



**Crown Terrace Methodist Church**

# **Christmas 2012**



Dear Friends,

By the time this letter is printed, we will be into the Advent season, with Christmas just around the corner. I always feel that Advent gives us the chance to slow down a little and catch our individual and collective breath, as we can so easily get caught up in all the rush and bustle of Christmas, as exciting though it may be for some. The idea of Advent is, of course, to help us to create space in our busy lives for reflection and preparation for Christ the coming King. It can also help us to think about Christ coming the first time round as the baby in the manger.

Someone reminded me recently of one of my favourite carols, ‘Cradled in a manger meanly’, which picks up on an Advent and Christmas theme. One of the verses has the lines:

‘Enter, then, O Christ most holy;

Make a Christmas in my heart;

Make a heaven of my manger:

It is heaven where thou art.’ (G.S. Rowe)

It is one of the greatest mysteries of the Christian faith to contemplate that God in Christ should deign to live in human hearts and lives. St Paul refers to this as “the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). Incredibly this does not depend on anything the recipient does or is (“we have this treasure in clay jars” - 2 Corinthians 4:7), whether deemed great or small in the eyes of the human race, rather on God the giver, so that no one may boast in the presence of God and the glory goes to God alone.

In terms of the spiritual effects on human lives, when Christ the light of the world comes into the human heart, received by faith, the darkness is banished and the light begins to shine. It is then possible to live in the assured hope and anticipation of Christ’s return as the coming King. A well-known Scottish hymn-writer, Horatius Bonar, used to go to bed each night praying, “Is it tonight, Lord?”, and then rise the next morning saying, “Is it today, Lord?” Here was a man who, whether awake or asleep, lived in the light of Christ’s coming again and was always making sure he was properly prepared for it.

Advent and Christmas can help us to look back to Christ’s first coming as well as look forward to his second coming. But ideally, this season should remind us of what the Christian message is all about: that Christ desires to live in human hearts to the praise of God’s glorious grace. Charles Wesley puts it succinctly in his greatest carol, ‘Hark the herald angel sing’:

‘Mild he lays his glory by,

Born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,

Born to give them second birth:

*Hark! The herald-angels sing*

*Glory to the new-born King.’*

May each of us know this truth afresh in our hearts over the coming Festive Season.

Every blessing, John

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

To Ruth (Dyer) & Floris Faber, a son, Max Wilhem Mawusi, in Brussels, on 20<sup>th</sup> October  
To Colin & Judith (Herbert), a son Alexander James, on 11<sup>th</sup>

### BAPTISMS

Kimberly Chiamo Nnabuko, on 26<sup>th</sup> August  
Chigozirim Sean Igbokwe on 4<sup>th</sup> November

### CONGRATULATIONS

To Alec and Beryl Booth who celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 26<sup>th</sup> August  
To Michael Dyer on his 50 years as a local preacher

### DEATHS

Charlotte Suttar, a loved and respected member of C.T.M. passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> October

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### **Traidcraft makes a difference at Christmas**

Traidcraft, founded as a Christian response to poverty in poor countries, has made 'Happy Christmas' a reality to thousands of people.

In Peru, Sirci and Alberto Marquez had to leave their farm in Quinoa to escape the Shining Path, Maoist terrorist organisation. They were able to get work in a pottery workshop supplying craft products including nativity models to Traidcraft. They are so grateful that they can now celebrate Christmas not only with simple gifts to their own children but also send gifts back to the children in Quinoa. There are many families who could tell similar stories of being able to educate their children, or even just provide them with sufficient food because Traidcraft have given them the support they needed to improve and market their products.

Sadly there are still millions who could benefit from the support of Traidcraft. But they can only continue helping third world producers to improve and market their products if we, in the comparative security we enjoy buy their products. Traidcraft does not feather –bed inefficient producers – they demand quality products and offer advice on marketing . Prices are certainly higher than the cheapest brands in the supermarkets, but comparing like with like, quality and price is competitive eg. Traidcraft Everyday 100 teabags @ £2.30 = Twinings Everyday 80 bags @ 2.99.

Want an idea for a New Year's Resolution? Why not resolve to at least try the Traidcraft goods on offer at church – and help make Christmas 2013 special for more of the people who have to work harder than most of us do to merely exist . More information at [www.Traidcraft.co.uk](http://www.Traidcraft.co.uk)

## Pitlochry Weekend

A heavy snow shower as we were about to leave Aberdeen did not augur well for the journey south but as we left the snow cleared and the sun shone. We had a delightful journey enjoying the scenery and bright autumn colours. The rest of the weekend was equally delightful.

The Atholl Centre was warm and comfortable and the meals were excellent. The programme was varied. We were introduced to the archaeology of the Holy Land and there were early morning exercises for the energetic. There were traditional hymns and action songs in which the toddlers took part and which took me back to my own childhood. There were also modern songs There was discussion and videos and of course the Ceilidh. Everyone was catered for.

After an introductory session we saw part of a film about St Francis of Assisi. As we saw his commitment in building up of the walls of a place of worship we were reminded that we too have to show similar dedication. We were also reminded of his great hymn, "Make me a channel of thy peace"

On Saturday we circulated between three groups. The Minister and Mike led a discussion on Worship. It was interesting to hear the views of people with different backgrounds and what they looked for in worship. We also thought about modern and traditional hymns.

Jim introduced us to two new songs, One was a rhymical expression of praise The other was more meditative expressing commitment. You may have noticed the wall of cardboard bricks which was brought back to Crown Terrace. Under the leadership of Joan and Jayne we were asked to illustrate a new beginning in our life or in nature, listing the negative and positive thoughts we experienced on such an occasion.

In the afternoon the majority went on a three or six-mile walk in the glorious sunshine while a few of us enjoyed a trip to Scone Palace.

After some music we had the Ceilidh with songs and stories. Several people dressed up for the pantomime, Snow White. There was also a skit based on the song "They never shall be missed". We saw the lighter side of many of the participants as they took part.

After a summing up session we split up into groups according to our interests to prepare for the concluding Service. Some took part in a dramatic presentation. Members of the Singing group provided musical items while a third group selected short prayers, which reflected the weekend's activities and discussions.

Our grateful thanks are due to all who made our stay at Pitlochry so enjoyable, Delia and the others who organised the weekend and kept everything running smoothly, those who led the groups, the ladies who provided such an abundance of delicious home bakes, and the staff of the centre who were friendly and helpful.

Then, after a group photograph we made for home with memories of another happy weekend. We had been reminded of the need for commitment and that each one had a part to play in building up the congregation. We were also challenged to think of our attitude to change. Personally, my most lasting memory is of the great kindness I received from everyone. I was thoroughly pampered. Thank you.

## BYZANTINE RAMBLINGS

This year saw a couple of ambitions realised. We travelled to the historic city of Istanbul and visited the great Hagia Sophia and the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora. The Hagia Sophia, once the greatest church building in Christendom, is breathtaking in its size and its mosaic decoration, and famed for its frescos. The Church of the Holy Saviour at Chora is probably even more resplendent in its decoration, having been renovated, restored and decorated by one Theodore Metochites, Grand Logothete (something like a Prime Minister) in the 14th century. Art historians compare the decoration with that of the Arena Chapel in Padua, where Giotto led the way in the renaissance of artistic form in the West. Both Hagia Sophia and the Chora church are wonders to be savoured, but the lasting impression for me is that the magnificence of the decoration is dedicated to Christ. In all the mosaics, His glory is proclaimed. Whatever you think about Byzantine times, Christ and his person can never have been far away from people's view and from their thoughts.

Journeying on we came to Pergamon (Pergamum in early Christian days), "where Satan has his throne", according to the letter to the church there in Revelation. Certainly a place for a throne, with an Acropolis towering over the town and containing temples to Trajan, Athena and Zeus, Dionysus; and major civic buildings set up for ruling the land and people. Just below Pergamum was the Sanctuary of Asclepius, dedicated to the healing of mind, body and spirit, which includes the hospital, theatre, library and a Temple to Zeus. An advanced way of providing a health service, except for the fact that death was not allowed, and the risk of patient demise was eliminated by pre-examination.

And so to Ephesus, renowned for 'hard labour and patience' says Revelation. A sumptuous place in its day, and in the days of the early Christians. Some say Mary the mother of Jesus retired there, and both Christians and Moslems revere the supposed site of her house, and many have been healed. The Celsus Library is still impressive, despite being a ruin, as are various municipal buildings, a grand theatre (seating for 24,500!) and a building, like a smaller theatre, except that it's a council chamber, with seating for 1500! Quite intimate really, compared with the grand theatre. Roman power is evident, with temples dedicated to Domitian and Hadrian, and public fountains dedicated to Trajan and to Roman governors. There are later church buildings, dedicated to St. John and to the Virgin Mary.

The great Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, is nearby, although that's not strictly accurate, as much of the building was transported to the British Museum, when the great acquisitions were happening. The place looks a bit sad now, with just one column standing. "Great is Ephesian Artemis" they shouted, according to Acts. Not any more.

We saw a lot more in our Byzantine journey, but I was left with the thought that the great church buildings in Constantinople should be seen in the light of the house churches which lived very much in the shadow of a regime and population, which was very much against them. There is no remnant of the buildings of the early churches, but their legacy is Christendom, divided as it is, today. The church in our country lives in a less than encouraging society. Will we be remembered for our hard labour and patience? I wonder.

## O.A.K. Report

O.A.K. is once again very grateful for all the support and help we have had in staffing the O.A.K. Cafe during the past year. We have been helped with cover for holidays and illness.

We have had very successful Special Lunches during the year and now we are turning our attention to the Christmas Festivities. We have had a good response to our shoebox appeal and have sent 85 boxes to The New Hope Trust for distribution in Eastern Europe. We will soon have our Christmas Lunches which are a sell out this year. We hope Santa realizes how many parcels he will need!

Our next Special Lunch will be in aid of Clan and will be held in February.

The Cafe will be closed from 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 and will reopen on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

We hope you all have a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year, and look forward to seeing you all in 2013.

Betty Steel.

## A CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

BETHLEHEM  
COUNSELOR  
DECREE  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER  
FAVORED  
GABRIEL  
GREATJOY  
HOLYHOST

JOSEPH  
MARY  
NAZARETH  
PEACE  
PRINCEOFPEACE  
SAVIOR  
SHEPHERDS  
SON  
SWADDLING  
TAXED  
THEMIGHTYGOD  
TIDINGS  
VIRGIN  
WONDERFUL

Try to find **all 24** words on this board.

R B I U G N I L D D A W S V C  
F E S U S E J O S E P H K O P  
X T C B T I D I N G S Y A U N  
R H O A H O L Y G H O S T M I  
N L U U E V E R L A S T I N G  
A E N J M P V R R Y V U O Q L  
Z H S W I V F A V O R E D V S  
A E E V G B W O N D E R F U L  
R M L E H G X N E P A E A D E  
E A O I T I R Q A C U U T E E  
T R R A Y E N H Z V N Z H C R  
H Y X E G A B R I E L I E A C  
Y E C F O J V I R G I N R E E  
D N D H D G R E A T J O Y P D  
R O I V A S D R E H P E H S B

## Table Tennis

This season's format comprises 4 smaller divisions, with Crown Terrace teams in the top three. All games are being tightly contested, as seen in the close points distribution in Division 1. Overall our B team are the best performers to date, but will perhaps struggle to overtake Nordan (formerly Hall & Tawse) at the top of Division 2. The C team looks forward to the return of Michael Walandowski from Poland – and a climb in the table looks likely.

Nigel Herbert.

<b>Division 1</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>CS Surfers</b>	4	2	1	1	24	16	4	28
<b>Triangle Athletic</b>	5	1	1	3	22	28	5	27
<b>Triangle Pumas</b>	4	2	0	2	20	20	4	24
<b>AU Harriers</b>	4	1	2	1	20	20	4	24
<b>CTM A</b>	4	2	0	2	19	21	4	23
<b>Triangle Swifts</b>	3	2	0	1	15	15	3	18

<b>Division 2</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>NORDAN UK</b>	5	2	3	0	31	19	5	36
<b>CTM B</b>	4	3	1	0	28	12	4	32
<b>WESTHILL BEES</b>	4	2	1	1	21	19	4	25
<b>CS GASHERS</b>	3	2	0	1	21	9	3	24
<b>AU EAGLES</b>	5	1	0	4	16	34	5	21
<b>TRIANGLE TRIO</b>	3	1	1	1	15	15	3	18
<b>ACTIVE WESTHILL</b>	4	0	0	4	8	32	4	12

<b>Division 3</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Shell Penguins</b>	4	3	1	0	27	13	4	31
<b>Westhill Demons</b>	4	1	2	1	20	20	4	24
<b>Triangle Eagles</b>	3	2	0	1	18	12	3	21
<b>AGS TT CLUB</b>	3	2	0	1	17	13	3	20
<b>CTM C</b>	4	0	0	4	15	25	2	17
<b>AU FALCONS</b>	3	1	0	2	8	22	3	11
<b>CS Gassers</b>	1	0	1	0	5	5	1	6

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dec. 9	20.00	<i>Learig Orchestra Christmas Concert at CTM</i>
Dec. 14	19.30	<i>Gareth Davies-Jones Christmas carols and songs at CTM</i>
Dec. 16	11.00	<i>Toy Service</i>
Dec. 16	18.30	<i>Carol Service</i>
(Dec. 23		<i>No evening service)</i>
Dec. 24	16.00	<i>Christingle Service</i>
Dec. 24	23.30	<i>Communion Service (Mince pies from 23.00)</i>
Dec. 25	11.00	<i>Christmas Day service</i>
Jan. 6, 2013	11.00	<i>Covenant Service</i>
Jan. 20	11.00	<i>Joint Service at St Marks, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>
Jan. 23	19.30	<i>Church Council</i>
Jan. 25	19.30	<i>Burns Night party</i>