

# *Christmas Message from the Study*



## *Joy of Heaven to Earth Come Down*

Order the turkey and ham, put up the decorations, write the Christmas Cards, wrap the presents, Oh and don't forget to leave out some biscuits for Santa. Christmas for many is a truly wonderful time of the year, a time to be with family, a time to relax and have a break from work, a time to see the kids smile and laugh.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, let's think about Jesus; the reason for the season. When we think of that baby lying in a manger, we are thinking about God coming to earth in human form. He chose to take on human flesh so that we could have a place beside him forever. He chose to be born, not in a palace, but in a dirty stable, in among the animals. He chose not to be born into a rich family, but into an ordinary family, struggling to get by day by day.

For me, I feel very humbled at this time of year when I think of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. And while God wants us to enjoy our Christmas celebrations, I do feel he also wants us to remember others at this time of year. Others for whom this time of year brings an overwhelming sense of sadness, others who can't put a turkey on the table, or for kids who won't get any presents. We have an opportunity to help others at this time of the year, firstly through our gift collection which has been delivered and very gratefully received by Belfast City Mission, and secondly through our World Development Appeal envelopes.

Thirdly we can reach out a hand of friendship. We can call with an elderly neighbour, maybe invite them for dinner. We can have a go and reaching out the hand of friendship with someone who has maybe fallen out of favour. I encourage you to look for those opportunities this Christmas to show God's love and peace.

It is a privilege to bring you this first Christmas message from the study. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Colin*

## ***Dates for your Diary***

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December – 11.30am** - Sunday School Christmas Nativity  
**7.00 pm** - Carols by Candlelight with the Church Choir

**Christmas Morning - 10.30am** - Family Service with Rev. Colin Anderson. You are warmly invited to come and share a short time in Christian Fellowship on this special family day.

***Christmas Offering for World Development***  
***Our opportunity to remember others***

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December - Boxing Day:**

11.00am Short Service of Carols and Readings

**PLEASE NOTE: Earlier Start Time**

No Evening Service

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2011 - 11.30am** - Rev Ronnie Hetherington  
Director of Ministerial Studies, Union Theological College

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2011 - 11.30am** - Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.  
**Note:** *Communion Invitation Cards will be issued to elders on 2<sup>nd</sup> January*

## ***Freewill Offering Rota***

**December:** John McClure, Billy Vance, Eleanor Leighton,  
Rosemary Martin

**January:** Robin Black, Martin Boyd, Ann Wright, Hannah Irwin

**February:** Charles Adair, Stephen Donaldson, Anne Johnston,  
Christine Rankin

## ***The Nativity Play***

*There's always an angel whose halo will slip  
A shepherd whose entry is marred when he trips.  
There's always a sweet voice that suddenly fades,  
A hand that lifts up, to Mummy it waves.  
There's always a Mary, a Joseph, a Babe,  
Three kings bearing gifts, so carefully laid.  
There's always the feeling it should be this way –  
The message of Christmas, the Nativity Play.*

## ***FINANCIAL NOTES***

### **Freewill Offering 2010**

Contributions to FWO and Sunday Collections up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010, 2009 figures in brackets, are as follows:-

FWO                    £41,789.80    (£36,608.51) + 14%Collection  
£3,382.25    (£ 1,872.47) + 81%

This is an overall increase of 17.4%

### **United Appeal.**

Contributions plus Gift Aid to United Appeal for the year total £4,676 which is £1,453 below our *Target of Honour* which this year is £6,129 but we still have one month to go.

### **FWO Envelopes 2011**

With this Newsletter you will receive your envelopes for 2011 and also a statement of contributions up to and including 14<sup>th</sup> November. Any member of the Congregation who as yet does not have and would like to have envelopes for 2011 should contact John McClure on 9188 8131 or any member of the Vestibule team at Church on Sundays.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

***Robin Black, Convenor, Finance Sub - Committee***

### ***Christmas Nativity***

**by the**

### ***Sunday School***

***Sunday 19th December***  
***11.30am***

***Please come and***  
***encourage***  
***the children***

### ***Carols by*** ***Candlelight***

***Traditional Service of***  
***Nine Lessons and Carols***  
***With the Church Choir***  
led by

***Dr George Beale***

***Sunday 19th December***  
***at 7pm***

***Everyone welcome***

*First Presbyterian Church Donaghadee*

*Christmas Newsletter  
December 2010*



*Silent Night, Holy Night*

*Wishing you and your family  
A Happy and Blessed Christmas*

