

## *Christmas Message from the Study*



It gives me great pleasure to bring my second Christmas message from the study. It seems only yesterday since Debra and I moved to Donaghadee and here we are preparing for our second Christmas

in the manse. As another year in the life of First Presbyterian Church Donaghadee draws to a close it is good to pause and give thanks to God for his blessing upon our congregation. It wasn't that long ago that things looked bleak, but with God's direction and guidance things are now moving in the right direction.

This year has been one of great momentum within the congregation. Jam and Dee-ciples has continued to develop, although we are always on the lookout for more children, so please encourage your friends to come to church and bring their children. Our Youth Organisations are prospering and we have been enjoying new forms of worship on Sundays. Our year started off with the installation of a new IT system. Designed to take us into the future, we now have the facilities available to record our services on to DVD and CD, in addition to a permanent video link to the crèche. We can also project the sound and vision from our services into the other rooms in our buildings, which came in very useful at our recent community carol service, where around sixty people watched the service in the hall, as the church was full to capacity.

On the property front we continue to work to bring our facilities up to the required standard set down by government regulations and also church regulations. We are thankful for a very generous donation towards the cost of a new kitchen, which is now very much, 'fit for purpose.' The new self-fill water boiler does away with the need to fill kettles and the new range and integrated fridge ensure that we can cater for functions on a large scale. Our property, however, is in continual need of upkeep and the only way we can achieve this is by generous giving. With this *Newsletter* you will have received your envelopes for the year. In addition to the Freewill Offering envelope there is also a Property envelope. Sadly, although we go to the cost of producing these envelopes, it is only a small proportion of the congregation who use them. Let me encourage you to give as much as you can in to the Property Fund, so that we can continue to enjoy the wonderful facilities we have at First Donaghadee.

In September we welcomed David Morrison to our congregation as an intern worker, along with his now fiancée, Barbara. David has been active in working with the youth and children of the congregation, as well as getting to know as many people as possible. Please pray for David and Barbara as they look forward to what God has planned for them both in the coming years.

Our newest venture this year has been establishing a Carers and Tots group, which we call 'First Steps'. Although in its infancy, this group has been instrumental in building relationships with people who have no church connection. They are always on the lookout for helpers, as are all of our organisations and groups. If you can spare time to help out in any facet of church life, then please come forward and ask, "not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for your church."

I want to take an opportunity to thank all of the leaders and volunteers in all of our organisations and work groups for the tremendous efforts that have been put in over this past year to help us grow as a congregation and to be a light to the community around us.

Our location places us in the 'heart of the community,' so let's dig deep with our time and our resources so that as a congregation of people, we can BE the 'heart of the community.'

I wish you all a very Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Colin*

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

**Sunday 18<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 1st January 2012 - 11.30am** – Morning Worship

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2012 - 11.30am** - Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

**Note:** *Communion Invitation Cards are being issued to elders with their copies of this Newsletter.*

## ***FINANCIAL NOTES***

### **Freewill Offering 2011**

Contributions to FWO and Sunday Collections up to 30 November 2011 (2010 figures in brackets) are as follows:-

FWO: £45,036.57 (£41,789.80) + 7.8%.

Collection: £3,895.38 (£ 3,382.25) + 15%

This is an overall increase of 7.9%

### **United Appeal.**

Contributions to United Appeal for the year to November total £3,096 which is £3,746 below our *Target of Honour* (set this year at £6,842). However, one more round of contributions is currently underway and when Gift Aid is added, the gap should be significantly reduced.

### **FWO Envelopes 2012**

With this *Newsletter* you will receive your envelopes for 2012 together with a statement of contributions up to and including 14th November.

Any member of the Congregation who does not yet have and would like to have envelopes for 2012 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 NewYear.

*Rob McQuiston, Hon. Treasurer*

### ***Freewill Offering Rota***

***December:*** Mrs E. Burch, T. Johnston, W. McCausland, W. Leighton.

***January:*** G. Purdy, K. Morrison, K. Lennox, A. N. Other

***A revised rota will be discussed at the January meeting and implemented from the beginning of February.***

*the children*

***Christmas Nativity***

**JAM & DEE-CIPLES**

***Sunday 18th December***

***11.30am***

***Please come and  
encourage***

***Carols by  
Candlelight***

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

**led by**

***Dr George Beale***

*Sun. 18th Dec. 7pm*

*First Presbyterian Church Donaghadee*

*Christmas Newsletter  
December 2011*



*O come all you faithful*

*Wishing you and your family a*

# *Happy and Blessed Christmas*

## *What do I wish you*

The family reunited, all squabbles set aside,  
Food in the larder, knocks at the door,  
Friendly faces, parcels piling up,  
Cards from everyone you love,  
Nothing forgotten, nothing signed,  
Laughter, a little stillness,  
Hugs, kisses, happy memories.

I wish with all my heart that your Christmas  
    will be all that it was meant to be –  
A little warmth in the depth of winter,  
A light in the dark.

*Charlotte Gray*

