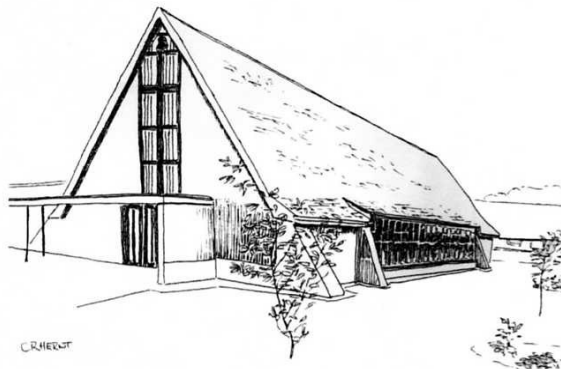


KIRK OF THE HOLY ROOD

KIRK MESSENGER



DECEMBER 2011

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PAGE 20	Sunday School

PARISH REGISTER



Christenings

Libby Grace Jane Cassidy

Deaths/Funerals

Mrs Margaret Hardie, Kinloch Place, Grangemouth

Mrs Jean Miller, Cunningham House, Grangemouth

Mr Craig Bonnar, Bowhouse Road, Grangemouth

Mrs Margaret Gibson, Tedder Street, Grangemouth

Mrs Edith McKellar, Blackfaulds Nursing Home, Avonbridge

Mrs Margaret Howie, Castleton Crescent, Grangemouth

Mrs Nellie Christie, Woodlands, Bo'ness

Mrs Janice Duncan, Airthrey Care, Airth

Outreach

Jubilee Project for Nepal

Our Jubilee Project for Nepal is helping to make a huge difference to the lives of people in the remote regions of the country. Our contact in Nepal, Bibhu Singh, passes on many thanks for your continued support and sends this story as an example of how the lives of poor and marginalised women are being changed.

This Little Pig.....

Muneshwari Risidev lives in a slum community with her husband and two children.

Her husband Chutaharu, an agriculture labourer and her 19 year-old son, an industrial labourer, make a little income, but it is barely sufficient to sustain the family.

Muneshwari used to busy herself with domestic chores, work as a temporary domestic helper, or even as an agricultural labourer when the opportunity presented itself. In 2009, UMN started to implement a pig-rearing programme to empower women. Muneshwari received a piglet. She had never raised livestock before, so it was hard for her to get income. However, after nine months of hard work, she made NRS 13,500 (£100) from the sale of nine piglets which she had bred from her original sow.

Muneshwari's family's living standards have subsequently improved. She has used her increased income for her children's education expenses, household expenses (such as a bed and some pots) and the purchase of two calves. The income she received from her first litter of piglets motivates her to continue pig rearing to fulfil her family needs

Betty Sutherland

Outreach Committee

CHURCH FINANCES

Gift Aid

So far this year we have recovered £3,723.16 in tax, with a further two claims at Inland Revenue. If members who have taken out Gift Aid have a change of circumstances e.g. no longer a taxpayer, change of address etc. please contact me so I can keep my records up to date. I am sure there are members in the congregation who pay tax but have not taken out Gift Aid. It is quite easy. Simply fill in your name, address and signature on a declaration form available from me. I am NOT interested in your financial situation - only that you pay tax – just hand in your offering envelopes as usual. I make a note of your payments, work out the tax and then send a claim to Inland Revenue. Unfortunately the special tax rate for charities of 22% has finished and is now down to the standard 20%, resulting in reduced income from recovered tax. The Government is bringing out new regulations to simplify Gift Aid but no information has been issued.

Giving Day

Total so far this year is £2,994.00. Do you still have an envelope lying somewhere? If so, you can still hand it in.

Fundraising

Future events: “Christmas Cracker”	3 rd December
“Christmas Tree Festival”	8 th / 9 th / 10 th December

Congregational Payments

I estimate that we will have a shortfall this year – approximately £6,000. Hopefully the weather will be good in December and the fundraising events will go ahead plus the tax claims are paid plus offerings – this figure will be reduced considerably.

Elsbeth Irvine, Treasurer

Accounts

Below is some of the income/expenditure for January to October 2011.

Income

Offerings -Envelopes	£24,684.30
Direct Debits	4,806.00
Fabric - Envelopes	4,091.60
Direct Debits	127.91
Boxes	23.04
Open Plate	2,605.96
Weddings/Funerals/Hall Lets	2,884.58
Fundraising	3,306.66
Giving Day	2,994.00

Expenditure

Council Tax	£ 2,033.28
Congregational Payments	28,000.00 (£19,749.00 still to pay)
Grass cutting/Garden	422.43
Electricity	800.00
Gas	2,645.00
Insurance	1,562.74
Photocopier Maintenance	1,066.55
Stationery/Postage	877.62
Maintenance	382.41

Monthly core expenditure e.g. Council Tax, Insurance, Electricity, Gas, Congregational Payments etc. -- £3,840.51.

<u>OFFERINGS</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
Envelopes	1,924.57	2,856.32	2,358.00
Cheques	-----	-----	-----
Direct Debits	589.00	506.00	506.00
Fabric	316.09	416.92	360.52
Boxes	4.38	-----	5.84
Open Plate	267.24	330.60	294.37

Elspeth Irvine, Treasurer

World Mission

Oct-Nov issue highlighted how the Christians in Asia who are in the minority are helping with building the peace. In Nepal where the Christians have been persecuted for years have taken great encouragement from the declaration of Nepal as a secular state. Lyn Jackson, United Mission to Nepal writes that after 10 years of civil war a faltering peace process and a chronically unstable government, true peace is a distant dream.

UMN have added their support to various interfaith organisations. Teachers have been trained as Peace Promoters. They now act as mediators, breaking the violence circuit by brokering solutions to local conflicts. Along the Indian border, cross-border raids terrified the villagers, it often went unpunished. UMN Peacebuilding team supported organisations to make the police aware it would be better to support their community keeping cross-border relationships cordial and productive. Violence often erupted between Hindu and Muslims.

Disputes about services like water and education can spill over into violence. Lumbini Christian Society formed interfaith groups addressing these issues. A Muslim Madarasa (school) has a new roof while a Hindu school has a new toilet block. Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Christian leaders meet regularly to keep communications open. Rukum is a remote hilly Maoist area in Nepal where widows are not treated with respect. They are discriminated against and they have a struggle to feed and care for their family. Working with Christian Society Development Campaign groups of women were formed to support each other to talk over their problems to try and find a solution. Self-help enterprises were established (bee keeping, goat rearing). They rented fields enabling them to grow vegetables. The widows of Rukum now have self-respect, born out of solidarity.

These modern-day peacemakers have taken Jesus' word seriously and put them into practice Matthew 5.9.



K.H.R. CHRISTMAS CRACKER

SATURDAY 3RD December 2011

10am – 12 noon

£1 Dipper

Tombola

Cake & Candy

Henna Tattoo

Face Painting

Gifts

Pocket Money Treats

Bottle Stall

and many more

PLUS

SANTA IN HIS GROTTTO

Come along and enjoy the fun and make it a real cracker!!

£1 incl. tea & coffee

Outreach at Christmas

The charity nominated for support this Christmas is Sightsavers International who do so much good work to improve the plight of people who do not have access to ophthalmic care and would otherwise lose their sight and have difficulty earning a living and looking after their families. As a fundraiser there will be tags on sale as in previous years. These cost £1 and are for you to write on your own message, thought or prayer. They will then be attached to the Kirk Christmas tree. A further opportunity to give to Sightsavers will be the gift bags on the pews during the Christmas season. Please drop in some small change – it all adds up.

Sunday 11th December is Gift Sunday when you are invited to bring a gift for the children and teenagers affected by the Chernobyl fallout and helped by Buskit. As before clothing, toiletries, toys (without batteries) etc. would be appreciated. They don't need to be wrapped, but, if they come in a gift bag, this can be passed on to the Buskit shop.

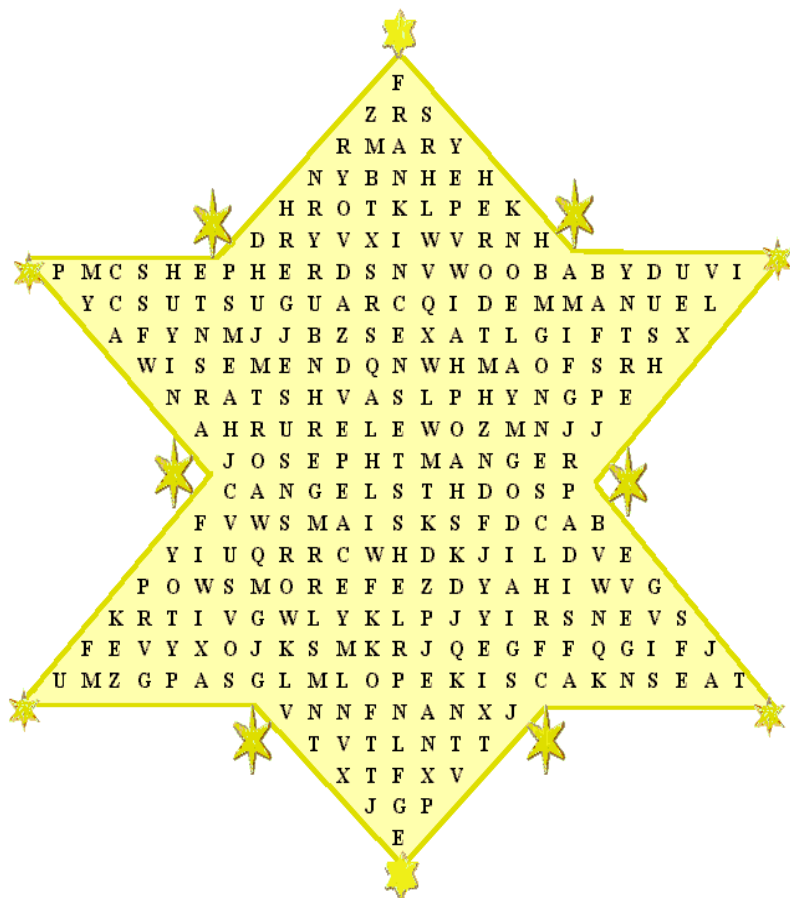
After the service on Sunday 11th please come through to the hall for some Christmas pies, cakes etc. The Outreach team enjoy this opportunity to say Thank You and Merry Christmas to all those who support the charity appeals. You don't need a ticket, just come along and give us your company.

In the evening of the 11th members of Outreach will share with the minister in the service for Bereaved Families and Friends at 7pm. A letter will be sent to the relatives of those bereaved in this year, but the service is open to all and provides a quiet time of remembrance in the midst of the Christmas bustle. If you know of someone who you think would like to come along, please pass on this invitation.

Thank you for all your support and generosity during 2011. We hope you have a Happy Christmas and we ask for God's Blessing on you and yours in 2011.

Betty Sutherland, Outreach.

His Birth



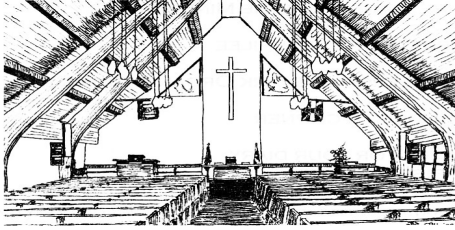
Angels
Augustus
Baby
Bethlehem
Elisabeth
Emmanuel
Frankincense
Gifts

Gold
Herod
Inn
Jesus
Joseph
Manger
Mary
Myrrh

Nativity
Noel
Peace
Promise
Savior
Shepherds
Star
Swaddling

Taxes
Virgin
Wisemen

Minister's Message



“Every so often in ministry you get the opportunity to take a step back to have a look at church life from a different perspective.

In late September I had the chance to visit Germany to see how churches were ministering to their people. Sharing in harvest thanksgiving service in churches, and in allotments (others in our group saw that) and in a zoo, made for different ways of being church. Work among their young folk wasn't easy with churches facing the same problems we have here, yet one church was operating a programme of visits in Iceland, Estonia, Finland and Germany with English being the language of choice (no one can speak Finnish!).

Lots of things to think about, not least the sharing of the peace in the Pauluskirche English congregation who took a full ten minutes to greet everyone in the building. It was truly joyful.

Here, we have just had the five yearly visit from Presbytery which seems to have gone very well, and we are now in the process of responding to the Presbytery Plan.

Much has been said about this plan. The fact is that we have been instructed as a Presbytery to reduce the number of ministries in the area by six. Each geographic part of Presbytery has to meet and talk together to think this through as it affects them. Grangemouth is unaffected in numerical terms, but that does not mean that we are immune from future decisions. With this in mind, the whole of Presbytery are meeting in cluster groups to try to see what the vision for the local church might be. In our case, this means meeting with Zetland and Abbotsgrange to see what we are doing well individually and what we might improve together.

It is a potentially exciting process to be part of. The only hassle is the relatively short time scale we have in which to have meetings for discussing the Plan. I can only apologise for this. The timing for this has not been helpful from my own point of view with a family holiday landing in the middle of the opening planning time.

Something the Session has agreed to is the possibility of having a joint service on January 1st with local congregations. Bearing in mind that the Sunday after Christmas and the one after New Year have traditionally had low turn outs, it makes sense to join forces for a significant act of worship to begin the year, building a sense of Christian community, rather than having much smaller worship services in all the churches. More details will follow.

Different ways of being church.

As in Germany, we are having to look at being church for the next few decades and asking questions about just how we can best represent Christ to our respective communities. This kind of thinking is scary because it seems to threaten the things we have grown accustomed to. It is a challenge to respond to a God who is never static, who is always calling us on to bigger and better things, but we have a faithful God who is also always beside us.

Every blessing.
David”

National Youth Assembly

During the weekend 2nd September to the 5th I was able to attend the National Youth Assembly.

The Friday was a meet and greet for the whole group and a chance for us to get to know who was in our small groups as well as the whole NYA team. This was followed by a concert by the band Awaken.

The Saturday started with an early breakfast at 7:30 am followed by morning worship workshops. I attended a "Love God" workshop which allowed me to talk to God in writing in my own way. The workshops were then followed by a whole group worship at 9:30 am. John Bell then spoke to the group from 10 to 11. This was followed by a break. The first debate started at 11:30 and was on the sexualisation of children. The large group then split into the small groups to discuss the debate and what we had to say about it as individuals. A "last lunch" was followed at 1:00 and this was followed by more workshops. I attended the "Love Self" which was very much to do with your breathing and mediation. We then re-gathered to discuss what each small group had said about the debate. This was then followed by time to change for a Ceilidh and dinner.

Sunday consisted of the same layout in which the debate was on priority areas and how the church would be affected. I attended a puppetry workshop in the afternoon. I hope to do some of this in the church soon in children's talks and I am hoping to bring the puppeteer who taught me some of his skills to the church for a workshop so other people may be further inspired.

The evening was spent with group singing with John Bell and a hootenanny/x factor style singing, entertainment- which were both equally worth attending. And a late night worship.

The Monday was the last day and was spread the same way as the previous days in lay out. The debate was on mission and discipleship marriage reports and how the church feels about having a divorce ceremony. This was followed by a break and by a communion ending the day and NYA for 2011 and saying good bye at 5:00pm.

I feel that NYA is worth going to and is inspirational to everybody that goes as well as a lot of fun as you get to meet new people who stay in contact with you after the event and you feel that once you've been once you want to go again.

I'd like to thank the church for letting me go to the NYA as well as the Council of Churches.

So thank you everyone and I hope to see some of you (maybe) at the next NYA.

Hazel Smith (17)

HOGMANAY BASH



This popular event will take place between 7.30pm and 12.30am and will take the usual form of singing, dancing, fun and games. Don't just sit in the house, come along, join in and bring the family. You are only asked to bring along your own tippie and there will be a "Pot Luck" supper.

Free tickets and further details are available from Ronnie or Betty Speirs, telephone 473335

Ronnie Speirs.

Women's Association 1962 – 2012

As we approach our 50th Anniversary in March 2012 we are looking forward to a varied and exciting syllabus. In the next few weeks we will share in a Devotional Evening on 9th November when our guest will be the Rev Louise McClements.

- Nov 16th Hearing Dogs for the Deaf
– Billy & Margaret Falconer
- 23rd Asda - Fruit Tasting with Linda Burns
- 30th St Andrews Night Celebration with guest
Ray Carse
- Dec 7th Christmas Party in the newly opened venue of
“The Scott’s”, Wood Street.
- 14th Carol Service with members participating in
Worship and prayers.

After the holidays on 21st Dec and 28th Dec we will meet again and share in a Members Night on 4th January 2012 as we approach our A.G.M. and 50th Birthday Tea, which will be held on March 21st Leading up to this evening here are some of the events planned: a Burns Night, a Hospitality Night and a visit to the Hippodrome in Bo’ness.

We invite everyone to join us for our Come & Celebrate Evening on Wednesday 7th March when our guests will be the Grangemouth Choral Society. If you would like to join us on a Wednesday evening you will be made most welcome.

May I wish you all many blessings for a joyous Christmas and very Happy New Year.

Mary Wood
President

Jesus loves me (for the elderly)

Jesus loves me, this I know
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim
Still He bids me trust in Him

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

Yes, Jesus loves me!.....

Though I am no longer young
I have much which He's begun
Let me serve Christ with a smile,
Go with others the extra mile.

Yes Jesus loves me!....

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear
"Have no fear, for I am near"

Yes, Jesus loves me!....

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won,
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

Yes, Jesus loves me!....

I love Jesus, does he know?

Have I ever told Him so?

Jesus loves to hear me say?

That I love Him every day *Yes Jesus loves me!*



DIARY DATES

<u>Saturday 3rd Dec</u> “K.H.R. Christmas Cracker”	10am – 12 noon
<u>Sunday 4th Dec</u> Communion	11am
<u>Thursday 8th – Saturday 10th Dec</u> “Christmas Tree Festival”	10am – 4pm
<u>Saturday 10th Dec</u> Council of Churches “Carol Singing” ASDA Grangemouth	1pm – 2pm
<u>Sunday 11th Dec</u> Gift Service for Buskit Service for bereaved families and friends	11am 7pm
<u>Sunday 18th Dec</u> Sunday School’s “Nativity Play” Family Christingle Service	11am 6pm
<u>Saturday 24th Dec</u> Christmas Eve Service	11.15pm
<u>Sunday 25th Dec</u> Service	11am
<u>Saturday 31st Dec</u> “Hogmanay Bash” Church Hall	7.30pm – 12.30am

CHURCH GARDENS

The weather has been against us for the past weeks, but I'm sure you'll agree that the grass is manicured and the gardens tidy. The polyanthus have given us another bloom and are brightening up the borders. We're pulling back now for the winter but the grass will need another cutting, if the weather permits. Some new golden roses have been planted in the rose bed to celebrate the Women's Association's 50th Anniversary. When they are in bloom next year please pay a visit to this bed at the side of the Church, you'll be amazed at the perfume from the roses.

By the time you read this I will hopefully have my new knee and by spring should be fully fit to resume the gardening.

Once again, my thanks to the hard-working team who keep your Church grounds looking lovely.

Have a peaceful Christmas.

Liz Erskine



Christmas Tree Festival

This event, cancelled from last year, will be held in the Church between Thursday 8th and Saturday 10th December. There will be around 20 trees to view and enjoy, with a variety of sponsors, each having their own theme.

Admission, which includes tea, and covers all three days is only £3.

Tickets are available from Moira Gililland or Betty Speirs, or just pay at the door.

Communion

4th December

at 11am and 6.15pm

Your Gifts during 2011

This year you have been as generous as ever. Here, with many thanks, is a list of the amounts we have donated to various organisations during 2011:

The Smile Train (Christmas fundraising)	£385
Buskit (Easter Smartie tubes)	£580
Community Care (Holy Week Service)	£95
Borderline (Jubilee Service)	£152
Help for Heroes (Jubilee Service)	£152
African famine appeal in July	£285
United Mission for Nepal (Jubilee Project)	£700
International Rescue (Harvest Appeal)	£667

That makes a wonderful total of £3016 and does not include the generous gifts which Buskit take with them to Belarus, or our donation to Poppy Scotland which, at time of writing, is still to come. Many thanks.

Outreach



"DROP IN"

It's become very busy on a Wednesday morning with the ladies from the Women's Association, and sometimes, the minister, David, joining us for coffee/tea and biscuits. It's good fun with lots of conversation and laughter, a tonic for the gloomy winter days. Why not come along and join in. You'll be made most welcome.

The gardeners and "Drop In" are sponsoring a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival. Please come and support this venture. It will put you in the "Festive Mood".

We are going for a Festive Night Out to The Mahratta in December. Should be our usual happy, noisy get-together.

Have a wonderful, blessed Christmas.

Liz Erskine



An Evening of Entertainment

The annual Grangemouth Choral Society's Christmas Concert will take place in Abbotsgrange Church on Friday 16th Dec 2011 at 7.30pm.

Sunday School Report

We continue to use the “Friends and Heroes” teaching materials which provides a D.V.D. with teaching and activity sheets. As we follow the adventures of Macky (a boy in Roman times) we learn the Good News of the teachings of Jesus reflected in our lives everyday. In the weeks ahead the children can enjoy a variety of hand crafts. We have been invited to design a poster for the “Christmas Cracker Morning” on 3rd December and individually draw a Christmas Tree for the festival to be held in the church from 8th to 10th December. We have also sponsored a Christmas Tree at the festival. The children also like to make gifts to take home to their families.

The Nativity Play will be presented on Sunday 18th December and the rehearsals take place in the 2 weeks before this date. On Sunday 11th December after the morning service and rehearsal we will have our Christmas Party when Santa has promised to pay us a visit.

The Christmas Outing has still to be finalised.

We thank you the congregation for all your support of the Sunday School.

Wishing you and your families many blessings for Christmas.



Mary Wood
Sunday School Superintendent