

MEDIA RELEASE

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Adrian's Christmas message 2009

2009 was another exceptionally full year and as every busy person knows prime time with family is often the first casualty of a busy work life.

Twelve months in politics always seems like more. As well as dealing with a wide variety of constituent issues, the cut and thrust of parliamentary life never stops.

Major issues like water supply, financial meltdown, environment, employment, health, education and transport services are always in the spotlight.

By now, most have decided where they will be on Christmas Day and who will bring what for the traditional Christmas feast. Makeshift tables and garden chairs are pressed into service to ensure everyone is together at the table.

It's a time of joy, celebration, laughter, sharing and working together – things we don't do enough of during the year.

There are some in our communities whose situation makes Christmas quite an awkward time. I ask you all to think about those folk and do something, no matter how small, to put a smile on their faces and joy in their hearts.

Parents with young children are thinking about presents for the kids while trying to keep the budget under control. It can be a struggle.

But the most important thing is to be with family. Here's a thought that may help keep things in perspective.

While children comb toyshops for things they'd like from 'Santa', what they really want and need most of all is love and attention from Mum and Dad. And you can't buy them.

Your heart is full of them – give generously.

I look forward to spending some precious time with my family; my wife Sally and sons Mack and Angus. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Wonderful 2010.