

HOPE



Achinleck
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Serving Christ, Serving the Community

Welcome to the Winter Edition of our Newsletter

"GOD WITH US"

Often in times of distress, difficulty, discouragement and depression and even in the face of death the question is asked, – "**Where is God?**". The inference is that God is **nowhere**, or that if He is somewhere, He just doesn't care!!

The story of the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, which we celebrate at this time of the year, puts paid to these ideas.

Here is Matthew's summary of the Christmas Story, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us.**" (Matthew 1:23). Wow -- the **message of the manger** is that **God is and He is interested.**

God, in the person of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, has actually "**moved right into our neighbourhood**"!! Why did He visit us? Listen to His own words, "The Son of Man is come to seek and to **save that which was LOST.**" (Luke 19.10) That's you and me – like sheep we have gone astray from God because of our disobedience – we are lost **but** Jesus came to save us!! So God is **now here** and He is able to save all who repent of their sins and receive the Lord Jesus as Saviour and have eternal life through Him.

The WORD was made flesh and dwelt among us!" John 1:14

In all of history, there has.....

Never been a cross-cultural venture of greater significance;
Never a farewell more unique than when the Son stood on the threshold of time and said, "Good-bye" to His Heavenly Father;

Never a communication barrier more difficult to bridge
than for the Creator of language to learn to speak as a baby;

Never a discipline more important
than for the Ruler of the Universe to learn obedience from Mary and Joseph;

Never a change of role more dramatic
than for the King of Kings to become the Servant of all;
Never a greater identification with another culture than for the Christ
to set aside all of His Heavenly prerogatives
and take on Himself the form of a man;

Never a greater gift to us than for God, the Son
to die for our sins and give us eternal life;

Never a better time than now to receive that gift
if you have not yet done so! For His honour and glory! **Neil Pirolo**



POET'S CORNER **God With Us**

On Christmas morn, a baby boy was born, Immanuel
God with us!

Small and poor, asleep in the straw, Immanuel
God with us!

Angels started singing at the baby's birth
All the hosts of heaven knew what he was worth
They told the frightened shepherds there'd be joy
and peace on earth
Because of Immanuel

God with us!

He knew happy and sad, good and bad, Immanuel
God with us!

So we can have Him as our friend, Immanuel
God with us!

When I'm scared and afraid and things aren't going well.

When I need someone to listen, someone to tell.

I know I have a friend who hears me well, Immanuel

God with us!

When I'm alone, I'm not on my own, because of Immanuel

God with us!

When I'm with mates and everything's great,
He is Immanuel

God with us!

When my day's a mess and things
have not gone as planned

When I need a shoulder or a helping hand
I've got my family and my friends who understand,

AND Immanuel --

God with us!



MEET A MEMBER

JESSIE HALL

I was born in Catrine 83 years ago and still live there. From an early age I attended the Sunday School in the Gospel Hall. I remember my teacher was Mr Walter Todd. Sadly, my mother died when I was only 13 years old and that got me thinking seriously about death and **what would happen to me when I died**. I knew that if I didn't accept the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who had died for our sins on the Cross, as my Saviour, **I would go to hell**.

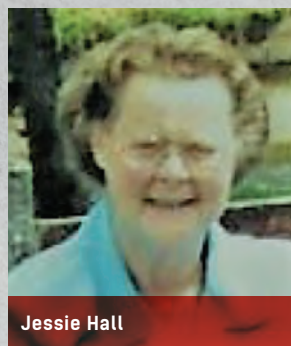
I just went on living the way I was until one morning I woke to find my sister, Moira, was not in the bed. **I thought that the Lord must have come back** and, as she had accepted Jesus as her Saviour a few months previously, she had been taken and **I was left**. I was so disturbed by this thought that, there and then, I asked the Lord Jesus to forgive my sins and come into my life. He did and for the last 70 years **He has never left me**.

Since then I have had a lot of ups and downs in my life, but I know that He is always there for me and I am no longer afraid to die. Jesus has guided me right through all my working life and my life has been a happy one.

I have always had a love for children and was a Sunday School Teacher in Catrine and Auchinleck for 40 years. I also helped with a Teenagers Club in New Cumnock for 8 years until I had to give up because of ill-health.

I worked in Mayfield pyjama factory for 15 years where I was very happy, but I was yearning to be a nurse. I decided to train with the nursing reserves at Ballochmyle Hospital. There I learned first aid and nursing. I started doing voluntary first aid work 2 nights a week as well as every Saturday morning. This eventually opened the door for me to get a job as a **nurse at Killoch Colliery** where I worked until the pit closed.

I will close with bringing before you the Bible verse that the Lord used to speak to me on the day that I was saved; "I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.



Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." (Luke 17.34-36)

I hadn't fully realised how important it was to be saved and that only those who were saved, by accepting Jesus Christ by faith, as Saviour, would go to heaven when the Lord returns. **So the challenge is, when the Lord returns, will you be ready to go to be with Him in heaven or will you be left with the many to perish?**

You are invited to come along to our

Christmas Service

23rd December
at 1.00pm

Refreshments provide after service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

COAT OF ARMS

The coat of arms of the 5th Earl of Dumfries, William Crichton-Dalrymple, which is displayed both on the inside and outside of Dumfries House, contains three very important words, **"GOD SEND GRACE"**.



Grace is at the very heart of the Christian message. God has already sent grace!! "For **the grace of God has appeared** offering salvation to all people." (Titus 2:11). This appearance of God's grace was at the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. "For the law was given through Moses; but **grace** and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). It was said of Him, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace** and truth." (John 1:14)

"What is grace?"

The word translated "grace" in the New Testament comes from the Greek word *charis*, which means "favour, blessing, or kindness." We can all extend grace to others; but when the word grace is used in connection with God, it takes on a more powerful meaning. Grace is God choosing to bless us rather than curse us as our sin deserves. **It is His goodness to the undeserving – which is every one of us.** It is God's love in action towards men who merited the opposite. Grace means God moving heaven and earth to save sinners who could not lift a finger to save themselves. Grace means God sending His only Son to the cross so that we guilty ones might be reconciled to God and received into heaven. "God has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

God's grace began in the Garden of Eden when God killed an animal to cover the sin of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). He could have immediately

killed the first humans for their disobedience. But rather than destroy them, He chose to make a way for them to be right with Him. That pattern of grace continued throughout the Old Testament when God instituted blood sacrifices as a means to atone for sinful men. It was not the physical blood of those sacrifices that cleansed sinners; it was the grace of God that forgave those who trusted in Him (Hebrews 10:4; Genesis 15:6).



God shows both mercy and grace, but they are not the same. Mercy withholds a punishment we deserve; grace gives a blessing we don't deserve. In mercy, God chose to cancel our sin debt by not only sending His Son but sacrificing Him in our place (Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21). But He goes even further than mercy and extends grace to His enemies (Romans 5:10). He offers us forgiveness (Hebrews 8:12; Ephesians 1:7), reconciliation (Colossians 1:19-20), abundant life (John 10:10), eternal treasure (Luke 12:33), His Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13), and a place in heaven with Him some day (John 3:16-18) when we **accept His offer and place our faith in His sacrifice.**

"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" however we can be "justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24).

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

Ephesians 2:8 says, "For **by grace are you saved, through faith**, and that not of yourselves."

The only way any of us can enter into a relationship with God now and enjoy God's heaven for eternity is because of His grace toward us.

Praise God He has sent GRACE!!



Parent and Toddler Group

Thursday @ 9.30 - 11.00 (term time only)

Please contact Ruth on 07402 468 244 for details of new term.



Struggling - Benefits Cut, Sanctioned, finding it difficult to make ends meet??

We provide a food bank in the hall at Park Road from 11.15am to 12.15pm every Thursday.

Please note that there will be no Food Bank on Thursday the 27th of December or Thursday the 3rd January

COFFEE MORNING

Why not drop in for coffee, cake and chat the 1st Monday of each month from 9.30am to 11.00am
(7th Jan, 4th Feb, 4th March and 1st April)

Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.

All free of charge.



Family Service

Our all-age family service is held each

Sunday @ 12.45pm

Creche for kids

Singing, Kid's Message

plus Message for Adults

Free lunch provided for all after service

Youth Fellowship

Every second Friday @7.30pm

Snooker, Table Tennis, Tuck Shop,

Bible Lesson

Contact :- Simon - 07411 801 594

Times of Services

SUNDAY

11.00am – Breaking of Bread

12.45pm – Family Service

14.45pm – Bible Teaching

MONDAY

7.30pm – House Meeting @

101, Main Street

TUESDAY

7.30pm – Prayer Meeting

CONTACT DETAILS

www.auchinleckchristianfellowship.co.uk

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