

Minister	Rev Hugh Conkey	39 St Ternans Road	Tel 730143
Session Clerk	Ken Cruickshank	Cluaran, 9 Cliff View	Tel 730180
Treasurer	Zoe Ashby	58a St Ternans Road	Tel 730955
FWO Treasurer	Robbie Middleton	7 St Ternans Road	Tel 730852
Gift Aid Convenor	Robbie Middleton	7 St Ternans Road	Tel 730852
Clerk to the Congregational Board	Cath Ferrier	32 Cairnhill Road	Tel 731446
Safeguarding Coordinator	Pauline Platt	2 St Michaels Road	Tel 730465

Transport to the morning service for elderly and infirm members
 Alfie Henry Tel 730072

Contacts for Organisations:

Boys Brigade	Ken Cruickshank	Tel 730180
Girls Brigade	Fiona Leslie	Tel 731418
Sunday Fun Club	Pauline Platt	Tel 730465
JAFFA Children's Club	Zoe Ashby	Tel 730955
Guild	Fiona Leslie	Tel 731418
Fly Cup	Irene Middleton	Tel 730157
Bible Study	Pauline Platt	Tel 730465
Editor	Elizabeth Platt	Tel 730465

REACHOUT



Newtonhill Parish Church Magazine

June 2009

This edition of Reachout has been sponsored by

Elsie and Arthur Bruce

Dear Friends,

So, are all our politicians 'greedy oinks with their noses in the trough' who are only in it for all they can get for themselves? Is the expenses and allowances situation at Westminster so severe that it calls into question our whole system of democracy? That certainly seems to be the story as presented by much of the media and accepted by the party leaders. Certainly there have been indefensible, and possibly criminal, abuses of the system and the Fees Office which is supposed to regulate it has been part of the problem not part of the solution and therefore changes are imperative.

But let me ask you, 'What proportion of MPs have made clearly unreasonable claims?' I have been following things fairly closely on TV and the Internet and I cannot tell you with certainty, because the media are apparently not interested in basic questions like that. However I would be surprised if it was more than, say, 100 MPs in total. However, such is the atmosphere of righteous indignation which has been whipped up that all MPs are being tarred with the same brush. Parliament has not covered itself with glory in this affair, but neither has the Press. Balance, fairness and justice to the large majority of honest MPs have been thrown away. The Press has an interest in truth, but it also has an interest in selling newspapers.

We have to stop and listen to the needs of Parliamentarians, who may require to spend time in Westminster and in their constituencies every working week for 5 or 10 or 30 years. Is it reasonable to ask them to live part of the week out of a suitcase or in a bare bedsit for that length of time - especially if we want to attract women and people with young families?

James the Lord's brother writes *My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.* (Jas 1:19-20). When we shout and become 'het - up' without being ready to hear all the facts we seldom do as much good as we imagine, whether it is in public life or our own home or work situation. Righteous anger may be fine, but it so easily slips over into self-righteous judgementalism, which isn't. It is always easy to decry others and give way to anger, but how often do you find that it works out well? It is harder, but so much better, to bite your tongue, think things out and try to find *the wisdom which comes from heaven, and is peace-loving, considerate ... full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*

Yours in Christ
Hugh

Diary Dates June-August 2009

June

Wed 3rd 9.45-10.45am Fly Cup
Sun 7th 7.00pm Evening Service
Wed 10th 7.30pm Congregational Board
Sun 14th Communion Sunday
Wed 17th Kirk Session (Souled Out)
Sun 28th 10am SFC & Lazer Prizegiving

July

Wed 1st 9.45-10.45am Fly Cup

August

Sun 2nd 7.00pm Evening Service
Mon 3rd - Fri 7th Holiday Club
Wed 19th 7.30pm Congregational Board
Wed 26th 7.30pm Kirk Session

September

Wed 2nd 9.45-10.45am Fly Cup

Skateraw Fair - 27th June

Don't forget the Skateraw fair is coming. Look out for notices in the Church for contributions!

Congregational Register—Deaths

"I am the resurrection and the life."

Mrs Agnes Craig, Sunnyside, Newton Road.

Mr Mike Tucker, 69 Cliff View, Newtonhill.

Children's Page

Filled with the Holy Spirit

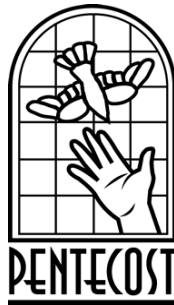
Acts 2:1-21

Word Search Puzzle

O M D E D N W Q T H X X G E M
 U A Y N M H I B Q O O U K P Y
 W J U W E V B L V H N L O E O
 O O R I B A M O E E Z G Y N E
 S R N N C E G W T A T N U T I
 K P L D Y D M I R R Q J W E W
 M A N A E G L N O T H E R C S
 C U M L N R X G S L S Z Z O W
 V P L J H G S A H P P N H S X
 Y I C D Y N U M N P I Q D T U
 F P J G X K W A F X S R U R W
 T Z C B E X Y Z G S P S I Y B
 Z F I R E G P E S E E T N T Q
 D E C L A R E D G E A C M K Y
 L S G F K V Z C V M K L N J T

FIRE	PENTECOST	WONDERS	AMAZED
HEAR	OTHER	SPEAK	WIND
SPIRIT	BLOWING	TONGUES	HOLY
DECLARE	LANGUAGE	SOUND	FILLED

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Girls Brigade

It's been all go since we last gave you an update! At the end of March, we had our open night, where the girls all showed their parents, friends and relatives everything they'd been up to for the previous year. We were lucky in that we had the trophy that the Brigaders won for everyone to see on the night so we all got a good look. At the beginning of May, the Aberdeen Division had their annual display at the Music Hall in Aberdeen. The evening began with the prize giving at which we officially received the trophy for Brigader Physical. The stars of the show, however, were the girls who all performed stunningly. The Brigaders entertained us with their winning dance, as well as taking part in Divisional items along with one of our Juniors and one of our Explorers. It was a very fun night and we all celebrated the Division's 100 year anniversary in fun.



The final event for the 100 year anniversary is the National Fun Day held at Camperdown Park on 30th May. This is the Junior event and we'll have lots of fun and games with the rest of Girls Brigade Scotland.

Newtonhill Girls and Boys Brigade had their first parade in Newtonhill on 17th of May. It was a blustery but very nice day. Both the boys and girls marched exceptionally well. We then had our end of session service, where we celebrated the successful year we all had and look forward to next year coming.

We'll be enrolling for the next session on 24th August 2009 between 6:30 and 7:30.



GUILTY

We all experience that part of us which we call conscience, which comes into play when we've done something we know we shouldn't. Ronnie Biggs, the Great Train Robber, was asked if crime paid. Although he was living in luxury on the proceeds of his crime, he disagreed.

He explained that you couldn't alter what went on in your mind. It's never easy to live with a bad conscience.

But we mustn't confuse feeling guilty with being guilty. It's possible to suffer from a sense of false guilt sometimes when we haven't done anything wrong at all. We can feel bad simply because others - or even ourselves - have mistakenly convinced us that we ought not to be doing what we are doing.

But it's much more common to be guilty without knowing it. We can slip through life leaving God out of our calculations, and it's only when he shows us what we're doing that we see how far off beam we are. There's a moment of truth when we see things as he does, and when we realise what we're really like and where we're really going.

FAIRTRADE

Newtonhill Church have now attained the Fairtrade Church status. This means that we have committed to:

Use Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings in the Church

Move forward on using other Fairtrade products eg. Sugar, biscuits, fruit, chocolate

Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade fortnight and through other activities where possible – We now have a Fairtrade stand on the first Sunday of each month. If you are looking for something specific and we don't have it please tell us and we can arrange to get it for you.

Did you know?

There are now over 4,500 Fairtrade certified products.
Sales of Fairtrade products reached an estimated £713million in 2008



Jumble Sale

There will be a jumble sale in September so please start saving all your bits and bobs of jumble!

Coin a Day Boxes

The coin-a-day box count will be arranged shortly. If you have a box which requires collecting to be included in the count please contact Fiona Leslie (731418) to arrange this for you.



Fundraising for Newtonhill Parish Church

Cards by Croft

£1 and £2

Blank, Get Well, Thank You, Thinking of You

Available in Church Vestibule

CREATURES IN THE BIBLE

Genesis 1 20:22

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."

Genesis 1 24:25

And God said, "Let the Land produce living creatures according to their kinds: live-stock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind."



The Serpent

The first creature we meet in the Bible is the serpent, which was craftier than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made.

Over the years the serpent has become the most despised and feared creature of all the beasts of the earth.

Alfie, the adder, was stretched out on a warm boulder in the mid-day sun admiring his new coat after shedding his old one. He rolled over and over and watched it glistening in the sun's rays. How beautifully black and shiny I look, he thought. Suddenly the sound of children's high pitched shouts and screams reached Alfie's ears and he quickly slithered away into the undergrowth. He would like to have stayed and showed off his new coat to them but he knew they would be scared of him, and he knew why. His mother and father had told him of his Gt. Gt. Gt. Gt. Gt. Gt. Gt. Gt. Grandfather's encounter in the Garden of Eden when he tempted Adam and Eve to eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. When the Lord God discovered what had happened he cursed all snakes to crawl on their bellies, eat dust all the days of their lives and to be feared by all mankind.

From this day forward sin and betrayal went hand in hand. There are many examples of this in the Bible but probably the most famous is that of Judas Iscariot, whom Jesus foretold would betray him.

That is why the saying, 'snake in the grass', portrays someone who betrays you even though you have trusted them.

Story by Wendy Croft

Look out for Noah's Ark in the next issue of Reachout.



Christian Aid

Christian Aid May 2009 – Amount raised was £2,729.04. A very big thank you to everyone who helped with the Christian Aid Collection and Coffee Morning.

Jenny Soper

On a Lighter Note...

Some years ago, Pittodrie was booked for an evangelistic experience on a massive scale, with the appearance of American's evangelist, Billy Graham.

The stadium was packed and, as at the usual football matches, snacks and refreshments of the soft nature were available at the start and at half-time.

A special busload attended from Culter and one member recalled how she found it a most moving experience.

On the way home in the bus, she was contemplating the spiritual uplift of Billy Graham's message and the memorable singing of the choir, and the glory of God and how profound and soul-shaking an evening it had turned out to be, when she heard a rural lady ask of her companion in the seat behind:

'Wis your pie affa salty?'

The Boys' Brigade

We have once again come to the end of another very successful year with the number of boys in the Company remaining at around 60 which is a fairly healthy position to be in.

We have participated in and been successful again in a number of Battalion and National Competitions that involved Anchor Boys, Junior and Company Sections.

Lewis Russell in Junior Section took part in a National drawing competition on behalf of CHAS (Childrens Hospice Association Scotland) and was successful in his age group.

Andrew Greig took part in the Aberdeen Battalion Badminton competition and is now the Company Section (Junior) champion.

Our chess team consisting of Alastair Grant, Harry Peaker and Jamie McGee has again come up trumps winning the Scottish Chess title for the seventh time in eight years and the National Title for the fourth time in a row and six times in total. The boys, accompanied by Malcolm Macarthur and Shaun Burns, travelled to Larne in Northern Ireland in April to contest both trophies and all of them thoroughly enjoyed their time in the Emerald Isle.

Our Parents Night celebrations were held in the Bettridge Centre on Saturday 9th May 2009 when all of the boys from the three sections were presented with their badges and certificates to mark their achievements over the past year.

This year was especially exciting for us as we had 8 boys presented with their Queens Badge Certificates which is the highest award that is made in the organisation. The boys



have all worked extremely hard during the year, helping in the Company, undertaking voluntary work in the community and completing a number of brief essays on a variety of topics. They also attended weekend training courses in Badaguish and in Cullen.

The evening was particularly memorable for Matthew Dickie who was presented with his Queens Badge and certificate by his grandad, Eric Bisset, who was awarded his Queens Badge and Certificate 47 years ago.



Their year was completed when they all attended the Town House in Aberdeen with the other 18 boys from Aberdeen Battalion to have their certificates re-presented by Councillor John Corall on behalf of the Lord Provost.

Congratulations to all the boys Rory Arbuthnott, Andrew Duncan, Matthew Dickie, Keith Low, Daniel Moir, Jamie McGee, Robert Peattie and Lewis Will on their success.

Our BB year ended with a first – a march from Bettridge Centre to the church together with the girls of the Girls Brigade. The weather was great and we were led by two pipers and the full Company Colours to make a spectacular end to our very successful year.

If you would like to help out or would like to have more information on the Company, please contact me on 01569 - 730180 or Morag and Malcolm Macarthur on 01569 – 730534.

Ken Cruickshank
Captain

