

# Outlook Extra!

CHRISTMAS 2006



Hello, and welcome to *OUTLOOK EXTRA!* (writes Barry Meiklejohn, Editor) This Christmas, we are delighted to be able to do something just a wee bit different. *OUTLOOK* magazine is being published in full colour and is being distributed not just to our members but also to every home in Pitcorthie courtesy of the Youth Fellowship and their friends. Why? Because this is part of our church's mission plan *in action* along with the summer Holiday Club, the on-going Rocky Road and Sunday worship services in the John Marshall Centre (Pitcorthie Community Centre). We hope you enjoy reading your copy. Because the colour magazine has less pages than normal, there was not enough room for me to include all of the articles that were submitted and some couldn't really wait until the January newsletter. So here they are in *OUTLOOK EXTRA!* Now, all that remains for me to say is...

**every blessing for Christmas and for the New Year from the Ministry Team**

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

Scott and Susan Paterson

In the Christmas edition of 'Outlook' last year you may recall the article regarding our finances. It pointed to the fact that the sums were not adding up and that our regular spending was beginning to exceed our regular income. The board introduced a number of steps to ensure our spending was more closely monitored and we are delighted to report that this has had a marked effect on our expenditure this year. Our cleaners have only used three squirts instead of four of the floor cleaner, Marjory in the office has given the photocopier toner an extra shake to get the last little drop out before replacing it and the Sunday School have used their coloured pens until they really have run dry. A big thank you on behalf of the Finance Committee for everyone's efforts - it really is appreciated.

We are still managing to fund Chris our Family & Youth Worker and his excellent work. Donations to Tearfund through the auctioning of the display of home-made crosses at Easter and the collection taken at the recent Harvest service have amounted to nearly £500 so far - all good news!

On the 'flip side of the coin' (well, we are the treasurers!) there is not such good news on our givings. This year we have received very few new gift aid forms. These forms enable Janis Foster, our hard-working Gift Aid Convenor (and Finance Committee convenor too!) to claim an extra 22% from Revenue & Customs on the givings of tax payers. Our income does look better than last year because Janis has submitted more claims to the Revenue & Customs than in the past but the underlying givings have not increased, in fact as we write this article they have fallen by 10% on last year's figures. We should all regularly consider whether we could give even a little more to our church. We can so easily get into the habit of paying a certain amount by standing order, in our FWO envelopes or even the open plate and thinking no more about it, but even a little extra each week can make a difference and it's very easy to adjust your standing order, or even set up a new one - just give us a call if you have any questions.

As you know with the McLaren Hall heating project we continue to face considerable financial challenges. As treasurers Susan and I hope that we will all give prayerful consideration to our regular givings in 2007.

Our thanks finally to the count managers and their teams who work hard on the weekly offering each Sunday after everyone else has gone home.

With best wishes for a 'prosperous' 2007!  
Scott & Susan

## THAT CHOCOLATE PUD!

Following the September family service where many of you sampled (or should that be devoured?) the chocolate pud used in one of the stories, many of you have asked for the recipe.



So here it is. I first came across it when watching Nigella Lawson make it on Nigel Slater's *Real Food Show*. It can be found in Nigel's book *Appetite*, available, I am sure, at all good booksellers.

You will need a large pudding basin, a deep (6-10cm) roasting tin or similar, a decent sized mixing bowl and a smaller bowl.

Butter the pudding basin and set aside. Put the kettle on to boil. Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas 4.

Into the mixing bowl put 150g of self raising flour, 2 tablespoons of cocoa powder, 200g of light soft brown sugar, 100g of roughly chopped fine dark chocolate (70% at least), 200 ml milk, a large knob of butter (melted) and a beaten egg. Now mix well - but not overly so - and then pour the luscious chocolately goo into the buttered pudding basin.

Now for the magic bit. Mix together 75g dark soft brown sugar, 75g golden caster sugar and 100g cocoa powder and scatter this over the top of the pudding. Pour on 400 ml of almost boiling water. DON'T STIR!"

Put the bowl with the pudding into the roasting tin and pour the rest of the water from the kettle around the bowl, creating a nice bath for the pudding. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, and then eat either hot or cold but with lashings of double cream or vanilla ice-cream either way. Enjoy!

**St. Leonard's - The Family Church**

**In December's *Life & Work***

'ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS...': A range of contributors from all walks of life have offered their seasonal wishes. **THE CHRISTMAS CAROLLER**: Composer and conductor John Rutter, is profiled this month. **TRUST AND SOLIDARITY**: To mark World AIDS Day on December 1, the work of the Church of Scotland's HIV/AIDS project is profiled. **A PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTION**: Subtitled the 'Christian challenge for the world' this new book by former US President Jimmy Carter, is previewed by Lynne McNeil. **KINDNESS IN KENTUCKY**: The Rev Ian Alexander reports on a project which offers basic maintenance for the homes of some of the poorest in the US.

...and a special note from Rosemary Annandale, our Life & Word distributor ... "Thank you to all who have subscribed to the Life & Word magazine this year. Life & Word remains at £1.60 per month or £19.20 for a years subscription for 2007. I look forward to your continued support in 2007."

**from "The Board"**

In November's Outlook we reported that St Leonard's has embarked on a project to replace the heating in the McLaren Hall. At the same time, the value of the stage area in the hall has been re-evaluated as 'under the stage' and 'on the stage' has simply become a storage area/dumping ground for all manner of generally unused materials and equipment. After much discussion, the Board has decided to have all unwanted, unused stored materials disposed of, by having the stage removed and the floor and walls made good which will then give us full use of the whole area of the McLaren Hall. The removal of the stage will thus leave the way open to proceed with the installation of the new heating system.

Following impartial technical advice from a representative from the Church of Scotland Better Heating Scheme, we have contracted to have a new system installed to cover not only the McLaren Hall but also the office and disabled toilet which lie adjacent to the Hall. The chosen system has also the potential to cover other parts of the hall complex - but that is something for a future date. As previously reported, we expect the work to cost us around £18,000 and we plan to meet this expenditure in the following ways:

- We have a balance in our Fabric Fund which will go some of the way to meet the cost of the work surrounding the stage area:
- We have applied to '121' for a grant to assist us in this project which, if approved, will cover about a third of the total cost:
- The organisations which use the Hall have been asked, and have already enthusiastically begun, to contribute to the cost.

But most importantly, we the congregation must play our full part. This is, if you like, a selfish appeal. This is St Leonard's, as a congregation, spending money so that we may have a fully functioning hall with a modern heating system to keep us warm. The envelope enclosed with this edition of 'Outlook' is the obvious, direct way of supporting this project. Please give as generously as your circumstances allow. The filled envelopes, complete with Gift Aid information if appropriate, may be returned to your Elder or placed in the box which will be set up at the back of the Church over the coming weeks.

**Christmas Diary****Sunday 3rd December**

9.30am service at St Leonard's  
11.00am Communion service at St Leonard's  
11.00am service at Pitcorthie

**Sunday 10th December**

9.30am service at St Leonard's  
11.00am service at St Leonard's  
11.00am service at Pitcorthie

**Sunday 17th December**

11.00am St Leonard's Family Service,  
followed by Communion.  
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight at St. Leonard's  
*Please note: NO 9.30 or Pitcorthie service*

**Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve)**

NO 9.30 service at St. Leonard's  
11.00am service at St. Leonard's  
11.00am service at Pitcorthie  
6.30pm Carol service in Pitcorthie  
11.30pm Watchnight Service in St. Leonard's

**Christmas Day**

10.00am Informal family service.  
*Bring one of your Christmas presents along with you to show everyone else.*

**Sunday 31st December**

11.00am service at St. Leonard's  
Please note: NO 9.30 or Pitcorthie service

**Sunday 7th January 2007**

9.30am service at St. Leonard's  
11.00am Communion service at St. Leonard's  
11.00am service at Pitcorthie