

# OPINION

The two monthly interval between the publication of our magazine just seems to zip past. It just feels as if the last edition was only finished yesterday. Well, that is life, and now as we approach the Advent Season, there is no doubt that we all feel that time just flies. It is incredible that this is the third Christmas since we set up our new format. The production team has been encouraged by the response it has had from you, the readers. We will be pulling out all the stops to maintain the standard and, God willing, improve on it.

## Looking Back

At this time, as we prepare for Christmas and count our blessings, a little look around at how things have improved over the years, and we see how, with stunning results. As I write this, it was only last week that we read in the press the astounding fact that here in Britain we throw out over 3 billion tons of waste food each year. I am old enough to remember the rationing years of the 1940's and 1950's, when the country did not even have this amount of food to survive on - yet we did, and we were much fitter from the experience. That fact alone illustrates how dramatically things have improved. Take another look at the Nativity scene and again we see how things have progressed. Yes, as time rolls on, things do improve, in spite of all the injustices that go on all over the globe.

## The Wider World

Here we face a pleasant time over the Christmas period, but our thoughts go out to all those who live in apprehension, with loved ones serving in Afghanistan or Iraq. We also think of the general populace of some countries in Africa such as Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Malawi, Sudan, Darfur and others, where it appears to be a case of surviving the immediate day and pray that things improve beyond that. What can we do? Probably not a lot, but we can support the charities who work with these people to try and improve their lot. We can pray and ask for God's blessing and intervention as only He can.

## Advent Season in Polmont

Now here in our own congregation we have started preparing for this season. All the organisations are gearing up in their preparations. We know they will all enjoy themselves and with some effort we will be helping others. This year we will be supporting the children's charity CHAS (Children's Hospice Association Scotland), which does tremendous work in not too happy circumstances. So we ask you all to give generously at our special Christmas Services.

## A New Year

We are also looking forward beyond the Christmas period - into 2008 - the aim being to bed down and stabilise after the workload we have worked through in the past year. The new Session House, the car park, now in full use, and some repair work in the church to tackle. The stained glass windows could be a problem - they require some remedial work and this will be costly, but hopefully, it will be phased over some time. The new Session House has made a tremendous difference on a Sunday morning, being used for various pre-service events as well as giving more room for Kidzone.

Let us all enjoy the pre-Christmas Season  
of Advent.

The Twinspace production team wishes you all

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**AND**

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*Bill Smart*

**Christmas** is not a time nor a season,  
but a state of mind.

To cherish peace and goodwill,  
to be plenteous in mercy,  
is to have the real spirit of **Christmas**

*Calvin Coolidge*