

What's on at Loudoun this winter?

Thursday December 1st Nursery children at Coffee Pot

Sunday December 4th Communion Services 11:00am and 6:30pm

Friday December 9th Christmas Lights Switch on
Community Carol Service at Lady Flora's - 6.30pm followed by carols in the Church and tea/coffee and mince pies/shortbread in hall afterwards

Sunday December 11th Guest Preacher, Rev. Ian Hamilton
11:00am and 6:30pm

Monday December 12th Last Journeys with God

Thursday December 15th Last Coffee Pot

Thursday December 22nd Primary School Christmas Assembly
10:00am in Church

Saturday December 24th Christmas Eve Watchnight Service
11.30pm

Sunday December 25th Christmas Day Family Service 11:00am
(no evening service)

Sunday January 1st New Year's Day (Communion) Service
11:00am (no evening service)

Sunday January 8th Morning Service 11:00am
Evening Service 6:30pm,
'Supper and Song' in hall afterwards

from January 8th Journeys with God and Coffee Pot resume



LIFE AT LOUDOUN

The Christmas 2016 newsletter of Loudoun Church of Scotland Newmilns



CHRISTMAS :



PART OF REAL LIFE OR JUST A
DIVERSION?

Dear Friends,

Is Christmas part of real life or just a diversion?

We hear and read of political and economic uncertainty all around us at home. Abroad there is carnage in Aleppo in Syria and Mosul in Iraq, devastation caused by hurricanes in the Caribbean, earthquakes in New Zealand and Italy and warnings of tsunami off the coast of Japan.



But Christmas is approaching. *Is this an opportunity for a diversion* before we turn the corner into a New Year - 2017 - when we will resume our normal activities?

Not at all. Jesus came into the world not as a diversion but as part of the real world. He was a surprise pregnancy; born as an outcast and a refugee in his early years. *Jesus experienced real life* in his 33 years on earth, culminating in a criminal's death. Yet at the time of His birth the angel's message was:

"I bring you GOOD NEWS of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you - He is Christ the Lord."

Is there a contradiction here between the message of the angel and the life Jesus experienced? Far from it. He comes to identify with us in our human lives, to support us through our trials and to deliver us from them because He has been there and knows what it is like.

Let me take this opportunity to invite you along so that you can hear the **GOOD NEWS**

"God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Eternal Life".

Now that is really **GOOD NEWS** - the best there can be and it is music to our ears and brings peace to our hearts.

May you know His peace and His love at Christmas and into 2017

Your Friend and Locum Minister, Andrew

Tel: 01292 676008

Summer news

During the Newmilns Gala day the Coffee Pot was open and raised over £300 for charity. Thanks to all the members and friends who were involved in the baking and serving and to the people who came and enjoyed the coffee and cakes



and contributed to the charities. It's important as a church to have a visible presence at town events and let's pray that people would be encouraged to come along to the church services through this

Mission

In the summer a joint team from Loudoun church and the Irvine Valley Community Church went out to Moldova in Eastern Europe once again to share in the leadership of the annual summer camp at which over 100 children and young people attended. They took with them donations of clothing and gifts which are much appreciated by the young people and their families, living in difficult economic circumstances. We've enjoyed hearing their reports in church and continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Moldova.



Blythswood

Well done everyone for the great effort on the Blythswood boxes. Between the church and primary school we sent a



total of 72 boxes away to brighten Christmas for disadvantaged children.

Members

This autumn we welcomed four new members: Alan and Megan O'Hare, Bert Livingstone and David McKenzie. What an encouragement to see new members join us in our commitment to our Christian faith and our local church.

We also said goodbye to Helen Gilmour who passed away after a long period of illness. Please remember Tommy and the family as they mourn.

New births

Congratulations to Rebecca, Graeme and Neco on the birth



? DID YOU KNOW ??
The Church of Scotland have an on-line Advent Calendar. See the web site or Facebook for details