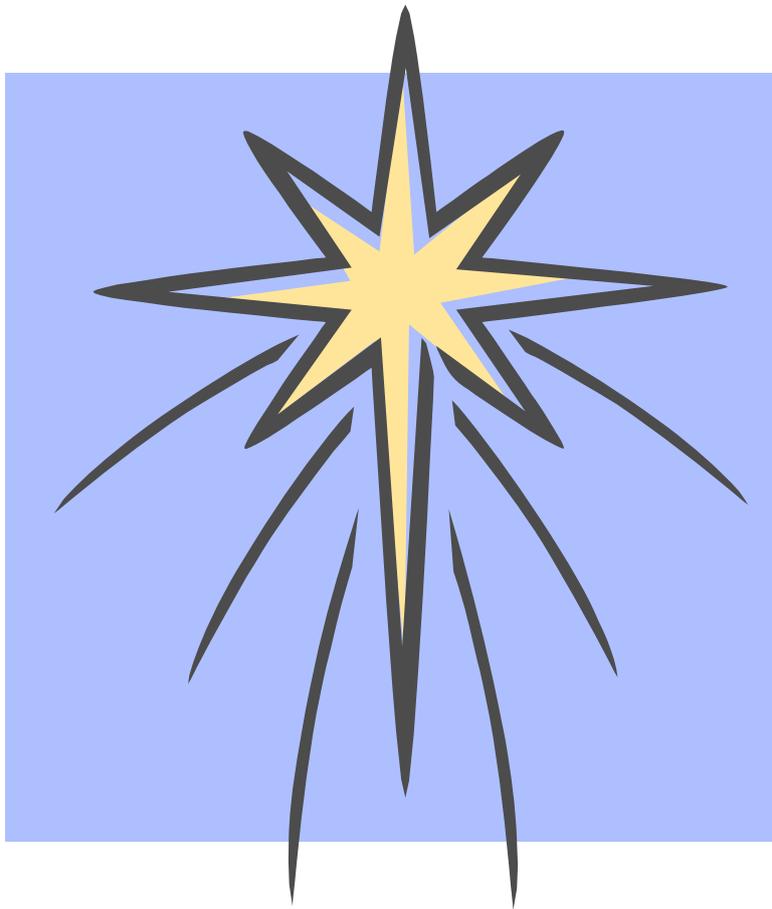


Lossiemouth Baptist Church

December 2013



*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men.*



C o n t e n t s



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Where Does God Fit In?



The story of a little boy at school defines for us how we have secularised Christmas. A teacher had asked the class to construct a manger scene in the corner of the classroom.

They built the stable, covered the floor with hay, and filled the structure with the figures of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men and the animals, and a tiny doll, representing the baby Jesus.

All the children were excited about the project except one little boy, who kept looking at the manger scene with a troubled expression. The teacher finally asked him if something was wrong.

With childlike wisdom, the boy said: "What I'd like to know is, where does God fit in?"

This question is crucial to a true understanding about the Christmas story. I wonder how much room will we make for Jesus in the midst of all the tinsel, trees, gifts, food and festivities? Christmas is a call to worship. May Jesus be the centre of our Christmas this year and for every day into the future.

Helen Steiner Rice has written a beautiful poem that reminds us of the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

C is for the Christ-child, a child of love and light

H is for the heavens that were bright that Holy Night

R is for the Radiance of the star that led the way

I is for the lowly Inn where the infant Jesus lay

S is for the Shepherds who beheld the Christmas Star

T is for the Tidings that the angels told afar

M is for the Magi with their gifts of myrrh and Gold

A is for the Angels who were awesome to behold

S is for the Saviour who was born to save all men

And together this spells Christmas,

Which we celebrate again.

This Christmas, let's **CELEBRATE JESUS**.

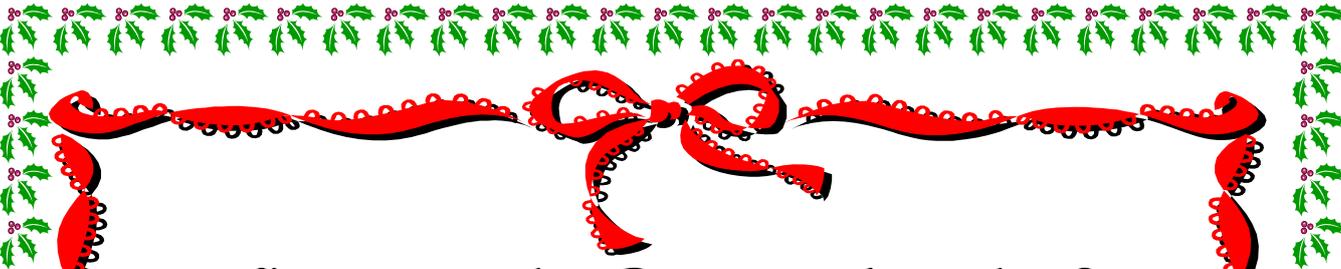
He is the reason for the season.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rae



Love Came Down at Christmas
Star and Angels Gave the Sign



Jesus is the Reason for the Season

We want to wish everyone at LBC a very joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year. We are so thankful for the faith, encouragement and support of such a wonderful Church. It has been so exciting to see God at work in the past year and we believe that greater things are yet to come in the year ahead. Let's keep the main thing, the main thing and worship Immanuel.

Love Rae, Michelle, Sophia and Amelia

May the Lord richly bless you this Christmas time and in the coming year.

John Simmonds

John, Leonora and Loretta wish you a very happy Christmas and God's richest blessings in the New Year.

We are so thankful to God for our Christian family at LBC. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as we celebrate the coming of our Lord and Saviour.

The Rose Family

Sandy and Margaret would like to wish everyone in the Fellowship a blessed Christmas Season and much happiness in the Coming Year!

May God's Love and Peace be with you at Christmas and the coming year.

Ann Regan

Season's Greetings and Christian love to our Church Family.

Andrew, Karen and Amy Gault

Daphne Thomas and Family wish all the LBC family a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. God bless.

Chris, Anne and Edward wish you all a Christmas full of the joy of the Lord and a blessed New Year.

Wishing all of you a very happy and joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Brenda Franklin

Helen and Saunders MacNaughton wish all their friends at LBC a very Happy Christmas and the blessing and peace of the Lord for the coming year.

God bless you all with His joy and peace at Christmas and in 2014.

Love Andrew and Angela Stewart

George and Bella would like to wish all our friends in the church a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



David and Isobel Cranston wish everyone at LBC a very Happy Christmas and New Year. May your days be filled with joy and love.

Rich, Hayley, Imogen, Claudia and Mabel Spencer would like to wish their Church family a happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Ruth and Ian Noble wish everyone a happy time over Christmas and God's Love, Joy and Peace in 2014.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year. Good health to all for 2014.

Mary Hewitt



Wise Men Still Seek Him

Best Wishes to all our church family for a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Margo and David

Peace at Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Rhoda

To the Fellowship, may you know God's Peace and Love this Christmas and throughout 2014.

May Farquhar

Isabel Smith wishes all her Church friends a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Ina Vickery sends Christmas Greetings to all in the Church and blessings in 2014.

Have a joyful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Lots of love Ian, Hazel and Grace Lornie

Andrew and Carol Reid send Christmas Greetings to all at LBC with love & prayers for a blessed & healthy New Year.

Wishing you peace and joy not only at Christmas but in the year to come.

Peter and Lesley Butcher

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and a joy filled new year, thank you for welcoming, praying and encouraging our family at LBC this year, God is good.

With much love Philip, Erica and Ethan Stewart.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and peace and good health for 2014.

Brenda and James

Sending warmest Christmas Greetings and wishing everyone many blessings in 2014.

Kate and Dave McKenzie

To my Church Family wishing you -

Blessings in abundance, Strength for every day, Courage for each trial, gladness for each day, Faith in Heaven's Guidance, Hope that's firm and true,

May the Lord, the Saviour, give these gifts to you.

Dolly Campbell

A big thank you to everyone for making us feel so welcome at LBC. We've really enjoyed the fellowship during our first year. We both wish you a very happy Christmas, and many blessings in 2014.

Love Keith, Valerie (and Dylan the dog!)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends and Christian family. God bless.

Andy, Susanne and Dominic.



A very happy Christmas to everyone. May you know Peace and Joy in 2014.

Alex and Jennifer

Mike and Veronica wish all at Lossie Baptist a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God bless you all.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, may you and yours be blessed this Christmas and throughout 2014.

Claire and Victor

What's On?



SUNDAY

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 9.30 am | Morning Service |
| 10.45 - 11.15 am | Tea/Coffee (except 1st Sunday of each month) |
| 11.30 am | Morning Service |
| | Crèche/Junior Church |
| | Bible Class |
| 6.00 pm | Evening Service |
| 7.15 - 9.00 pm | Sunday Night YF @ Lossie Baptist Church |

Communion is held after the Evening Service, except on the first Sunday of the month when it is celebrated after the 9.30 am Service at 10.45 am and again after the 11.30 am Service.

MONDAY

| | |
|---------|--|
| 7.30 pm | Ladies' Monday Fellowship (Sept - Mar) |
|---------|--|

TUESDAY

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 10.00 am - 11.30 am | Coffee Morning |
| | Small Groups 1, 2, 4, 7 and 11 meet |
| 6.30 - 8.00 pm | Area 4:12 |

WEDNESDAY

| | |
|---------|---|
| 7.30 pm | Fellowship Prayer Meeting (1st & 3rd Wednesdays of month) |
| | Small Groups 6 and 12 meet |

THURSDAY

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 6.15 - 8 pm | Kids' Church |
| 8.30 - 10 pm | Lads' & Dads' Football |
| | Small Groups 3, 5 and 10 meet |

FRIDAY

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9.30 - 11.30 am | Little Acorns, Parent & Toddler Group |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|

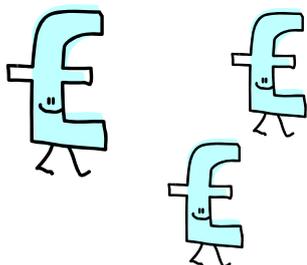
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| Wed 18 | Dec | 7.30 pm | Fellowship Prayer Meeting |
| Sun 22 | Dec | 9.30 & 11.30 am | Morning Services |
| | | 6.00 pm | Combined Churches' Carol Service, Lossiemouth Town Hall |
| Wed 25 | Dec | 10.30 am | Christmas Day Service |
| Sun 29 | Dec | 11.00 am | ONE Morning Service NO Evening Service |
| Wed 8 | Jan | 7.00 pm | Alpha Course starts |
| Fri 10 | Jan | 9.30 am | Little Acorns restart |
| Sun 12 | Jan | 11.00 am | Baptismal Service (NB One Morning Service only) All Items for Next Magazine |
| Mon 13 | Jan | 7.30 pm | Ladies' Monday Fellowship restarts - Quiz Night |
| Tues 14 | Jan | 10.00 - 11.30 am | Coffee Morning restarts |
| Wed 15 | Jan | 7.30 pm | Church Business Meeting including Election of Deacons |
| Mon 20 | Jan | 7.30 pm | Ladies' Monday Fellowship - TBA |
| Sun 29 | Jan | | Next Magazine |



Bits & Pieces

Offerings

| | |
|--------|-------|
| Nov 10 | £1121 |
| Nov 17 | £ 863 |
| Nov 24 | £1480 |
| Dec 1 | £1225 |
| Dec 8 | £1054 |



Coffee Mornings

| | |
|--------|------|
| Nov 5 | £226 |
| Nov 12 | £158 |
| Nov 19 | £131 |
| Nov 26 | £116 |



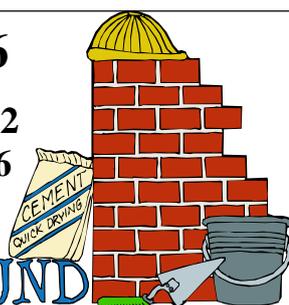
Total £ 640, 576

November Income **£2722**

Expenditure **£4726**

Change Boxes **£4881**

BUILDING FUND



At the morning services recently, The Church Treasurer thanked everyone for their faithful giving to the work of Lossiemouth Baptist Church. He explained a little of the present financial situation and projected expenditure.

Offering envelopes for next year are now available and again members of the congregation are asked to prayerfully consider using the Gift Aid Scheme to boost the income of the Church. If you would like more information, please speak to Mark Wakeford.

Christmas Greetings

Many thanks to all who have placed a Christmas greeting in this edition of the magazine? Already donations of more than £200 have been received which will be shared between the Youth Café and the work of GLIA. If you have not yet made your donation, please see me at your earliest convenience.

Claire Stewart



Christmas Cantata

Tonight (Sunday 15 December) is your final opportunity to come along to the Christmas Cantata, "Sing for Joy". No tickets are required for tonight's performance at 7.30 pm as it takes the place of the Evening Service.

Don't miss out!

The last two Coffee Mornings in November were Bring and Buy Sales for Autism in Moray. Unfortunately, due to administrative problems, the monies cannot be donated to this cause but will be given to another charity, to be advised.

The Coffee Morning Team are now taking a well earned rest over the festive season but look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Tuesday 14 January**. We thank them for their commitment to this amazing ministry and pray God's richest blessing on them this Christmas and throughout 2014.

Donations are always needed for the Sales Table.

Church Refurbishment

The refurbishment of the sanctuary is now completed and it was a great joy to return to the Church on Sunday, 17 November, when we held a special service of celebration. The transformation is beautiful and our theme for the morning was "To God be the Glory!"

We thanked God for the many, many people who gave of their time and their talents in so many different ways to bring the work to completion. However, special thanks went to **Andrew Gault** for all he did leading the project; to **Saunders MacNaughton** for the construction of the Cross above the pulpit; to **Johnnie Wilson** who had a sweeping brush in his hands throughout!; to **Neil Sabiston** who really enjoyed "getting tore in"!; to **Chris Gault** as Clerk of Works; to the ladies who chose the colour scheme; to all those who turned up for the massive clean-up on Saturday; and to **Marian Smith** who recorded it all for posterity.

God's people worked together and indeed achieved marvellous things. We now look forward to all that God is going to do in our midst as we worship and serve together in our amazing building which He has provided.

The final phase of the work in the downstairs area will be undertaken at the start of the New Year.



Advent

Advent: a time for preparing, for Jesus' arrival is near.

Yet, is it His birth we remember: our focus at this time of year?

Where does Jesus fit in our advent? Do we even notice He's there?

And as we are busy preparing, do we ever take time to care?

We get so wrapped up in the chaos; we put up the tree and the lights

Enjoying the magical moments (or dreading the family fights!)

And let's not forget all the housework, and visits from fam'ly and friends

The chaos of our preparations at advent time just never ends!

The shopping, now don't get me started! It's endless, and so full of stress.

And what shall I wear to the party? We all need to dress to impress!

Oh no! What about Christmas dinner? I nearly forgot about that!

We'd better decide where to have it - we all need a family chat.

I'd better get writing my cards though, I want to deliver by hand.

It seems every year I get later. I can't seem to do things as planned.

Does this all seem way too familiar? We all have the same things to do.

But really, is that how God planned it, when He sent His Son here for you?

Is this what He meant us to feel like: to feel the days slipping away

So busy with our preparations to ever take time to pray?

Too busy to stop and remember the reason that we celebrate

Too busy to think about Jesus; yet He is the one we await!

So back to the reason for advent; the challenge we need to embrace

Is, can we, amidst all the chaos, make sure that we seek Jesus' face?

With thanks to **Angela Yardy**

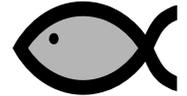
Check out Angela's websites: www.angelaspoems.com and www.bestchildrensnativity.com

In an email she wrote: *As always when God blesses us with a gift it has caught me very much by surprise at how mightily God has used it since I offered it back to Him and launched the free website, so I would be grateful to you for helping me to share God's words, as I know that is the reason that He gave them to me.*

***Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***



Fellowship News



Crèche Rota

- Dec 22 Racheal & Brenda
- Dec 29 Carol & Ipthtime



Rota for New Year will be available soon. If you can help out in the crèche on a rota basis, please speak to Lily Mulholland or Carol Reid.

Door Rota

- | | 9.30 am | 11.30 am/6.00 pm |
|--------|--|------------------|
| Dec 22 | Lee Paxton | Andrew Reid |
| Dec 29 | 11.00 am Dennis Slater/Janet Farquhar (One morning service - NO evening service) | |
| Jan 5 | George Campbell | Lee Paxton |
| Jan 12 | 11.00 am M Garden/D Slater (One morning service - Evening service at 6.00 pm) | |
| Jan 19 | John Simmonds | Leonora Paterson |
| Jan 25 | Lee Paxton | Mike Mulholland |

Flower Rota

- Dec 15 Joan Fraser
- Dec 22 Catherine Fisher
- Dec 29 Carron Peacock



Many thanks to Catherine Fisher, Bella Hutcheon, Carol Reid and the Mackenzie/Watson families who have recently provided the flowers for the church.

The Flower Rota for the New Year will be on the notice board in the Crush Hall so please add your name to a date of your choice if you would like to be involved with this worthwhile ministry.

Please speak to Janet Farquhar if you would like more information.

Bereavements

Our sincere sympathy, love and prayers are extended this month to **Janet and Paul Hollman and Family** on the sad loss of Janet's brother and also her sister-in-law; and to **Margaret Williamson and Family** on the passing of Margaret's brother.

"God is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Thank You

Margaret & Thomson & Family thank you all for the Get Well wishes through cards, phone calls, visitations and prayers during William's illness and treatment. It was very much appreciated. Prayer works! God bless you all.

Monday Fellowship Christmas Party

More than forty ladies met at 1629 on Monday 2 December for the Christmas Party which marked the end of this session. After a beautiful meal, some party games followed, most of them silly! We sang some Christmas carols and a short epilogue rounded off a great evening of fun and fellowship.

The Secret Santa raised the amazing sum of £170 which will be shared between the Youth Café and GLIA. Many thanks to the ladies for their amazing generosity.

We look forward to seeing everyone again when we restart on Monday 13 January at 7.30 pm.

Wedding

Congratulations to **Kevin McKenzie** and **Julie Watson** who were married in the Church on Friday 6 December. It is our prayer that God will bless them with a long and happy life together.



Birth Announcement

Congratulations and best wishes to **May Farquhar** who became a Great Granny recently - a great grandson, **Riley Andrew**.



Lads' & Dads' Football

The refurbishment of the Sports Hall at the Community Centre is not yet complete. This ministry will restart when the Hall becomes available. Watch the bulletin.



What's on at LBC for kids/young people?

| |
|---|
| <p>Sundays (during 11.30 am Service) Junior Church 3 years – young teens</p> |
| <p>Sundays (after Evening Service) Youth Fellowship Year 5 1 – upper teenagers</p> |
| <p>Thursdays Dads' and Lads' Football @ Lossie Community Centre 8.30 – 10 pm Open to all teenagers, young men and the young at heart!</p> |

| |
|---|
| <p>Sundays (during 11.30 am Service) Crèche 0 – 3 years</p> |
| <p>Thursdays Kids' Church P3 – P7 @ the Church from 6.15 – 8 pm Featuring messy games, singing, Bible dramas, and loads of noise!</p> |
| <p>Fridays Little Acorns in the Church Hall 9.30 -11.30 am Parent & Toddler Group</p> |

Operation Christmas Child (Shoebox Appeal) 2013



Operation Christmas Child, an initiative of the Christian relief and development agency Samaritan's Purse, has been blessing underprivileged children around the world with gift filled shoeboxes wrapped and packed by children and adults in the UK, since 1990.



Last year LBC partnered with this campaign and sent 74 shoeboxes overseas. This year we beat our target of 60 and wrapped and packed an amazing 84 boxes!! Proving that together we can achieve so much more!

Thank you to everyone who has supported this venture and given so generously. Somewhere this Christmas children will open those boxes and know that they are loved and have not been forgotten. That's 84 smiling faces ☺

Kate Wakeford

Update from Compassion Child

Dear Lossiemouth Baptist Monday Fellowship

May God's grace be over your life for good! I'm very happy to write to you and thank you for the help that you give to me and for being my sponsors. Please pray for my family and for me so that God watches over us at all times.

It is summer time here in Ecuador and the weather is very cold (?). We have very hot days too. I'm doing well at school and I have many friends. I like a girl from school because she's very pretty. I'm in love.

I got good grades and I hope to keep up the hard work until I finish my university studies and get a professional degree. Bye! May God Bless you. Hugs and kisses.

Jhojan Plua



To You Who Bring Small Children to Church

There you are sitting in worship or Bible study. Your child, or toddler, is restless. Perhaps they're even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the auditorium. All the while, you're a little embarrassed. Maybe you're a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid."

I want you - you mothers and/or fathers - to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The little elderly woman, who often feels alone, beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. To see young parents and their small children brighten her day, and she may have just received bad news this week about her health, but seeing the vitality of young ones removes - if but for a moment - her fears.

The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of good. But, he sees you - a young family - in church, and you don't miss any gathering. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

Then there's everybody else. Some people will honestly become frustrated by noisy children in church. They have this warped idea that reverence includes absolute silence. It doesn't. When parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples rebuked them (Matt. 19.13-15), but Jesus rebuked His disciples. He said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." The term translated "children" in Matthew and Mark is *paidon*. The root of the word "pedagogue" is from this word. It defined children of either an infant state, or more particularly, it was with reference to those who were half-grown and could be either males or females.

When Luke wrote his account of this narrative, he used the word *brephos*; which means "infants." Luke wasn't contradicting Matthew and Mark's account, because Luke wrote that they brought the infants "also" (Luke 18.15-17). They would have squirmed, maybe even cried. This was likely why the disciples rebuked the parents; as well as that they might have thought that the children were too young to understand the blessing Christ pronounced over them.

Bring your children to church. If you don't hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it might be for you as a parent who's half-asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives as you should.



Contributed

Thanks from the YF Team

The YF team would like to thank everyone for their support at the youth led service on Sunday 24 November. The young people worked so hard in every aspect of the night and for their first time we think it went very well. The feedback has been amazing and we are so thankful that the church is open to allow the youth to get involved. We feel it's really important for them to feel part of the church and that they can be trusted to serve the fellowship. The next one is planned for the 9th of March and it will give the youngsters another opportunity to discover and grow in their giftings.

The Youth Fellowship will be going to Soul Survivor Scotland, a youth camp in Inverurie next year on the 15-19th of July. It's for high school kids. We spend the week camping and spending time with other young folk focusing on God. Matt is sorting out the bookings so please speak to him if your youngsters want to go.

Thanks to the Chris and Anne and Susanne and Andy for the safari supper. We loved eating your food and seeing where you stay. The YF team would like to say a big thanks to everyone who helps with this ministry. The Youth Fellowship is growing and it's great to see the young people grow in their faith.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Michelle, Matt, Gordon, Erica, Lauren and Kate.

Update from GLIA (God's Love in Action)

As temperatures here and in Romania start to drop our thoughts turn to those in Dorohoi who for one reason or another will find it hard to cope this winter. For many of those who come to the Centre for help there will be a juggling act of deciding "do we pay our rent, or do we have something to eat, or do we have some heat". There will of course be some who will not be able to afford any of these. At the beginning of October we started giving gas bottle refills (we stop for most people in May through to September) to many of our beneficiaries, and for some this year we will be able to give wood following a joint project with Asociatia Neemia, with whom we work closely, to build a store and purchase a large quantity of wood during the summer when it is cheaper.

At the Centre the meals are full each of the four days (Mon-Wed & Friday) with more people coming asking if they can be added to the list. Everything is ready for the Christmas foodbag distribution, the Christmas "extras" for the food bags having been bought over the past couple of months enabling us to add in some "treats" such as Sultanas, Pate, Tomato puree, Tins of fruit, Margarine, and Cocoa powder.

We are also ready to distribute the shoeboxes which will happen on the 14th December when we will be giving out over 200 shoeboxes to some very excited children over 2 sessions. At each session they will sing carols and Pastor Josef who leads the Wednesday night Prayer and Praise meeting will tell them about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and everyone will join in carols.

Something exciting...

In September the young girl in the picture came to the Centre with a friend and were talking to some of our visitors about club and the bible and she was asked if she had a Bible. She said no so was given one and she went off on her own to the playground, sat on a swing and started reading the Bible from the beginning!!

Other news...

Our weekly meetings continue to be well attended with 30 attending the Wednesday Prayer and Praise meeting, up to 60 children 3-14 year olds come to the children's club and over 20 to the young teens group (below are pictures of just some of them). The Senior Men's Fellowship and the Youth group from the Baptist Church also continue to meet regularly at the Centre.

We would like to wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas on behalf of the children and families in Dorohoi, our team at the Centre, the Trustees and of course ourselves, and also thank you for all your support and prayers through-out the past year.

Peter and Lesley

Update from Matt Payne, Church Worker

Since my last article, I have been to Aberdeen twice and Bromley twice. I go away for two day training blocks on Mondays and Tuesdays. We spend time in worship prayer and study. We have been studying church history, student evangelism, emotions, the Trinity, Mark's Gospel, drama, schools work and sexuality. I really enjoy catching up with my fellow DNA trainees. Their support and encouragement are great. We are all very open with each other this really helps us to grow in friendship and in our faith.

I have just finished my last essay for this term which has been 2500 words on who was and is Jesus. I have been looking at Old Testament prophecy and how Jesus fulfilled every prophecy in the New Testament. I have learned so much about myself and God's Word through my time in study.

Most of my time working for the church has been spent organizing youth nights and events such as Area 4:12, the youth service, YF on Sunday nights, prayer nights and Christmas parties. I have been helping Rae and Kate do assemblies and any other jobs that need to be done. Working with them is great. I am learning so much and being pushed all the time.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement. The youth led service was amazing. We have a great group of kids who we want to see get involved in the fellowship. Thanks for all hospitality, words of encouragement and prayers. I could not cope without them. I am loving working in the church and seeing God move. He is so good and He is blessing me so much at the moment.

Thanks everyone

Matt



‘Forging the Future’ - Scottish Baptist Union Assembly at Motherwell Civic Centre

The central theme of this year’s Assembly was to explore the task of making disciples. What does it look like for us to intentionally prepare disciples to bear authentic and fruitful witness to Christ in Scotland and throughout the world today?

Gavin Hunter (Westray BC) led our opening Bible study from Galatians 1, talking of the centrality of the cross in our discipleship as a whole life commitment and the acid test of discipleship being faithfulness to Jesus and not ‘results’. We were challenged to consider whether we have compromised discipleship.

Thursday’s daytime sessions were spent hearing stories and receiving feedback from the National Team and from churches throughout Scotland around our ‘Intentionally Relational; Unashamedly Missional and Creatively Rooted’ headlines. We heard stories about Ministry and about reaching out to the broken and hurting. We saw how our relationships with others go further than just around Scotland through our interactions with other Baptist networks. We heard from some of **Judy White’s group** of 9 women from various churches, going to Kolkata in January to build relationships and pray with those working to bring light to people being trafficked. We also heard about initiatives in mission and the work of the BUS Mission Initiative Group (MIG).

How we resource one another through the work of the Public Issues and Social Action Group, the Council, *Step-Out* and many others was also discussed. As part of thinking how we support one another we agreed that the proposed *per capita* figure, reduced to £40 last year, will be held at this for 2014/2015. **The Minimum Recommended Stipend** will be increased by 2% from December 2013 to a base figure of £20,808. Assembly agreed that, **from April 2014**, the Minimum Stipend should be increased by a further £2000 per annum and the Car allowance scrapped. Mileage allowance will then be paid at the standard HMRC rate (presently 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles in a fiscal year and 25p per mile above that).

Changes to our Constitution, discussed at last year’s Assembly, were also agreed and will now be sent to the Office of the Charities Regulator in Scotland. After our coffee break we heard about BMS’s ‘Highest Goal’ and lots of stories and updates about their work around the globe.

Friday’s daytime programme looked different from previous Assemblies. Seated around tables of 8-10 delegates, there were opportunities for interaction throughout. An interactive Bible Study from Mark 1, led by John Greenshields and Judy White, was followed by round table conversations stimulated by short presentations on aspects of discipleship given by Mat Wilson and practitioners from Urban Expression, Mission Scotland and Central. Feedback was sought and collated from the floor. Stuart Blythe gave information and stimulated conversation on how the college can best serve churches by developing missionary leadership.

The evening celebrations had some last-minute adjustments as keynote speakers, Adrian and Bridget Plass, were unable to attend for health reasons. Thursday evening, Alan Donaldson spoke about how the same Gospel needs a new telling in 21st century Scotland – our old models of mission just don’t fit any more. We need to ‘live such good lives amongst the pagans...’ (*1 Peter 2*) and keep bad company (*Luke 5:27-31*), to show that Jesus’ love is for everyone. We will need courageous engagement with everyone. We welcomed international and denominational guests and had the joy of welcoming **Campbeltown Community Church** into our Union.

On Friday evening David Kerrigan spoke on how a nation or a community can be transformed, highlighting two overseas situations. He spoke about hallmarks from Isaiah 65: 17-25 and John 13: 1-5 of how God works. Where there has been transformation there has been an attitude of prayer; presence and proximity are both needed (mission must be tangible); practical help is given and the Good News is proclaimed. We also welcomed and prayed for our newly settled, newly accredited and newly retired ministers, and for new Scottish BMS missionaries. Assembly gave offerings of £1114.40 (gift aided) to BUS Mission Initiative Fund and £1211.70 to BMS World Mission.

Assembly’s sung worship was ably led by **David Currie and his group of musicians** from around Scotland. Saturday saw an Interactive family time being led by Scott and Lynn Alexander whilst some of us studied Luke 10 with **Mat Wilson**, urging us all to ‘Go’.

Assembly closed with everyone coming together to pray and share communion in a celebration for all.

Jacqueline Primrose (BUS)



Overcoming Through Jesus – A Facebook page for daily encouragement. The message of JOY!

One of my favourite verses in the Bible about Christmas is from Luke 1:41 AMP “*And it occurred that when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit.*” It is my favourite verse because John’s first reaction to Jesus was to leap for Joy in his mother’s womb. That interaction with the growing baby Jesus and growing baby John just encourages me so much how intimately and wonderfully God knows us from the start.

JOY IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS, JESUS CAME TO GIVE US JOY EVERY DAY! Joy is not dependent on our circumstances but on Jesus. John’s first reaction to Jesus made him jump for joy. If you have accepted Jesus as Your Lord and Saviour your first reaction to Jesus coming into your heart is one of great joy. Do you still have joy every day in your life because of Jesus? Or have you lost your joy?

Life is tough, circumstances are so hard at times we can barely put one foot in front of the other. During those times the one constant in our lives that never ever changes is God. He is always there - carrying, caring, loving, giving. At times we need to scrape off all the hurt, disappointment, shame and sin to see Him but He is always there. The question is do we want to have joy, do we want to make our lives focus on Jesus or life’s problems, do we want to spend more time with Jesus, do we want to give up things that are stealing our joy?

The message of Christmas is **JOY TO THE WORLD**: not debt to the world; not fighting families to the world; not grumping about not getting the presents that you must have to the world; not stress to the world; not give me, give me, give me to the world.

God’s gift to us is grace; grace is all about God giving Jesus to be born to die so that we may live. There is much joy to be found in understanding and appreciating the grace of God, amazing grace, God’s undeserved favour to us through sacrificing Jesus. Although I may not be popular with my friends and family if I don’t buy everyone a gift this year, or don’t buy a very good one, or if I don’t sent cards, or forget to thank someone for a gift because I am so scatty, poor and dyslexic, do I want to let other people make Christmas about me?



Christmas is not about me it is all about Jesus. Every person has an opinion on us and it can make Christmas very hard and stressful, but I choose to listen to what God says about me. For others Christmas is a sad time because their loved ones are no longer with them and this is very sore in our hearts.

God sent His Son to be born in a stable. He showed His glory first to the occupants of that stable which included cows, donkeys, sheep, even maybe some mice to say: *Here is Joy, and here is hope to the world. Today is not about the circumstances you may find yourself in but it is all about MY SON.* Jesus was willing to be born into the squalor of the stable not to become a grand earthly King but in humility and mercy to give His life to overcome sin so we might know God personally and be able to know the real, boundless Joy of the KING OF KINGS.

Are we eager and willing to seek Him, trust Him, praise Him, lean on Him, love Him, and rejoice in Him? Do we want to spend time every day with Jesus remembering His victory of overcoming the world, so that we may overcome through Him to experience His joy?

Praise God, joy is available today in Jesus. Are we choosing to keep on keeping on with JOY? Let us look less at the mess and more at Jesus who came to turn the mess of our lives into a message - joy is found in Christ alone.

Have a joyful day today, on Christmas day and every day God wills because Jesus and the joy He brings is not just for Christmas or for the day of salvation, it is forever and ever!

Erica Stewart

Alpha Course Starting in 2014!

An opportunity to find out what Christianity has to say about life's big questions

The next Alpha course at Lossiemouth Baptist starts on Wednesday 8th January at 7 - 9pm
Each evening will start with a meal and a chance to get to know each other. We then watch a video and divide into small groups to discuss the topic of the evening. In a relaxed informal environment you have the opportunity to ask questions, put your point of view and listen to what others have to say.

Each short video shows a series of talks addressing key issues relating to the Christian Faith:

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8 th Jan | Who is Jesus? |  | 15 th Jan | Why did Jesus die? |
| 22 nd Jan | How can we have Faith? | | 29 th Jan | Why and how do we pray? |
| 5 th Feb | Why and how should I read the Bible? | | 12 th Feb | How does God guide us? |
| 19 th Feb | How can I resist evil? | | 26 th Feb | How and why should I tell others? |
| 5 th Mar | Does God heal today? | | 12 th Mar | What about the Church? |

If you would like to find out more or join the course please contact: Jo & Alistair McQuaker (01343 547030)
e-mail: alistairmcquaker@hotmail.co.uk or fill in a registration form, available in the Crush Hall.

Update from Alex Saulys

Work with Youth-180 has been great. I am in school (Nicholas Chamberlaine) twice a week, primarily doing one to one mentoring, with some class support and lunch club stuff alongside. As part of my job I am also at Bedworth Baptist on a Friday nights and Sunday mornings. It has worked out great as the young people who come along to my lunch club in school are largely the same ones I am working with on a Friday night/ Sunday morning. Another part of my Youth-180 role is looking after some of the admin for the organisation, including the newsletters and social media. All of it has been great, full of new, exciting experiences and it has been great to see God moving through it.

The graduate diploma is going well. I am enjoying the lectures and finding it both interesting and able to take a lot away from it. It can be hard juggling the many requirements but will be worth it in the end! This year I have studied the 'Principles for Professional Practice in Youth Work and Ministry', 'Working with Young people, Learning and Development' and 'Working with Communities, Participation and Social Change'.

Coming to a close, I have almost finished arranging my holiday plans. I have booked trains to be in Cumbria for Christmas and in Lossiemouth for New Year and a couple of days after. As per usual I imagine my time at home will be busy and want to fit in seeing as many people as I can. If you are free & want to catch up please call/text/email me to arrange something :).

I would really appreciate your prayer for:

- ★ **Youth-180:** Please pray that God would help us as we fund-raise this year and reach out to the young people: Sharing a journey of faith, love and hope with young people to relevantly demonstrate the good news. As a charity, Youth-180 is really struggling financially and we may be facing some really hard decisions.
- ★ **Nicholas Chamberlaine:** Please pray for wisdom as I draw things to a close for the Christmas season and that I am easily able to pick things up again in the new year, and guidance on how I plan my time when I settle back in.
- ★ **Bedworth Baptist:** Please continue to pray that I would settle in here and serve the Church and the young people this year while I am here.
- ★ **Coursework:** Please pray that I am able to motivate myself and have the energy to complete get the most out of the course.
- ★ **Accommodation:** We continue to have issues sorting my accommodation - please pray that this would all smooth out soon and I would be able to move in. Please also praise God for the family who have been kind enough to host me while my accommodation is sorted.

Blessings, Alex

Billy Graham at 95

On November 16th, Billy Graham celebrated his 95th birthday with family and friends in North Carolina. On the British God channel last week, TBN Europe had a one hour programme put together as a tribute to the most effective evangelist of our time. There were numerous clips of his preaching and his crusades, and scores of testimonies and tributes from leading pastors and preachers, film stars and singers, politicians, world leaders and ordinary people who had responded to the Gospel message when they heard it preached by Dr Graham. I was surprised that some of those who spoke highly of him were of doubtful past character - but then I recalled that Jesus was a friend of publicans and sinners, and so it should be with each of us if we are to share our faith with all kinds of people.

For Margo and myself it was inspiring to hear all those tributes, as they reminded us of the time when we each trusted Christ during Graham's mission to Scotland in 1955 - myself at Inverness and Margo in Edinburgh. I was a young teenager and Margo a schoolgirl of nine years of age. In fact the day I heard Graham at the football stadium in Inverness was Margo's ninth birthday. His simple lucid gospel message resonated powerfully with young and old alike.

Although Billy Graham continued to preach until well into his eighties, to me his most dynamic preaching was in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. The energy, passion and fire of his messages in those years, were unforgettable, and contributed to the electric atmosphere of his meetings. Despite the global impact of his preaching, Graham was ever a humble person. When asked how so many people flocked to his meetings and crusades around the world, he said : *"A great crowd like this does not come to hear a man - it comes to hear a message - the message of God - the Gospel of Jesus Christ"*.

He was invited to preach to the Royal family in Buckingham palace in 1954, and afterwards was asked by reporters how that experience felt – he said that it was no different to what he had been doing all his life, sharing the message of redemption; and, *"every time I get up to preach the Gospel, I am in the presence of the King of kings and the Lord of lords"*. He was also asked what he said in his sermon to the Queen, and he replied that it was the very same message that he had been preaching to ordinary people the past months in Haringay arena.

We heard him at other times during later shorter missions to cities in England and Scotland. I envied our Dennis Slater who got to shake hands with the evangelist as he left Ibrox stadium following a meeting there in the sixties.

For me, one of the secrets of Dr Graham's influence and ministry was his total lack of sectarianism or denominationalism. While he was a Baptist, born and bred, his wife Ruth was Presbyterian, and he never pressured her to change. Later he loosened his own attachment to the Southern Baptist Convention in order to have a more effective ministry to believers of all denominations.

For readers born less than 50 years ago I would suggest when possible they get to listen to recordings of messages delivered by Graham in those earlier years. Hopefully they will capture something of that Holy Spirit empowered evangelist, the former farm boy from North Carolina.

David Thomson

Thought for the New Year

No need to worry or to fear
The pathway through the coming year,
The One who guided in time past
Is e'er the same while life shall last.
Through every day His love will be
Available and blest to thee.
So trust Him then and leave each day
In His safe hands - He knows the way.

AMP (Job 23:10)

Contributed by **Helen MacNaughton**

WHO'S WHO IN LOSSIEMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH?

ELDER: Chris Gault (Tel: 813103)

DEACONS:

Peter Butcher (Tel: 810748)
Andrew Gault (Tel: 813258)
Brian Gray (Tel: 01340820587)
Sandy McLeod (Tel: 813130)
John Paterson (Tel: 814447)
Andrew Reid (Tel: 830735)
Alasdair Rose (Tel: 814653)
Mark Wakeford (Tel: 813963)

CRÈCHE (0-3 years):

Carol Reid (Tel: 830735)
Lily Mulholland (Tel: 813787)

JUNIOR CHURCH (Pre-school - Teens):

Judith Patterson (Tel: 810336)

KIDS' CHURCH (P3 - P7):

Andy Peacock (Tel: 812144)
Kate Wakeford (Tel: 813963)

SUN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (S1 up):

Michelle Mackenzie (Tel: 812062)
Gordon Stewart
Matthew Payne
Lauren Harper

LITTLE ACORNS:

Lesley Butcher (Tel: 810748)
Vicky Holloway

LADS' & DADS' FOOTBALL:

Matthew Payne
Greg Paterson (Tel: 810336)

SMALL GROUP LEADERS:

Coordinator: Andrew Reid (Tel: 830735)
Group 1 Rae Mackenzie (Alpha)
Group 2 Ann Regan (Tel: 813612)
Group 3 Hazel Lornie (Tel: 830960)
Group 4 Caroline Forster (Tel: 814096)
Group 5
Group 6 John Simmonds & Sandy McLeod
Group 7 Peter & Lesley Butcher (Tel: 843278)
Group 8 Judith Patterson (Tel: 810336)
Group 9 Angela Stewart
Group 10 Chris Gault (Tel: 813103)
Group 11 Kate Wakeford (Youth) (Tel: 813963)
Group 12 Craig Rowan (Tel: 831051)
Group 13 John & Leonora Paterson (Tel: 814447)

PRAISE TEAM:

Worship Coordinator:

Brian Gray (Tel: 01340820587)
Brian Gray/Peter Butcher/Claire Stewart Piano
Kate McKenzie/Julie Gray/ Vocals
Lauren Harper/Lissa Rowan/David Leitch
Kenny Owens/Joel Robinson/Matt Payne Guitar
Greg Patterson/Craig Rowan/James Brooks Drums
Mandie Cooper/Suzanne Gilbert Woodwind

TECHNICAL TEAM:

Neil Millward (Tel: 831363)
Jono & Marian Smith Lizanne Fraser
Patrick Millward James Brooks
Keith Remnant Chris Holloway
Mike Pole

MONDAY FELLOWSHIP:

Steering Group: Maureen Donaldson
Anne Gault
Kate McKenzie
Leonora Paterson
Ann Regan
Irene Rose
Claire Stewart

EVANGELISM & MISSION TEAM:

Co-ordinator: Peter Butcher (Tel: 810748)
Evangelism: Andrew Gault
World Mission:
Christian Aid: Margaret Mackenzie
Compassion: Monday Fellowship
BMS Secretary: Margaret Mackenzie

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA:

Janet Farquhar (Tel: 813697)

COFFEE MORNING:

Anne Gault (Tel: 813103)

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