

ECCLESIA

*The church in the heart of the town,
with the town in its heart*



February 2012

**Irvine Church of the Nazarene
8 Eglinton Street
Irvine
www.nazarene.org.uk/irvine**

Pastor's Page



I recently commented to someone that I am inundated with people wanting to give me money. The offers come through the post, over the telephone and via email. To date I have said 'thanks but no thanks' although I still wait with anticipation for that elusive no strings attached, gift cheque to fall through the letterbox!

Buy Now Pay Jan. 2013 - and no interest to pay ... Six Months Interest Free Credit ... 0% on Balance Transfers for 1 year These are all phrases you will have become familiar with. The offers are all around us. How can companies afford to make such offers? Simple, many people go beyond the interest-free period and within minutes are subject to payments that include interest payments of 20 and 30% on the initial capital debt.

A growth in personal debt has led to a growth in what is flagged up as 'help' for those in debt. One such approach is called Debt Consolidation which is effectively bringing all your debts into one place, into one big debt if you like, and usually results in reducing your monthly outgoing but extending the period of debt and increasing the overall amount you have to pay.

Then there is the growth in Payday Loans. I have noticed a great increase in advertising for these, indeed there has been an emergence on our high streets of shop fronts offering cash advances as short-term loans that can be settled on pay day, always at a cost.

I was recently reading data on personal unsecured debt. There I learned that the average debt per person in UK is over £9000 excluding mortgage. Given that many have no debt this reveals to us that many others have debts that are far in excess of this.

Thankfully there are a good number of groups and organisations that offer help to people whose lives have become ensnared by debt - from national help-lines to small charitable groups. While these cannot pay your debts they can help bring some shape and order to your situation.

All this talk of debt reminds me of God's solution to what is the greatest debt a man can ever owe. The debt of sin. The scriptures remind us that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.

All have sinned, and the price we pay in return is death. This is not a situation we can ever buy our way out of. But what if someone offered to pay off our debts, offered to free us from the bonds, the chains of our debt. Surely we would jump at the offer - many don't!

I am reminded of a couple of hymns -

God sent his Son, they called Him Jesus ...
He lived and died to buy my pardon (*pay my debt*)

He paid a debt He did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay.

Such hymns highlight that God was keenly aware of our debt situation, keenly aware that man (*we, you, I*) was eternally bound to the debt of his sin, death. But he didn't stand back and allow us to flounder in it. No, He took it upon Himself to pay the debt, a debt He did not owe. He died our death and paid the price of sin, our sin, your sin, my sin. He has written off our debt, settled the old account and opened a new one for us. The new pay-book, or plastic card is sitting in the bank of Jesus. To know the reality of this debt-free life, to collect the book / card we simply need to sign up and accept the gift of eternal life, bought and paid for by Jesus. It cost Him His life but he paid it willingly - for me, for you.

So - at least we know that our greatest debt problem can be solved.

Pastor Des

Pastor's Preaching & Pulpit Supply

FEBRUARY

AM (11.00)

PM (6.15)

Sun. 5th

Des Robinson

Des Robinson
communion

Sun. 12th

Des Robinson

Des Robinson

Sun. 19th

Des Robinson

Des Robinson

Sun. 26th

Des Robinson
alabaster

NMI

LIFE GROUPS

Wednesday - 7.30 pm in the Church with Pastor Des

- 7.30 pm in Maureen's home with Ann

Thursday - 7.00 pm in Findlay / Ella's home with Findlay

Silver Liners

Silver Liners have re-commenced after the Christmas break with very encouraging attendances. The ministry too has been very rewarding. First was Pastor Des reminding us that Christmas and Easter can never be separated ... they are two parts of the same story, for the whole point of Jesus coming to Earth was that He should end up dying upon the Cross for the sins of the world.

We are always looking for new speakers and one, a Mr Howell Jones from Ayr, came along on the 17th Jan and gave an excellent talk centred on Zacchaeus. Here was a man who was just curious to see Jesus, to view Him from a distance; but Jesus wanted to come to his home! The challenge then went out to us, are we content to keep Jesus at a distance or are we happy - even desirous - to have Jesus come home with us, to see how we live and the things that we do? A very simple, but a detailed and very pointed message, well received.

We look forward to the many other varied speakers lined up for the remainder of the session to find out what the Lord has in store for us through their ministries. Join us if you can.

Ron Payne

P.S. There is **no** meeting on the **7th Feb** due to the Pastors' Conference.

Message from Church Secretary

The rota for door stewards for March 2012 - February 2013 will be getting posted on the notice board in the next few weeks. If you would like to be a door steward speak to myself, the pastor or any of the board members. You do not need to contact me if you have been a steward this past year and wish to continue doing so, as I will keep your name on the list.

Andrew

Christmas Celebrations



Silver Liners being 'well fed'

The 'Top Table'



Kitchen and serving staff

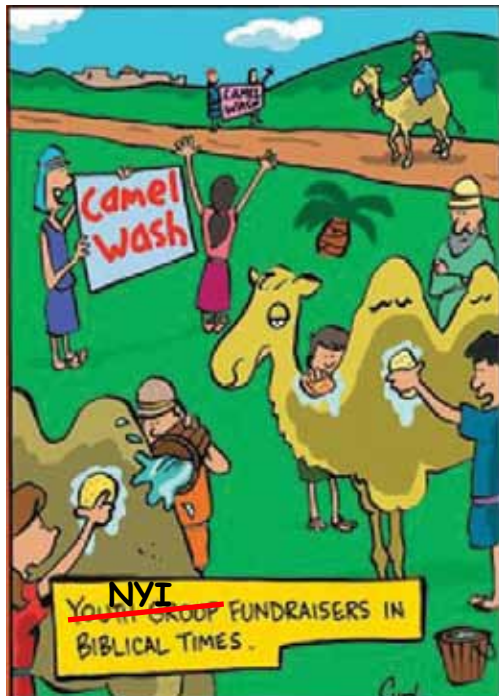
More Christmas photographs on pages 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 14

The NYI held their AGM on the 15th January. The new committee for the incoming year is:

- Callum Dunlop - President
- Hayley Dickson - Vice President
- Carissa Hyndman - Secretary
- Jordan Dickson - Treasurer
- Anthony Chalmers and Chloe Findley - 12-16 age reps
- Christy Kerr - 17-20 age rep
- James McGoldrick - 21+ age rep

Please pray for the new committee as they carry out the Lord's work.

Carissa



Date for your diary

Irvine Church of the Nazarene Burns Supper and Ceilidh.



*Friday 30th March
1830hrs
£10*



*3 Course Meal
Scottish Entertainment
Ceilidh*

Come together for an evening of traditional Scottish entertainment.

With fun, fellowship and fantastic food, it's an evening not to be missed!

Tickets will be on sale from the **1st March**.

Women's Fellowship

Our AGM was held on the 19th January and we are looking forward to the programmes over the coming months.

The first Outreach Lunch will be held on 16th February and the speaker is Lexie Andrade from the Salvation Army. We would ask that as many people as is possible will attend as our numbers have been disappointing in the past, so why not come along, enjoy a pleasant lunch and have an inspirational time of worship.

We are all very pleased that our eldest member of the Fellowship, Mrs May Moore, has settled well in Shalom Nursing Home and is looking forward to seeing friends from the church.

As there are a number of people who attend the Fellowship or the church who are ill, awaiting surgery or having treatment we ask you to remember them all in prayer.

Audrey Patterson



Sunday School Party



The Sunday School Nativity cast





Toddlers Party - Wednesday



Toddlers Party - Thursday



**More
Toddler
Photographs**



What's On



District Minister's Prayer Conference -
Mon / Tue 6th & 7th Feb.
Church AGM - Wed 15th Feb. 7pm
Women's Fellowship Outreach Lunch - Thurs 16th Feb.
Items for next month's magazine - 19th Feb.
Sunday School Sponsored Sing - Fri 24th Feb.

Advanced date;
District Assembly - **Fri. 23rd to Mon. 26th March**
St Matthews Church of the Nazarene - Paisley

The deadline for articles & items for next month's magazine will be the evening service on

Sunday 19th February 2012

Please give your article to Irvine Boal
or e-mail him at

irvineboal@msn.com



Life Groups having food and fun



Pastor Des enjoys the Christmas Day service because he gets to play with toys in church



Prayer for our Nation

Many of the prayer alerts and issues of 2011 continue to be with us and some which we thought had been overcome and defeated appear to be on the rise again.

Margo MacDonald MSP has made a second bid to have the assisted suicide bill legalised. She has said she has "learned lessons" from her previous attempt and is proposing a "clearer, more straightforward process". Please pray that this attempt will also fail.

Sadly Prime Minister David Cameron has stated his intention to legislate for full homosexual marriage. Many Conservative MPs plan a backbench rebellion against the proposal.

The 'consultation', which will be followed by a change in the law, is being launched by Lynne Featherstone MP, the equalities minister.

David Burrowes MP has said that he is "cautiously optimistic" the proposal will be defeated in the Commons because it would "fracture" the institution of marriage.

Pray that this consultation will be thrown out.

The use of Sharia 'courts' is on the increase again in Britain with thousands using Islamic law to settle disputes.

Sheikh Haitham al-Haddad, a representative of the Islamic Sharia Council at Leyton, said his caseload at the East London council had "easily more than tripled" over the past three to five years - dealing with up to 300 disputes a month.

Baroness Cox has brought a Bill before the House of Lords to curb the growth of Sharia courts.

We have been praying for wisdom for the decision makers regarding Scottish Independence - that it will be properly debated, and the views and concerns of the Scottish people and parties will be listened to and taken on board.

We continue to pray for those in authority over us, for Revival for Church and Nation.

Please feel free to join us on a Friday morning at 10:30am.

Pat.

Children's Ministries

At our recent A.G.M the following were elected:

Director of Children's Ministries	Jennifer Dickson
Secretary	Elaine Kerr
Treasurer	Margaret Wilson
Cradle Role	Alice Purss
Young Worshippers	Margaret Wilson



Youth S/S	Sandy Dickson	Elaine Kerr
Middler	Sarma Gilchrist	Willie Ferguson
Primary	Margaret Wilson	Carissa Hyndman
Kindergarten	Jennifer Dickson Christy Kerr	Diane Robinson
Nursery	Alison Ferguson	Elise Kerr

We will be holding our S/S Sponsored Sing on Friday 24th February from 6.30pm-7.30pm.

Our class get together where the children will enjoy games, crafts and snack time will be on Saturday 3rd March 10am-12pm.

Jennifer Dickson

Praise Week-end

On the week-end, 10th/11th December, we were blessed with the ministry of **Justified** [and their accompanying musicians] who sang to us on the Saturday night and the Sunday morning [despite Emma-Jane feeling unwell]. This was their first visit to our church and hopefully not their last.

The Saturday night concert also included **Dr Sam Gordon**, no stranger to us here in Irvine, who brought the closing epilogue.

A good number of visitors joined with us on the Saturday night and we express our thanks to those who provided refreshments at the close.



Justified

lt - rt

James Strange

Emma-Jane Condy

Joy Boyd

Sam Gordon



Celebrations

Anniversaries

- 4 Mhairi & Andrew Maclean 1st
13 Marion & Tom McLean

Birthdays

- 01 Richard Pride
03 Leena Riach
08 Susan Wilson
09 Lisa Paterson
13 Sandy Dickson
14 Elizabeth Donaldson
24 Bronwyn Murray
25 Deborah Furt
25 Graham Culbert
27 Bobby McGeachie
27 Valerie Glencross
27 Etta Mounce
28 Siobhan Turner

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone in the Church of the Nazarene for the lovely card that I received on my 50th birthday.

Donald Martin

Serving us this month

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Findlay MacDonald & Callum Dunlop
assisted by
Jordan Dickson & Sandy Dickson



DOOR STEWARDS

Fiona Murray & Andrew Robertson **am**
Andy Donald & Findlay MacDonald **pm**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

5th - Carissa
12th - Elaine
19th - Christy
26th - Elise



TEA ROTA

5th & 12th Jan & Alison
19th & 26th Moira & Jean

CLEANING ROTA

3rd & 10th Elizabeth, John & Margaret
17th & 24th Ivy, Carolann, Joan & Leena



Weekly Programme

SUNDAY	11.00a.m.	Morning Service
	12.30p.m.	Sunday School
	6.15p.m.	Evening Service
	8.00p.m.	NYI
MONDAY	10.00a.m.	Parent & Toddler Group
TUESDAY	2.00p.m.	Over 50's Fellowship
WEDNESDAY	10.00a.m.	Parent & Toddler Group
	7.30p.m.	Life Groups
THURSDAY	10.00a.m.	Parent & Toddler Group
	1.15p.m.	Women's Fellowship
	7.00p.m.	Life Group
FRIDAY	10.30a.m.	Prayer for the Nation
	7.30p.m.	F.L.A.S.H. (Youth Fun Night)

CONTACT OUR PASTOR
Rev Des Robinson
telephone; 01294 218273

Irvine Church of the Nazarene Mission Statement

*To glorify God and help
people become fully
committed followers of
Jesus Christ*