



CYC NEWSLETTER

December Edition | 2024 | Read, Pray, Pass on

Prayer Points

- pray that the good news of God sending his Redeemer Son in the flesh for our salvation will go out to all, including the CYC youngsters
- pray for young people in this topsy-turvy, confused world that they might find Christ as the Rock of Salvation
- remember our continued need of fresh volunteers for youth work, for a youth leader and for younger but wise Christians to rejuvenate the Board
- pray that The Open Door Project will make good progress in getting through the formalities, starting the building of the bookshop and exciting the Christian public about Christian books and resources
- give thanks for the Lord's faithful supply of our financial needs over the past year

Imaginative Reading for Children

Our President, Sandy Finlay has arranged for the book *The Shiny Bright Sparkling Light* produced by the Bible Society to be given to each primary school aged child in the various organisations using the CYC. A flavour of the book is given below.



Once upon a time in a galaxy far, far away, there lived a Star - a bright, shiny, ever-so-sparkly Star who couldn't wait to complete his Star training.

Follow This sparky journey as Star becomes the STARnav that leads the Wise Men to Bethlehem. As Star reaches his destination, he discovers someone who shines even brighter than him: Jesus, the light of the world, the very one who came to be a light in the darkness.

Money Matters

We are very indebted to our generous supporters and to our Treasurer Gavin MacKenzie for his expertise in handling our finances. The following summarises his report to the Board of Management for 11th November.

Total receipts were £42,507, including a grant of £17,000 from Highland Council for a hoist at the entrance foyer.

Total payments were £14,474, of which £10,724 were paid on property repairs.

Excess of receipts over payments for the year before transfers is £28,033.

Catering for Youngsters

The traditional YMCA inverted red triangle represents the spiritual (uppermost side), the physical and the social/ mental. We try to reflect this holistic approach to young people and cater for the whole person.

The photograph below gives an idea of the physical activities we encourage, but it is also social as the youngsters of the After-school Club compete together and chat.

Each Monday for the After-school Club we have a 5 minute slot to break from the activities and think about the message of the Bible.

This term we have been looking at the story of creation and the fall with the young people who attend the after school club. Recently we read the story of the birth of Jesus as God's response to the human situation. The young people have listened very well as the message of the Bible has been shared with them.



Veiled?

Have you ever heard the expression, *hiding in plain sight*? It means that someone is being searched for all around when that person is right there, but disguised.

Isn't it something like that with Jesus? Jewish people were looking for the Messiah, their expectation and hope of national restoration to glory days. Yet when the Messiah came into their midst, they failed to recognise him.

Christian teachers talk of the glory of the Son of God being veiled when he became a human being. Glimpses were seen in the miracles and on the Mount of transfiguration. But outwardly, he was apparently just like other ordinary men. So that may explain the failure of recognition, and indeed the hostile reaction of religious Jews.

But is there another and deeper reason? This is that there was a veil over Jewish hearts and minds, the veil of unbelief. That veil keeps people today, too, from recognising and following Jesus as the divine Saviour.

Do you see the true Jesus beyond the traditional Christmas card images? Do you see the crucified Redeemer in the child in the manger? Indeed, do you see your Redeemer in the child in the manger? May God take away our unbelief and show us our lovely Saviour so that we will trust and follow him.

A Saviour is Born

by Eddie Hughes, Canada

"To you a child is born
To you a son is given."
The Child of God's eternal love,
The Son of God from Heaven.
He laid his glory down
And joined the human race;
A helpless baby born like us,
To bring us heaven's grace.

In God's own time and way
He sent the joyful Word:
"A Saviour will be born to you,
The promised Christ - the Lord."
The star declares the One
Whom angel hosts acclaim,
Emmanuel, God's Son, has come -
And Jesus is His Name

The everlasting Lord
Was born as Mary's son;
A cow-shed was the birthing room
For God's anointed One.
The Prince of Peace on earth
Became a refugee
For ruler Herod's fear-filled eyes
Saw but an enemy.

When you look to the One
Born that first Christmas Day,
Do you see that He came to earth
to take your sins away?
He came to bring new life;
Believe the Father's word?
*"For unto you is born this day
A Saviour, Christ the Lord."*

From the Archives



This memory-provoking photograph is from the occasion of the retirement of Ella Campbell. She is front centre. Behind is the late Rev. David Paterson, Jack Green and Gerald Brown. Rev. Alan Pringle and David Lee (Senior) are front left and right respectively. Ella greatly encouraged these men in the faith in their young days. Read about it in *What God Hath Wrought*, our story written by Eddie Hughes.

Thanks to Miss Eona MacQueen for supplying the poem Rev. David Paterson wrote for the occasion. Verses from it will appear in the next edition.

Kiltwalking

Those with good memories will remember that when Iain Macdonald and others did the virtual Kiltwalk in 2021 to raise funds it was very successful. A suitable opportunity to do another Kiltwalk on Saturday 26th April has arisen. Iain intends to participate in what is called "The Big Stroll" from Clydebank to Balloch (by Loch Lomond). Iain Asks, "Could you ... raise money for the many costs of running the CYC (YMCA) and join me and others on that day?" It is expected that 50% will be added by the sponsors to the money raised. Gift Aid adds a further 25%. If you would like to support, contact Iain on iainalas@gmail.com or phone or text him on 07752567822.

P.S. Iain thanks all who have encouraged his newly inducted son Rev. Jack Macdonald and prayed for him and his ministry in Queensferry and Dalmeny Church of Scotland.