



Dear Friends

Three Wars at Christmas?

Material for this magazine was to be handed in on 13th November, which happened to be Remembrance Sunday. I therefore happened to be thinking about this Christmas letter at the time we were remembering wars past and present. I could not help thinking how appropriate that was because behind the beauty of the Christmas story lies the grim reality of a spiritual battle of cosmic proportions.

The First War

We know well the anger of Herod who sought to kill the new born king. Do you remember that that was the next in a long succession of attempts to kill the sons of David and rid the world of any memory of his kingdom and any future for the dynasty? At one time there was only one son left! And his life was extremely vulnerable. What was at stake was the very promise of God to David and the truthfulness of his word together with the great question of whether God was powerful enough and willing to keep that word. What lay behind the frantic attempts to kill David's sons was the obliteration of the promise of God that David's son would be the Saviour of the world. Revelation 12 lifts the veil on world history to see what lies behind events and sees the Devil himself waiting for a woman to give birth to the son of David. But his attempt is foiled. Today, the Son of David reigns on David's throne in glory; his name is Jesus and he has saved us from our sins.

The Second War

Following on from the reality of that war is the present spiritual battle that the Church is engaged in, worldwide. We need to know how to fight that battle as we seek to be true to our calling as children of God called to this warfare. Remember the hymn 'Soldiers of Christ arise, and put your armour on...' for we are truly soldiers. We are not free to absent ourselves from the battle for that is treason and desertion, we are called to fight the good fight of the faith. We take responsibility before God for ourselves and our congregation at TPHD. We are in the midst of a serious conflict in the Church of Scotland and we need to be clear of what the Lord

requires of us, which is '...to love mercy, do justice and walk humbly with God.' At present we hear and see so many casting off the restraints of the Bible and demand their way and be like the world with all its vain values. This has had, as Jesus said it would, the effect of making '...the love of most grow cold.' And he is speaking about his people! His Church!

The Third War

The joy of Christmas is when Christ is born in us. But the battle then becomes one in which we are personally engaged as the Adversary of the people of God seeks '...like a roaring lion someone to devour...' Are you aware of changes in your walk with God that in your youth you would never have foreseen? Your first enthusiasm and commitment now dimmed greatly? All kinds of things however good they may be drawing you away from the Lord and your walk with him? Then remember you are in the midst of a battle for your very soul and the great enemy of God and his Christ are seeking ways to get into your life and heart to destroy your walk with God as he seeks to destroy the Church.

We do not walk humbly with God when we reject or neglect his Word in the Bible. We do not walk humbly with him when we do so as and when it is convenient to us or when we feel like it. Our energy, time, diaries, families and wealth all belong to him and we serve him in all of them when we make Him and His ways our priorities. Anything else or less causes the battle to be lost, personally and corporately.

Christian seek not yet repose
cast your dreams of ease away:
you are in the midst of foes -
watch and pray.

When Jesus is born in you the Spirit of Jesus trains us for the warfare he has led us into. Let us recommit ourselves to him in the obedience of faith.

Have a truly blessed and wise Christmas,

Richard,

Your friend and Minister

From the Apprentice - Reflections on 2011



2011 has been a great year! TPHD offers a great variety of opportunities and I'm gaining invaluable experience in a multitude of ways. One of the greatest qualities of the church, which I've appreciated immensely, is the genuine fellowship. The support and encouragement of the congregation has been tremendous.

Some of the highlights of the year, where I've been involved (or family members!) include the following:

Most weeks I lead the morning or evening service, which has been a steep learning curve, but gradually more enjoyable. This includes choosing hymns, praying, and giving a children's talk - all of which have provided challenges. I was surprised how few hymns I knew, public praying wasn't something I did regularly, and I hadn't given a kid's talk for about 10 years! It's given me plenty to think about for the future and a much greater appreciation for a different style of worship.

Preaching is one of my main duties at TPHD and this year I have taught from Matthew, John, Jonah, Joshua and 1 Timothy. I hadn't fully appreciated the hours it takes to pray, study and prepare a 30 minute expository sermon, and while I'm sure it takes me longer when starting out, every second is worth it and essential. As I was told in the beginning 'it's blood, sweat and tears', but it's an incredible privilege and responsibility to meditate on God's Word full-time. I greatly

look forward to preparing and preaching many more sermons in my remaining months.

Other areas of my development include, taking Prayer Meetings, helping to organise a Christianity Explored course, and leading the follow-up course 'Just for Starters', pastoral visits, and organising the crèche rota! Mixed and varied, that seems to be pastoral ministry...I still have no idea how Richard squeezes so much into a week! Susan has helped set-up Twinkle Tunes (Mothers and Toddlers!) and looks forward with anticipation to where God will take this.

A quick family update to outside readers. Ethan Oliver was born on 25 January, and is therefore now crawling (sliding), climbing and making random Indian noises! Susan has since returned to teaching, Katie started school (and loves it!) and Leah continues to win us over with her cheeky sense of humour!

TPHD and family life keep us busy, not to mention studying two days a week at Cornhill, and spending one day a week at St. George's-Tron. It becomes a slight juggling act but in God's grace he strengthens and provides confirming his continued blessing as we pursue this ministry direction.

Please pray with us as we seek God's guidance for the future. Christmas, Easter, Cornhill till June, and then this placement finishes in the summer...time is flying past! There are several options to investigate, so please pray we explore these wisely.

Christmas Greetings from the Wards, and blessings for 2012.

Oliver, Susan, Katie, Leah and Ethan (x)



'A Taste of Scotland' 2012 Calendar

A limited number of 'A Taste of Scotland' 2012 Calendars will be available shortly priced £4.00 - profits to church funds.

The calendar is A4 size comprising of photographs taken by Isabel Whyte from around Scotland including Glasgow, St Andrews, Arbroath , Skye and Tiree to name but a few places which are featured in the calendar.

To order your calendar - speak to Isabel Whyte as soon as possible.

Who do you recognise?

No prizes - just for fun! Do you recognise anyone in the following photograph? It was taken around 1970 - 43rd Girls Brigade forming up in Broadholm Street!



A few well known **and** still at TPHD! More photos next issue!

Jack Rae : 22 October 1921 – 25 September 2011

Following the recent death of my father, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself, my sister Irene, and our families, to thank Rev Richard Buckley for conducting such a comforting funeral service. We would also like to thank Oliver Ward for the Bible readings during the service, and further thanks to Richard and Oliver for their kind words during the morning service on 2nd October.

We would also like to thank the members of the congregation for the kind expressions of sympathy on the day of my father's funeral and the cards which have been received.

As my father's health deteriorated over the last few years it was a great source of strength and comfort to know that so many people were thinking of him. The many kind words and thoughts which were expressed during my visits to church services over the recent years will remain with me.

I am grateful, along with my sister Irene and our families, for all the kind thoughts and prayers of the congregation.

Stuart Rae

I would like to thank every member in our 'Church Family' for all the Get-Well wishes and visits, and also for all your prayers for my recovery during the past year. Though I have been unwell, I am grateful that I am able to come to church most Sunday mornings to praise our Saviour's name and most importantly to hear the wonderful preaching of God's Word. I look forward to Church and my prayer and Bible study time, both morning and evening.

I have a Christmas Display with lights, carousels, etc. I include Nativity display to show what Christmas should be about. Everyone is welcome during the festive season to come and bring your children and grandchildren to see both sides of Christmas.

I wish to give my wish of a very warm happy Christmas and good New Year.

Alistair McKenzie

CHARITABLE GIVING...

It has been a while since I gave the congregation an update on its charitable giving but it remains a pleasure to record and disburse the generous gifts given for humanitarian relief throughout the world, to help the spread of the gospel and to help address the many material and spiritual problems 'in our own backyard'.

During the year so far we have realised £200 for the Overseas Missionary fellowship, £232 for Reality, and £1461 for Tear Fund. Local need has also been recognized by the fine sums raised for the Lodging House Mission (£452), and to assist Mark Girvan in his work with Navigators.

Remember that by using Gift Aid when donating by regular giving or special offerings, our church receives large donations in turn by the taxman.

But before we pat ourselves on the back too hard, we should always remember that we are only stewards of God's wealth; we can create nothing by ourselves, but only use what He has given us. As Christians, we should remember that we received the ultimate gift – the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ who died to save us, and that our righteousness, as St Paul reminds us, "is as filthy rags".

John Jamieson

..NOW GIFT AID IT!

Do you pay tax? If so, you can increase your offerings by 25% at no cost to yourself! Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) kindly give the Church back the tax that you have paid on the amount given to the Church.

This year HMRC have refunded £9400. This sum is a great help to our finances. You do not need to be a member, but you do need to use the Offering Envelopes or pay through the bank. Further information is available from Jean Ross.

No financial details need to be given, and everything is treated with the utmost confidence.

Jean Ross

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

We have now been going for just over two years and we have been busy trying to make the church a safer place for you to come and worship. We, therefore, thought it was time for us to report back on what we have done. Here are just some of the items which have been actioned:

The stage was cleared of rubbish; holes in the floor and ceiling in church were repaired; chemicals lying around the buildings were locked away; the urn in kitchen was replaced with a boiler fixed to the wall; the door leading from large hall to vestibule is unlocked every Sunday morning; the door from session house leading to stairs now has a slip bolt on the inside for safety for children in the crèche and for teams counting the offering; the cable leading from the pulpit to the socket has been covered (a socket will be fitted in the pulpit); longer hand rails have been put on the stairs leading from the Church to the Large Hall and from the Session House to the Large Hall!

We are still working on a number of other things and will report back in due course.

Health & Safety is an on-going process and if you see anything at all that you think might be hazardous please do not hesitate to report it to any member of the Health & Safety Committee.

*Norma McKenzie
Health & Safety Committee.*

The Tea Ladies (also known – unkindly! - as ‘The Tea Bags’) would like to thank all the ladies who have donated biscuits and cakes during the year for the After-Church Fellowship

KING JAMES BIBLE CELEBRATION

The King James Bible, KJV, or 'Authorised Version' as it became known, was the Bible which most of the members of our congregation grew up with. However, unlike most of the members of our congregation, the King James Bible celebrated its 400th birthday in 2011, having been born in 1611! As the version of the Bible which has had such an influence on the English-speaking Christian and secular world, we could not let such a milestone pass without some form of recognition.

It was decided that we should have a 'celebration' of the 1611 translation, and that it should be held on the most appropriate date possible. The King James Bible was published in 1611 – our celebration date would be 16th November – **16(th)11(th** – month and year)! Our celebration would take the form of a meal together, with a talk from a guest speaker.

A splendid cold buffet was organized, and our guest speaker was Rev David White, of St Columba's Church, Kirkintilloch. Mr White took us through the stages of Bible translation which had led to the King James Version, beginning from the earliest Latin translation, down through the various English translations. Mr White showed the debt we owed to translators such as John Wycliffe (1324-1384) and William Tyndale (1494-1536) who brought us the Bible in everyday English.

Also to help us understand the various stages in the translation of the Bible into English, were a series of illustrated display panels loaned by Carlisle Cathedral.



The Buffet Table



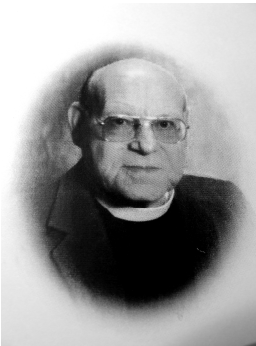
Some of the Carlisle Cathedral KJV Display Panels



Talk at the Tables



A Thoughtful Moment!



Rev C.K.O. Spence , MC, TD, MA, BD.

The Rev Charles Keith Ormond Spence was born on April 14, 1918 in British Guyana. After education at Hillhead High School and Glasgow University he served in the armed forces from 1940 until the end of the Second World War. During his war service he was as a Captain in the Ayrshire Yeomanry and was awarded the Military Cross in 1945. He was also mentioned in despatches on three other occasions.

The citation for the Military Cross reads as follows:

“On the night of 28 February / 1 March Captain Spence was Forward Observation Officer with the 15/19 Hussars. As he had no tank himself he travelled in the Squadron Leader’s tank of the leading squadron. During the ensuing battle, which lasted most of the night, Captain Spence, on his own initiative, brought down fire with remarkable speed and skill whenever it was requested. This was a very great help to the advance and prevented casualties to the tanks and infantry who were forced to remain in exposed positions on the road for long periods, while woods and thick country were cleared. When the advance stopped and the infantry with their Forward Observation Officers consolidated, Captain Spence was no longer required to bring down fire. He, however, far exceeded his normal duties by helping the Squadron Leader to search for and collect the crews of tanks which had been knocked out and were now in a very exposed position some way in front of our leading troops. He continued searching for wounded men of these crews under SA and shell fire for some two hours and personally carried one badly wounded man back 800 yards.

Throughout the operation he carried out all his duties with the greatest possible skill and effect. When he was no longer required for these he rendered invaluable assistance in most

dangerous and difficult circumstances in collecting the wounded, thereby setting a magnificent example to all ranks.” This encounter took place in Reichswald Forest in Germany. On leaving the army he studied Divinity in Glasgow University graduating in 1948. His first call was to Henry Drummond Memorial Church in April 1949, where he remained until September 1958. From there he moved to the Old Kirk in Port Glasgow and then to Craigownie Church in Cove where he remained until he retired.

His interest in the armed forces continued after his war-time service and with the approval of the Kirk Session he joined the Territorial Army as a Chaplain early in 1950. He eventually became Senior Chaplain to 52 Lowland Division. As recognition of his service he was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1962.

During his tenure in Henry Drummond Church Mr Spence preached the Gospel faithfully Sunday by Sunday as well as in his weekly Bible Class. He was instrumental in introducing the Young Worshippers League to the congregation. His children’s addresses are fondly remembered and always seemed to catch the imagination of the young folks present. He was a devoted pastor, regularly visiting homes in the Parish. He was a keen supporter of the work of the National Bible Society of Scotland, of which he was a director and also secretary of the West of Scotland Branch.

In 1951 to mark the centenary of Henry Drummond’s birth and the approaching 75th anniversary of the Church, Mr Spence proposed the establishment of the “Henry Drummond Jubilee Fund”. It was hoped that £3,000 could be raised to decorate the Church and Vestry, purchase a new organ, new chairs for the choir and two new lecterns. It took 7 years to raise the funds and carry out the refurbishment. Many of the items were gifted by members of the congregation and Mr HJH Drummond, nephew and sole remaining male relative of Henry Drummond, made a gift of a bronze plaque of Henry Drummond as well as Drummond’s desk

A Dedication and Thanksgiving service for the various gifts and the restoration of the Sanctuary took place in February 1958. Following a prayer of dedication, Mr Spence spoke of the heartfelt thanksgiving and joy that was felt amongst members now that the repairs and redecoration were complete.

Earlier that month a service from the church was broadcast by the BBC on the Overseas Programme. This service was to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the publication of “The Greatest Thing in the World” by Henry Drummond, first published in 1888. Consequently Mr Spence preached on the theme of ‘love’ from 1 Corinthians chapter 13. This broadcast is still remembered to this day by a member of the congregation who was twelve year old at that time.

Later that year Mr Spence was called to the Old Kirk in Port Glasgow. However, he was to return in June 1967 for the final worship service in Henry Drummond Church, where he assisted Mr Walker in a service of thanksgiving and praise.

Mr Spence passed away on 26 July this year and is survived by his wife Margaret whom he married in 1951.

Peter Kay

The Child in the Manger.....

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians, Chapter 1,verse 15.

TWINKLE TUNES

Twinkle Tunes has been in the pipe line for years now! We've been hoping to run something for Mums and kids in the area for a long time, but now it's finally here...

We have been meeting on a Friday morning for a few months to think and plan our little group and the 28th October was the inaugural meeting. It was quite a quiet affair, but since then things have got a bit more lively and interesting. So far we have 5 children who come along and have fun - singing, playing with the toys, reading stories and having a snack. We are delighted to have the children and families we do, but would love more! If you know anyone who would enjoy coming along please let them know.

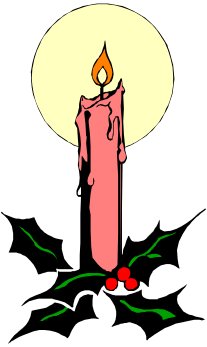
Keep praying for the right people to come along (in whatever capacity.. mums and kids, home-bakers, tidymen, enthusiasts etc etc..) at the right time..

Also, if anyone had any old spare hats (for a dressing up box) or old Christmas decorations (to recycle and make new ones) or old wool - we could certainly recycle them for you...

Grannies are also VERY welcome to come along and sing with their Twinkle Tots.



THE TPHD GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS EATING.....



The average person will gain 6 POUNDS during the Christmas season. Here are some easy-to-follow guidelines for your Christmas eating:

- ✓ If you eat something and no-one sees you eat it, then it has no calories.
- ✓ If you drink a diet drink with chocolate, the calories in the chocolate bar are cancelled by the diet drink.
- ✓ When you eat with someone else, calories don't count if you don't eat more than they do.
- ✓ Drinks used for medicinal purposes – sherry, brandy, mulled wine – never count.
- ✓ If you fatten everyone else around you, you will look thinner.
- ✓ Biscuit pieces and crumbs contain no calories: it is a well-known fact that the process of breaking causes calorie leakage.
- ✓ Things licked off spoons have no calories, especially home-made brandy butter.
- ✓ Foods of a similar colour have the same calories, eg, turkey and white chocolate.

Oliver Ward

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER

**11am FAMILY SERVICE
6.30 pm CAROL SERVICE**



SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER (*CHRISTMAS EVE*)

11.30pm WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
(MINCE PIES SERVED FROM 10.30pm)



SUNDAY 25th DECEMBER

11 am CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

