

ECCLESIA

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



January 2011

**Irvine Church of the Nazarene
8 Eglinton Street
Irvine**

www.nazarene.org.uk/irvine

Pastor's Page



'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow' is a well known proverb (with possible 14th century beginnings).

Variants of it are to be found down through the years: e.g.

- Geoffrey Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde* (1374) reads

'as an ook cometh of a litel spyr' [a spyr, or spire, is a sapling].

- Thomas Fuller's *Gnomologia* (1732) reads

'the greatest oaks have been little acorns.'

- D. Everett's *The Columbian Orator* (1797) reads

'large streams from little fountains flow, tall oaks from little acorns grow.'

The 'mighty' version that we are more familiar with came somewhere in the mid 19th century.

You will see how 'an ook' became a 'great oak' then a 'tall oak' before becoming a 'mighty oak'.

And the meaning? 'Great things may come from small beginnings'

WELCOME to **ECCLESIA** ... your new look church magazine. Once it was 'a litel spyr', a single A4 page that recorded the church notices and contained a paragraph from the Pastor. Over the years it has grown and developed under Ronnie Payne, Janette McMillan, and latterly Irvine Boal (with helpful input from our printer James Paterson).

The magazine remains a communication tool for the church by recording the program, up-and-coming events and rota reminders. However, it is also much sought after for the articles that highlight our departmental ministries.

The magazine, by request, makes its way across Scotland, into England, Wales, and Ireland. It has readers in Canada, USA, Australia, France and Switzerland.

These readers are interested in what is happening in the Irvine church; with them in mind I want to encourage department leaders to go that extra mile by including something that is happening in the life of your department, the blessings you have experienced, things that have encouraged you; tell what God is doing, or maybe there are prayer needs that exist in your ministry area. Plus, all you distant readers, send us a note or two of what is happening where you are, or maybe something on what the magazine means to you and we will publish it where we can.

As (local) **ECCLESIA** let us share with the **ECCLESIA** (global).

Last month we ascertained that the Bible has numerous passages that speak of the *ecclesia* (e.g. Acts 8:1;

Rom. 16:5; Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 1:1; Mt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 15:9; Eph. 5:32).

We noted that most English translations render this word as 'church' i.e. as people who belong to the Lord.

However, the word *ecclesia*, with its meaning, takes us way beyond being a people belonging to the Lord, true as that is.

Ecclesia (ekklesia) - is a greek word that is made up of two words (ek) 'out of' and (kaleo) 'called'. We know from its context that it is speaking of people and by bringing everything together we have a series of passages that speak of a people who have been 'called out'.

Even before the writing of the New Testament the city of Athens (Greece) had its **ecclesia**. This was a governmental assembly of people, a select civil body, people 'called out' to perform a particular function e.g. politicians.

New Testament writers took this same title (**ecclesia**) and applied it to the church (people who belong to God) and in doing so sought to reinforce an understanding that we, the people who belong to God, are called out of the world to be a select body, a separate civil community of people commissioned to perform a particular function as servants of our King, Lord, Ruler - Jesus.

For the first century church this meant being a body of Christians who were **ecclesia** (called out) of the Roman and Judean system, indeed they were so called out from their

world's system that they proclaimed another king, a king who was over all other kings. Their lives and their message denounced the heathenistic principles of civil and central government and advocated the principles of Christian government. The language of the day for Christians was that of *warfare, the pulling down of strongholds, fighting against governments, authorities, world rulers, and wickedness in high offices* (2 Cor.10 / Eph. 6). They were people who were accused of *turning the world system upside down* (Acts 17).

The **ecclesia** (called out) had been commissioned to proclaim Jesus, make disciples, play their part in the building of God's Kingdom. How did they go about this?

They preached the transforming power of Jesus and their lives evidenced their message. They dared to allow Jesus to rule their lives, dared to be different from the world system around them, dared to stand out from the crowd.

They refused to be moulded by the world around them even to the point of persecution, imprisonment, and martyrdom. They appreciated that Jesus had given His all for them and responded by giving their all for Jesus.

Ecclesia welcomes you, the **Ecclesia**, to its pages. Who knows, maybe this 'littel spyr' will one day prove to be a 'great, tall, or even mighty oak'. A mighty instrument in kingdom building.

Pastor Des

Pastors' Preaching & Pulpit Supply - IRVINE (January 2011)

JANUARY	AM (11.00)	PM (6.15)
Sun. 2nd	Des Robinson	No Service
Sun. 9th	Des Robinson	Des Robinson <i>Communion</i>
Sun. 16th	Des Robinson	Claire Fender
Sun. 23rd	Des Robinson	Des Robinson

LIFE GROUPS

Studies recommence week beginning Sunday 16th January 2011



Congratulations

On her final Sunday preaching from the **JUST 10** series, Pastor Des presented Pastor Shelley with a gift from the church for her forthcoming wedding in January . As a church we congratulate her, and Chris, and wish them every blessing in their lives together.

Baptismal

Following a number of requests for 'Believers Baptism' a series of preparation teach-ins are being organised for the New Year. Maybe you too would like to consider being a part of these; if so please speak to Pastor Des or Claire.

Church Membership

Currently there are some people asking about Membership in the church. In response we are planning to hold membership classes in the very near future.. If you would like to join with the group please speak to Pastor Des asap.

Annual General Meetings (2011)

In order to give the extra time required for the auditing of church accounts there will be a change to the 2011 Church AGM date.

Tuesday 11th January	Silver Liners
Wednesday 12th January	Sunday School / NMI
Sunday 16th January	NYI
Sunday 16th January	Department Reports due
Monday 24th January	Nominating Committee
Sunday 13th February	Nominating Committee Report out Church Report Booklet out
Wednesday 16th February	Church Meeting

Christmas Carol Quiz

The quiz raised **£102.50**, thank you to everyone who contributed. The money will be given to **Project Romania** via Thomas & Isobel Turner who will ensure that it is used wisely to help those less fortunate than us.

The winner of the quiz was Mrs Daisy Jamieson.

This little bit of Christmas fun proved to be quite popular, although maybe not as easy as it first appeared.

Those who found it too easy can look forward to the next quiz which will be coming out soon.

Thank you once again for your support, it was greatly appreciated.

Margaret & Mary

Parent & Toddlers Christmas Parties



Santa's little Elf
[the one in the green]

No fun without
a bouncy castle



You're never too
young to party



"Get your hand off my seat or else"

You can't party without food



You're never too old to love Santa



Thursday's Party



Friday's Party

Sunday School Nativity



The nervous wait



The Cast

Thank You

On behalf of the parents, grandparents and families of the Sunday School children I would like to thank Jennifer and her Sunday School staff for the dedication that they show to the children throughout the year. The time and effort that is given to the Nativity play, Super Duper Christmas was excellent with all the children given 100% but most important of all showing us the true meaning of christmas! **Marilyn Walker.**



Mary, Joseph & baby Jesus

the Shepherds



the Wise Men



The wedding of Krystal Robinson-Bert & Jonathan Bert. Saturday 18th December
[[t-rt Harmony Robinson, Rev Alan Robinson, Krystal & Jonathan, Sharon Robinson]]
Rev Alan Robinson is a former Pastor of our church

What's On



See page 5 for dates of AGM's

9th Sunday School starts back
11th Silver Liners starts back

February

7th/8th Pastor's Prayer Conference



This photograph was taken at the wedding of Billy & Annette McGrath on 23rd January 1971, Their daughters, Ann & Sharon, asked if we would include it in this month's magazine as Billy & Annette celebrate their 40th anniversary. The McGraths live in Ardrossan.

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

Sunday 23rd January 2011

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

irvineboal@msn.com

The Salvation Army Irvine

hosts an Ayrshire-wide



New Year Rally



in Fullarton Parish Church

Marress Roundabout, Irvine, KA12 8QJ

Sunday 9th January 2011

at 6:30pm

An evening of praise and worship supported by the Salvation Army brass and worship bands and junior and senior choirs from across Ayrshire.



Including a New Year Bible message themed 'Building a People of Power' given by Major Vic Kennedy, leader of the Salvation Army in West Scotland.

*The Salvation Army, a Christian Church and Registered Charity
no 214779 and in Scotland SC009359*

Silver Liner's Christmas Lunch



Lunch enjoyed by all

Anyone for soup



Not much talking
at the top table

Sunday School Party



We all had great fun





Grub's up

Hands up if
you're having
fun



Santa I
love you

Celebrations

Anniversaries

13 Marion & Tom McLean

Birthdays

02 Thomas Turner Jnr
03 Evelyn Boal
06 Sharlene MacDonald
08 Darren Middleton
08 Ailsa Bell
11 Stephen Gilchrist
15 Sarah Louise McCall
15 Abby Harkness
19 Nancy Brown [93]
20 John Stevenson
22 Quintin Paterson
23 Andy Donald
24 Greg Tudhope
25 Cameron Wallace
26 Stuart McCreddie
29 Nancy MacLean [70]
30 Nettie Lewis
31 Tanya Robertson

My sincere apologies to Janie & Thomas Turner for omitting their first wedding anniversary in last month's magazine - 22nd December.

Ed.

Serving us this month

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Andrew Robertson & Ronnie Payne
assisted by
Irvine Boal & Stuart Ferguson



DOOR STEWARDS

David Findlay & Irvine Boal **am**
Thomas Turner & Steven Purss **pm**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

9th Margaret Hart
16th Alison Ferguson
23rd Lynne Dickie
30th Morag Robertson



TEA ROTA

9th & 16th Elizabeth & Sadie
23rd & 30th Elaine & Jennifer

CLEANING ROTA

7th & 14th Jan & Willie
21st & 28th Elizabeth & John



Weekly Programme

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



CONTACT OUR PASTORS

Rev Des Robinson - telephone; 01294 218273

Rev Claire Fender - telephone; 01292 679282

Irvine Church of the Nazarene Mission Statement

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