



Dear Friends

What shall we say about Christmas this year that has not been said many times before and in many different ways, by countless believers?

Our society has done its best to silence a Christian voice and message and make a Christian influence something to be rejected and left unheeded. It has done so by mocking the supernatural world or giving way to superstition, by rejecting the Christian revelation of God or by making it one amongst many personally formed and held views of God. The Bible is set aside as being an old-fashioned and outmoded view of human life and psyche by imbibing wholesale - and without much critical analysis - what some high-profile scientists have been writing about it, the Christian faith in general and the whole idea of intelligent design of the universe (including the idea that there is a universe and not a multiverse).

Also, we live in a very materialistic world that seeks to grasp an ever higher standard of living funded by even more money because it lays great stress on what is immediately gratifying and pays no heed to eternity and meeting a holy God face to face.

Recently we spent a weekend remembering those who through suffering, pain and death worked tirelessly and fearlessly to bring the power of the gospel to our nation. Sadly, very few took the time to give thanks to God for such men and women. Perhaps because we would not give our lives for the gospel we cannot understand those who did.

The Christmas story is of the creator who sustains the whole universe all the time entered his creation and became the fulfiller of the whole revelation of the Older Testament; doing so without becoming infamous for involvement in any kind of wrongdoing or guerrilla warfare. He went around doing good,

healing diseased bodies, lives and relationships. What he said and the way he said it were as God instructed him. The great work for which he came of course was his atoning death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead which to those who believe would bring eternal life that begins with immediate effect and grows with increasing glory through all the stresses and strains of life.

The reason he came was to bring in a much higher standard of living than had hitherto been experienced and known. He came to restore wholesome, authentic and gloriously worth living human life. It has nothing to do with status or money, power or self-ism. It sets body, mind and spirit 'in sync' giving hope and a future that will last far beyond the confines of life in this world. It is able to do so because it is not orientated around oneself but God and is his answer to the deep seated need and problems we have individually and so in society.

Knowing this we must be discontented again this year to be so taken up with the things of this life that we allow family and friends to have the impression that the things that are of ultimate importance – as we know they are – have a lesser place in our lives than they ought to have.

As we look forward to a New Year we face probably the defining moment for the future of the Church of Scotland, and perhaps the defining moment for the whole world. We need to ask ourselves what we are doing to promote the life and work of TPHD, the cause of truth in the church and the cause of Christ in the world.

As the paraphrase of Hosea 6 says

 'Come let us to the Lord our God
 With contrite hearts return.
Our God is gracious nor will leave
 The desolate to mourn.

May God truly bless you and our fellowship together this Christmas time.

Richard G Buckley.

A QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP ***Some thoughts from Eric Alexander***

As I write these lines, we have just been celebrating, in our congregation, the anniversary of the Scottish Reformation. It was an excellent week-end, and we must all be very grateful to those who arranged it so well.

What struck me most from recollecting that remarkable spiritual movement in the 16th century was the principle it so clearly illustrated. It is this: whenever and wherever God is about to do some remarkable work, he first raises up unusually strong, gifted and godly men in places of leadership, and they become the key figures in God's plans.

Of course that was eminently true in the Scottish Reformation in the 16th century. John Knox was the outstanding figurehead of that whole period in Scotland, but there were others like George Wishart, burned at the stake in St Andrews, and in the next generation Andrew Melville and Robert Bruce. It is of great significance that these men were, above all, unusually powerful and effective preachers. Both Knox and Bruce were ministers of St Giles in Edinburgh, and it was said that even royalty trembled before the power of their preaching.

Historically, God appears to focus on the production of men of character, men of calibre, men of notable qualities of leadership when he is about to do some great work. These men do not need to assert their importance or boost themselves, because God has put his own mark upon them. That is illustrated all through the Bible : by Abraham in Genesis, where you find the very roots of the church's

existence; by Moses in Exodus, when God sets about redeeming a people for himself; by one after another of the prophets right up to John the Baptist ("a man sent by God"); by the conversion of Saul of Tarsus and his unique ministry in the ancient world.

The same principle dominates post-biblical history. Just think of the appearance, at highly significant times, of men like Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Owen, Whitefield, Wesley, Bonar, McCheyne, Thomas Chalmers, to mention just a few. These men were the instruments of God to transform their times.

Even at the secular level, who could doubt that it was God who raised up Winston Churchill to lead our nation through the desperate days of the Second World War? The vital element in God's plans appears to be the production of true leaders. And is it not significant that in our own times, and at every level, our world is suffering an almost total lack of truly great leaders? Is this not why the entire Western world went slightly mad when Barack Obama appeared in America? And now, disenchanted because they believe he has feet of clay, they mourn that he is not what they had hoped for.

My brothers and sisters, we are in catastrophic times in the Church of Scotland, spiritually, theologically, financially and numerically: of that there is no question. But have we realised that what we should really be pleading with God for is strong, wise, notable, and truly great men of God who will be true leaders in our time. What we speak of is not more men with inflated egos, but humble men who have a passion for God's glory and Christ's honour and Scripture's authority. May God have mercy upon us in these times, and send us such leaders in Scotland.

Our Student Attachment: Oliver Ward



Dear friends and family at TPHD

It's great that after only a very short period, since September, we feel that we can call you 'friends and family!' Thanks for such a tremendous welcome and all the encouragement already.

Although we may be familiar to many of you, a brief introduction is probably necessary to others as to who we are and how we came to be settled among you. It's mostly about Oliver...something you'll soon get used to!

Oliver: Was working in finance previously (mostly pension related) and due to a sufficient shake up from God, decided to push the ministry door. Over the next two years, he is completing a ministry apprenticeship with St. George's Tron, in Glasgow. There are two main elements to this. He has started a part-time Bible training course with Cornhill Scotland (www.cornhillscotland.org.uk) and has been given a church placement with your good selves at TPHD, working alongside Rev. Buckley.

The main focus of the Bible course is developing both teaching and preaching skills, which is one of the reasons it provides a placement church, where there are lots of opportunities on a Sunday and mid-week to practice and learn, something most of you will have experienced already. Oliver's week is roughly as follows...Monday & Tuesday:

Cornhill; Wednesday: St. George's Tron; Thursday, Friday & Sunday: TPHD; Saturday: Family Time!

It's busy, but it's great with lots of variety. God has provided an excellent opportunity.

Susan: Teaches Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday in a school for pupils with severe and complex additional support needs, where she has been for the last 10 years. The rest of the week she spends looking after the family, really a full-time job in itself! She's also an officer in the Girls Brigade and involved in children's work at Kirkintilloch Baptist Church (KBC). Susan is expecting our third (and last!!!!) child which is due late January.

Katie (nearly 4): Nursery takes up most of the week. She enjoys drawing, dancing, Disney princess' and her dollies...and anything pink!

Leah (2 and a half): A part-timer at nursery, she gets to relax on a Thursday and Friday. She enjoys most things that Katie does.

Susan and the girls aren't around quite as much as Oliver, as they still have some commitments at KBC, where we are all members.

Clearly, this change is very exciting, (also slightly daunting!) as we wait to see how the next two years unfold, and the future develops. With an expanding family and the other pressures of life to juggle, it's certainly going to be a very busy few years for us. We've seen God's faithfulness in so many ways as a family and he continually pours out his blessings on us. We can clearly see God's hand over our circumstances, gently guiding us, as He graciously provides for our needs.

We greatly look forward to the next few years, getting to know you all more and enjoying your fellowship.

Please pray for us, that we might have a good rest over Christmas and some good quality time as a family. Also, please remember the up and coming arrival of the new baby as this no doubt will be busy and tiring, but also very exciting!

Love and Prayers,
Oliver, Susan, Katie and Leah

Youth Work and Thursday Club

During the months of August and September, as God had given me the time to do it, I was asked by the elders to consider the future of the youth work within TPHD. It was a real blessing to be given the time and resources to be able to do so, and surrounded by such a cloud of witnesses (Heb 12:1) and co-labourers in Christ (Philippians 1:3-6) I felt very supported as I sought out how God wanted to move amongst the young people in our midst.

It is exciting to be at the birth of new ideas, but as we were considering them, I was all too aware of the warning in James 2:14: *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?*

It was not enough to merely talk about what must happen, and claim to have faith in Christ, we had to implement and live our beliefs, and we did this first by praying, and walking around the parish, and then by a bit more praying! It was a scary, but wonderful time of preparation.

After this, we felt that we had to use what God had given us to reach the children and their parents in our area, and over

the last while He has blessed us with some great nights in the Thursday Club.

The concept was simple: *'To make the Thursday Club the best thing going for Primary-aged children in the area. And to do this whilst presenting an uncompromising presentation of the Gospel.'*

So... how did it go? I hear you ask!

Well, we launched the Thursday Club after the October break and after a slow start, despite visiting the school assembly and handing in excellent flyers (if I do say so myself!), the numbers have steadily grown week-upon-week. The kids love the new resources (such as the Wii, Beanbags and indoor football goals) and the team has been terrific in their presentation of the Gospel message week after week, and in their faithfulness both in turning up,



but also in their tangible demonstration of Christ's love in their dealings with the children.

All in all, the club is growing... but very slowly. I am very encouraged by the words Charis shared with me after we had had only a few children, 'Well Andy, I just keep praying that God will bring the right kids at the right time!' How right she was!

Thank-you for everyone's kindness and faithfulness in supporting the young people to carry out God's work through the Thursday Club. But before you go, I need to ask you to pray!

Specifically, can you please ask:

- that God would add to the number of children coming and that they would enjoy hearing and obeying the Word of God
- that God would cause the parents of the children to come to faith through their relationships with us

Can you thank God for the team as well. As they are a beautiful group of students whom He has generously provided in order to undertake this work, and we could not do it without them! Here they are:



*Stefan, Phil, Lesley, Robbie, Matt
Crawford, Andy, Rachel, Penny, Charis
(not in photo!: Claire, Dad Buckley, Mum Buckley)*



“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Mt 1:21

Superb Choice Club



Anyone interested in the activities of a Christian fellowship group should speak to Jean Ross. Activities include holidays all over the world, Bible days with interesting speakers, days out, missionary meetings and meals together.

BLYTHSWOOD CARE

We have received a Certificate of Achievement from Blythswood Care.

It reads:



This certifies that
Trinity Possil
And
Henry Drummond Church
Has been honoured for
Their great efforts filling
59 shoeboxes for
Blythswood Care
Shoebox Appeal 2010
And donating £115

Well done, everyone who either gave boxes, brought goods, or helped to fill and wrap the boxes

Canadian Visitors

September 19th at T.P.H.D. was a special day when we welcomed Reg and Moyra Dhaliwal back to Glasgow. Moyra is Rev Angus Jack's daughter and her last visit to TPHD was in 1957 just before the family moved to Canada.

It was a great day – Moyra and Reg met with the congregation after the service and enjoyed fellowship with many who remembered 'Angus, Davina and the two wee girls' who sat at the front of the church. Amongst those who spoke with Moyra was Grace Crompton who was married by Mr Jack while he was at Trinity! Moyra enjoyed her chat with Grace!

There were many photos taken that day with various members of the congregation – following their chat with folks Moyra and Reg had a mini tour around the area beside the church and were able to photograph the 'old manse' in Liddesdale Road, Hillhead High School (Moyra's old school). On the Sunday evening Moyra and Reg worshiped at St George's Tron Church where Rev Angus Jack had been a student attachment working with the Rev Tom Allan. Trinity's link with the Tron goes back to the 1940's!



Reg, Margaret Whyte, Moyra & Isabel Whyte

Through speaking with Moyra and Reg we discovered many talents which Mr Jack had: he was a master carpenter and also studied at Glasgow Art School before entering into the ministry. More information will appear in a later magazine.



Moyra and Richard



Moyra, Reg & Grace Crompton

(More photographs can be seen on the TPHD website)

Moyra wrote in the Visitors' Book:

"Thank you for your warm welcome. It's terrific to see TPHD church again and remember where my Dad preached in 1955-57. God bless your work here.

Moyra and Reg Dhaliwal"

Bible Lands Society

Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously to the work of this Society. We were able to send £50 to help in their Christmas Appeal



TPHD Website



<http://trinitypossilandhenrydrummondchurch.synthasite.com>

Our website was launched just over a year ago and we are getting 'hits' from around the world. Countries which have been registered as having a look at our site are : UK, USA, Canada, Czech Republic, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, South Africa, Thailand, Argentina, Israel, Switzerland, India, Brazil, Norway, Poland, Germany, Portugal, Belgium, Bolivia, Denmark, Spain and even Vatican City ! In total our website has been visited more than 1400 times!

To make the website interesting to visitors, photographs, information and memories are all welcome. Anyone with items which can be published on the web should give these to Isabel Whyte.

Gift Aid

Here it is again, but £8000 from the HMRC at no cost to anyone is not to be sneezed at. That is the amount the church received on behalf of a few members who have signed a Gift Aid form. Please see Jean Ross if you pay tax and would like TPHD to get the benefit. It is free and confidential. Some people give through the weekly offering envelopes and others give through the bank.

Reformation Celebrations

2010 marked the 450th Anniversary of the Reformation in Scotland. It was in 1560 that the Parliament enacted laws which would make our country officially a Protestant nation. From that date a series of wide-ranging plans affecting not only the organization of the Church, but education, finance and pastoral oversight, were begun. The leader of the Reformation in Scotland was John Knox, one-time Roman Catholic priest, whose story can be read in many excellent books.



It was proposed that we should mark this important anniversary in some way. In September there was a trip to Haddington, near Edinburgh, the birthplace of John Knox. Hidden under a spreading oak tree planted in 1881 is a memorial stone to the famous reformer, marking the supposed site of his birthplace.



Just across the river is the famous St Mary's Church, known as the 'Lamp of Lothian'. No doubt John Knox attended services there. We were able to enjoy our lunch in the church before being given a history of the building and its importance to the area.

Our Reformation celebrations continued in November. On Friday 21st, we were joined by the Lambhill Gospel Band, who performed a medley of famous hymns, followed by a presentation in images and music based on the Gospel story of the Two Builders. Rev Dr George Mitchell then gave an introduction to the Reformation and some of its main leaders.

On Saturday night we met together for a fine meal in the Large Hall. Our after-dinner speakers were Miss Jean Ross, who told us about the state of Scotland before the Reformation; Mr Peter Kay, who reminded of us those who had paved the way for the Reformation by their martyrdoms; and Mr John Jamieson, who gave us insight into the life and character of John Knox himself.

Our thoughts were then focused on Sunday morning as we gave thanks for the Reformation and all that it meant for our land.

May we always be thankful to God for the men and women in our history who have done so much – even giving their lives – so that we could have freedom to worship and an open Bible to read.

Baptism : Rebekah Hope Laing

The baptism of Rebekah took place on the morning of Sunday 5th December, and was attended by many friends and family, followed by lunch in the large Hall



Rebekah with her dad and mum

Merry Christmas

SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER

11 am FAMILY SERVICE



6.30pm CAROL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE



11.30pm WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
with
Refreshments available in the Large Hall
from 10.45pm