his chest with clenched fists, wailing in grief.

Instead of pushing her away, the doctor held her tightly in his arms until the sobbing subsided and the woman rested childlike in his arms.

And then the doctor himself began to cry.

He had come to the hospital shortly after hearing that his only son had also been killed in the earthquake.

As we consider all the suffering in the world - in Kuwait, South Africa, Northern Ireland - and try in vain to wonder what it must be like for the victims, we have the Christmas revelations that God is with us - Emmanuel.

God is not some distant spectator inhabiting a paradise untouched by pain. In Jesus, God is with us and he knows what it is like to suffer.

After all, he experienced the plight of the refugee, miscarriage of justice, hatred from his enemies, pain, mockery and finally death.

Jesus absorbed all that suffering and at no time did he become bitter towards those who were the cause of his suffering.

During this past year your minister, his wife and family, and to a lesser extent you the members of the congregation have been going through a particularly difficult period.

My prayer for you all at this time of celebration is that you will truly experience God with you and that through him you will remain strong in the strength He supplies.

Sometimes/

* FESTIVE GREETINGS *
* from the Editor *
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* Where has the year gone? *
* What changes has it brought? *
* So we are about to enter 1991 and, *
* thank goodness, no one knows what these 12 *
* months hold for us as individuals. *
* However, the Christmas message and a *
* new year always brings a surge of *
* anticipation that the time ahead must and *
* should be better. *
* The advent of 1991 must of necessity *
* also bring its challenges. That is life. *
* But strengthened through the words and *
* actions of Jesus Christ may this message *
* of greetings coupled with best wishes let *
* the months ahead be full of joy and peace *
* for all of you. *
* May the happiness of the festive *
* season remain with you throughout the year. *

Sometimes when we are suffering we feel that we are on our own and no-one can do anything to help. But I can assure you that the situation you and your minister is facing is remembered daily in prayer by many.

Peace be with you.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID J. H. LAING
Interim Moderator

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WILL VISIT SICK

During Mr. McNaught's continued absence our Interim Moderator, Rev. David Laing has intimated he shall be only too pleased to visit members of the congregation who are ill at home or in hospital.

Anyone requiring these services should contact our own Session Clerk, Mr. David Winton, or phone Mr. Laing at Kirkcaldy 260816.

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THANK YOU, JACK
by The Editor

There is no doubt the congregation owe a great deal of gratitude to one of our members - the popular Rev. Jack Millar. Since his official retiral Jack spent a long period as Interim Moderator at Methilhill and Denbeath church.

When our own minister became indisposed Jack took on similar duties at St. John's and there is no doubt, without detracting from the efforts of others, in his own style and fashion he played a large part in holding the congregation together.

There is no doubt we all owe him a debt of gratitude, even though Jack being Jack will be the very first to shrug his shoulders and laugh off such praise with some jocular remark.

One can have nothing but admiration, too, for our kirk's senior officials who have rallied round and been unstinting in their efforts to ensure the smooth working of the church. Most of their work goes unseen but I know they have made light of the heavy load they are carrying.

This goes especially for Session Clerk, Mr. David Winton, treasurer, Miss Ina Kennedy, Clerk to the Board, Mr. Brian Winton and Freewill offering organiser, Mr. John Wooton. There are others too numerous to name but as a congregation we have much to thank them for.

Last but not least thanks must go to our Interim Moderator, Rev. David Laing. Any minister has more than enough on his plate dealing with the affairs of his own church but he, too, has unwaveringly taken on the additional duties at St. John's, with enthusiasm and drive which is a credit to him.

This seems an opportune time to extend our best wishes to Mr. McNaught that he will soon be able to return to the fold. For Sam, his wife, Janice, and family may 1991 bring all the good things in life that at times we are all too inclined to take for granted.

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Miss May Dick tells us that the Scottish Country dancing class numbers remain steady and they continue to meet every alternate Monday. Their ability and confidence has increased so much that they attended two dances recently, one at Hopetoun House and the other at the Girls Club, Kirkcaldy. Dancing is a good therapy and new members are always welcome.

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C H U R C H N O T I C E S

CRADLE ROLL

"Suffer the little children to come unto me"
by Barbara Winton

1990

MAY

- 27 Paul Fraser Clayton, c/o 16 Montgomery Street
Adrienne Lynn Duncan, c/o 15 Cedar Avenue
Michael James Wylie, c/o 9 Forth Park Gardens
Debbie Jayne Rowan, 64 Balfour Street

JULY

- 1 Nicole Louise Harley, 33 Campsie Crescent

AUGUST

- 5 Amy Diane Goodfellow, 46 Winifred Crescent
19 Nicole Janet Allison Gay, 70 Templehall Avenue
Caroline Morrison, 24 Salisbury Street

SEPTEMBER

- 23 Matthew Walker, 10 Wellbank Gardens, Finglassie
Gillian Kirsty McIlneave, 252 Tantallon Avenue, Glenrothes
Kelly Anne Taylor, 281 Redcraigs

NOVEMBER

- 4 Kerry Anne Louise Irene Girdwood, 9 Kenmore Av. Polmont, Falkirk
18 Natalie Elizabeth Knight, 12 Beech Avenue, Thornton

AT REST

"I am the resurrection and the Life"
by David Winton, Keeper of the Roll

JUNE

- 11 Mrs. Gladys Taylor, 81 Kennedy Crescent

- 18 Mr. Robert Bease, Methven House, Sang Road

JULY

- 10 Mr. T. Beall, 44 Winifred Street

AUGUST

- 3 Mr. Andrew Wyles, 31 Baldwin Crescent

SEPTEMBER

- 11 Mr. A. Johnston, 9 Griewe Street

- 18 Mrs. Kidd, 78 Winifred Crescent

- 24 Mrs. Wyles, 31 Baldwin Crescent

- 30 Mrs. Isa Phillips, 13 Maple Street

OCTOBER

- 19 Miss Isa Ross, 12 Patterson Place

- 30 Mrs. Miller, 49 Kennedy Crescent

NOVEMBER

- 17 Mr. John Lees, 22 Griewe Street

ADMISSION BY CERTIFICATE

Mr. & Mrs. A. Goodfellow, 46 Winifred Crescent from St. Andrew's

ADMISSION BY RESOLUTION OF KIRK SESSION

NOVEMBER

- 21 Mrs. Carnegie, Abbeyfield House, Meldrum Road

REMOVALS BY CERTIFICATE

1990

- MAY 31 Mr. & Mrs. W. McCraw, 25 Bennochy Avenue to Falkirk
- JULY 2 Mr. Charles Ross, 15 Maple Street to Helmsdale
- OCTOBER 24 Mr. & Mrs. Prescott, 95 Ralston Drive to Ladybank
- 25 Mrs. Mary Brown, 2 Weavers Crescent - Lines requested
- NOVEMBER 23 Mr. & Mrs. Brennan, 18 Viceroy Street - Lines requested

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HOW TO MAKE A £1 WORTH MORE

If you give £1 in your offering you could be giving £1.33 to the church offerings simply by signing a Deed of Covenant.

BUT WHAT IS A DEED OF COVENANT?

A Deed of Covenant is an efficient means of increasing income for the church because the tax you have paid on your offering is refunded to the church.

WHO CAN GRANT A DEED OF COVENANT?

Anyone paying Income Tax at least equal to the tax refund of the covenant, also those receiving Building Society or bank interest subject to the composite rate of tax provided that such income each year covers the gross amount of the covenant.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Simply complete a Deed of Covenant promising to give your decided amount for four years. You can give this amount through the weekly freewill offering envelope, by a single cash payment or by cheque. Your givings are confidential and no details of income are asked.

IS THIS NOT REALLY JUST FOR WEALTHY MEMBERS?

No. If you pay tax at all the tax you have paid on your normal offering can be redeemed, however large or small.

WILL I HAVE TO PAY MORE TAX?

No. There will be no extra cost to you.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

Further details can be had from John Wooton, 12 Barry Road, Kirkcaldy. Telephone 262476.

IF YOU would like to discuss this method of increasing your offerings ^{HC} I will be happy to arrange to visit you in the privacy of your own home.

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GIFT DAY APPEAL

The Gift Day held on Saturday, 20th October was once again well supported by members and the grateful thanks of the Congregational Board is extended to all who donated.

The sum of £1616.50 was received.

Thanks are also due to the ladies who supplied and organised the refreshments which enabled many of those who came along to enjoy a short respite, refreshment and friendly conversation.

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ACTIVE AS EVER
by Superintendent Jean Harris

The Sunday School has been very busy since it recommenced in September and plans are now in hand for the Christmas activities.

I was very pleased when Rosemary Fox agreed to assist with the senior department. I would like to thank her, also June Waddell, Maureen and Jim Taylor for the support they are giving.

It would still be helpful if anyone else interested would like to come along and give further assistance.

We had a very successful cake and candy sale after the church and raised £81 to help our sponsored children in Lebanon and the Holy City. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

On Sunday, November 25, the senior department visited the cottage at Kingskettle where despite icy cold weather they managed a short country walk.

One of the highlights of the outing was toasting bread over an open fire then enjoying sausage, bacon, cheese and "home" grown potatoes.

Again our thanks to all helpers, also Pearson Hepburn and Margaret and Walter Simpson.

The children from the older departments are visiting Buckhaven Theatre on Monday, December 17 for their Christmas break.

The Christmas parties are being held as follows - Primary (Joan Wood) December 15 and Beginners (Jean Harris) December 22.

Again by popular demand we have enrolled the assistance of Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Mitchelson who are our usual caterers. We warmly thank them for their much appreciated work.

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CHOIR AIDS CHURCH
by Brian A. Booth

Since the June issue of "Echoes" we have had a very successful barbecue at Mr. & Mrs. Morrison's home in Turnberry Drive. Despite a dull start to the day, the weather could not have been better.

The Musical Evening on October 12 was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The sum of £146 was realised and this, along with £108 from the Ensemble Concert in May, has been donated to church funds.

We continue to meet at 7.15p.m. on a Thursday when a pleasant time is now being had rehearsing for our carols and lessons for Christmas. This will probably be held on Sunday, December 16 at 11a.m.

As we approach the end of another year I would like to take the opportunity of once again thanking the members of the choir for their loyal support in all that we try to achieve. Their excellent attendance and contribution to worship is very much appreciated and has been favourably commented upon by visitors in recent months.

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WOMAN'S GUILD
by Sandra Marhsall

Each year our committee arranges meetings to provide us with information on the four Church of Scotland missions - National Mission, Social Responsibility, Parish Education and World Mission and Unity. Our delegates also keep us up to date with news of these from the Presbyterial Council meetings.

During this session we have learned of the Church in Jamaica, the Bible Society's work in providing scripture overseas and have taken part in the National Mission project. The latter has involved members in making special shawls and bedsocks to be given to the elderly around the country. We have also had speakers demonstrating their skills in photography, craft work etc.

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CHRISTIAN AID NEEDS YOU!
by Sheila Reeves

Christian Aid Week in May is the major fundraising event each year, and the aim is that every household in the country be given the opportunity of contributing money to help the poor and needy, mainly in Third World countries. This depends on volunteers from churches undertaking the door-to-door collection. Unfortunately, St. John's, in common with the other churches in Kirkcaldy, suffers from a lack of collectors. Only £338 was collected this year, compared with £372 in 1989, because 9 districts within our area were not covered. These 9 districts raised £83 in 1989, so it is likely that the total this year could have been in excess of £421, as the level of giving generally increased.

While I'm extremely grateful to the ladies who have acted as collectors over the years, I am anxious to have at least 9 new volunteers - gents as well as ladies!

The shortfall in the door-to-door collections was offset by the £105 raised by the "Bread & Cheese lunch". This was held in the large hall following Sunday service at the start of Christian Aid Week, and was attended by around 40 people, who donated the money they would normally have spent on their Sunday lunch. Bread, margarine, cheese and soup were generously donated by Wm. Low and Safeway. Thanks are extended to them and to everyone who assisted with and attended this event.

A coffee shop, also selling home baking and bric-a-brac, is held each day of Christian Aid Week in the West End Congregational Church hall. I'm also extremely grateful to the ladies of St. John's who staff the shop on the Wednesday morning and who this year raised £76.

Door-to-door collecting can be hard work and it may seem a lot of effort for little reward. However, every little helps and even modest amounts, in the hands of Third World communities, can help improve water supplies, methods of farming, general health, education, etc.

A few hours once a year is not a lot to ask. As Christian Aid's motto says - please help the poor to help themselves. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please see me any Sunday or phone me on ~~265559~~.

269559

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UNEXPECTED VISITORS
by Alison Scott

Last year you may remember, after our visit to friends in East Germany, we brought the good wishes from the Pfarrer of the church there to us here in St. John's.

To everyone's delight and surprise came the "Freedom". The Berlin Wall was opened up and the people were able to visit places forbidden to them previously.

Our friends came to Scotland in July and loved it here in Kirkcaldy. With them, we took a fresh look at the Beveridge Park, Ravenscraig Park and the sea-front.

The fishing villages of Anstruther and St. Monance were also a special delight - quite a contrast to the village in the hilly area, far from the sea where they live.

It was a special day for them too, to come with us to St. John's and share in our worship, and you can see that they signed our visitors book.

Many problems still have to be solved in their country so we would like to send them our good wishes for a Happy Christmas and our hopes that the new year to come will be a good one for them.

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On Sunday, December 23, at 7p.m. in St. Brycedale Church, Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society along with that kirk's choir will give a programme of Christmas music consisting of carols etc. This should prove an enjoyable, relaxing evening sure to be enjoyed by all.

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GET TOGETHER CLUB
by Mrs. M. Blewes

During our summer drive to Aberfoyle when we stopped for tea at the Baillie Nicol Jarvie Inn it was surprises all round.

When the establishment learned this was Mrs. Main's 90th birthday they presented her with a birthday cake while we sang 'Happy Birthday' to her. On behalf of the club Effie Kitchie gave her a box of chocolates.

The following Thursday Erika Mason arrived in the hall carrying a tray with a single lit candle on top of what turned out to be - wait for it! a clootie dumpling, donated by her neighbour, Mrs. Murray.

In September Miss McGregor reached the same age and regaled us by telling how friends and relations had taken her out to mark this birthday and also gave her a birthday cake etc. The club also handed her a box of chocolates.

Mrs. Nan Aiguid left quite a sum of money to her beloved club. After a committee meeting it was decided that in her memory we would treat all connected with the club to the Christmas party which will be held on December 20.

Mrs. Agnes Darling, too, left us a sum of money and as she was an ardent player of scrabble we decided to purchase another luxury set of the game. We have two new members who play scrabble so this will be a very welcome extra addition.

Our members are still very enthusiastic in their weekly attendance.

If you know anyone who would enjoy a good afternoon do encourage them to come along. We would give them a lovely welcome.

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SALE SUCCESS
by Mrs. Jenny Walker

The Ladies Work Party meets every Tuesday at 2.15p.m.

We had an outing in June to Ayr. The weather was unkind but the company cheerful. Our high tea was at Maidens which was excellent.

The Christmas Fayre was on Saturday, November 24. This raised to date £1220. It was very successful.

Our thanks to all members of the congregation and friends who supported us. We also are indebted to ladies of the congregation and the Young Women's Group who assisted on stalls and with the teas. Sincere thanks to all.

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BUSY GIRLS
by Guider, Muriel Walker

The guides continue to flourish. We have started a new patrol and now have Bullfinches to go with Kingfisher, Blue Tit, Nightingale and Swallow patrols. Since the summer we have awarded a host of proficiency badges, including 10 campers badges.

One patrol has received a first - the Patrol Purpose badge and another patrol should shortly be following suit.

Two guides have gained the Blue Trefoil badge and are now working for the highest award - the Baden Powell Trefoil.

Plans are in hand for a Blue Peter bring and buy sale in December of January.

We hope to finish our session with a visit to an old folks home and start 1991 with a trip to the pantomime.

We still have one or two vacancies for interested girls aged 10 years or over.

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Letter to Mr. McNaught:

33 Westgarth Avenue,
Edinburgh, EH13 OBE

7th October, 1990

HOW A STRANGER SAW US

Dear Mr. McNaught,

I had the privilege of conducting worship in your delightful church today and would like to say how impressed I was by so much in what I saw of your congregation.

My wife, acting as my chauffeuse from Edinburgh, took her pew as a stranger, but was warmed by the most kindly welcome by those already occupying it.

I, too, was most kindly welcomed by your session clerk, who shepherded me throughout. I thought yours was a most responsive congregation. I liked the way in which your order of service was available for the members and, reading the intimations on the back, I was left with the impression of a most lively congregation. The size of the congregation, of the choir and of the attendance in the church was all impressive.

I also enjoyed your building with its bright windows, all re-built, Mr. Winton told me, after a devastating fire at great expense to the challenge of which your following rose with great courage and generosity.

I couldn't help wondering if the vitality of your people today stem, in some measure, from the togetherness they found in that time of emergency. That may be far-fetched, but I do feel you have a congregation to be proud of and one that waits your return with loving expectation.

May God restore you to full health soon that you may have joy in your ministry and that your congregation may enjoy their minister again.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE T. H. REID

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FINAL NEXT YEAR
by Jim Christie

The Men's Fellowship Bowling Club has completed another enjoyable outdoor season and during this were only rained off once.

Due to the late starting of the David Wemyss trophy games we could not get the final played before the end of the season so this will take place soon after the start of the 1991 outdoor events.

We are now well into carpet bowling which is held in the church hall every second Monday. In addition to the game this provides good company, a cuppa of tea and biscuit. Come along and join us boys!

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YOUNG WOMEN'S GROUP

The Young Women's Group continue to meet every Tuesday at 7.30p.m. in the new hall. They have a varied syllabus including country dancing, Cheshire Homes and a talk on "Islands of the Forth". They also held a very successful jumble sale and a beetle drive. The ladies are looking forward to their Christmas Floral Art evening and, of course, the festive season itself.

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