

REACHOUT



Jessica Broadrick, Niamh and Freya Omand-Smith
awaiting the arrival of HRH the Duchess of Rothesay
as part of the centenary celebrations of Girls Brigade in Aberdeen.

Newtonhill Parish Church Magazine

February 2010

Website: www.newtonhillchurch.org.uk

Dear Friends,

The Church of Scotland faces many difficulties and challenges today, but two in particular are very current; one about money and the other about morals.

The whole system for paying ministers' stipends is in trouble and needs urgent action within the next 5 or 6 years. Basically the annual payroll bill is considerably more than the annual income to the National Stipend Fund, perhaps 15% more. The difference has been being made up out of the Ministries Council's capital reserves but at the present rate those reserves will be exhausted in 6 or 7 years. This seems to be partly due to inadequate planning; the department which decided on adjustments and so the number of ministers who would need paid, and the department responsible for Stipend level and structure were quite separate until a few years ago. Partly it is due to 'success' in providing ministers; the Stipend structure was designed on the basis that the number of ministers in the Church would decline rather faster than it has actually done, leaving more money to be found.

Naturally, there is a grave need to decide what to do about this and there are ongoing consultations. As in many other walks of life, minister's stipends have been frozen this year. The questions of whether there should be fewer parishes, or ministers should be spread more thinly around parishes and new ways of conducting ministry will all certainly be considered. The next round of consultations is in early February. Please pray for wisdom for those involved and guidance into the best way forward.

The moral challenge is, of course, about sexuality and the ministry. As is well known, there are those who wish to change the Church's longstanding position that ministers should not be sexually active except in (heterosexual) marriage - at least as regards those who are in committed homosexual relationships. Last year's General Assembly set up a Special Commission on Same-Sex Relationships and the Ministry to consult widely on this matter and report in 2011. Their consultation and discussion paper is expected before the end of February and every Presbytery and Kirk Session is required to respond to it by the end of May. Please pray for our Session and all church courts as this controversial and potentially divisive matter is discussed.

In the wider world, let us not forget Haiti but help its people by our personal giving and by supporting the congregational lunch on Communion Sunday.

Yours in Christ
Hugh

Stonehaven Community First Responder

What a fantastic amount was raised by everyone at our various Christmas events. The money raised went to Stonehaven Community 1st Responders who were present at a number of our events which was wonderful to see.

The Carol Singing on Monday 20th December raised £240.38. Many thanks to all who braved the snow (looked beautiful, but was very cold and still quite wet as a few ruined Carol Sheets will testify). Due to increased numbers of singers, we managed to have two groups and raised more than in previous years. Fiona Hanson, 1st Responder, did a brilliant job keeping our young collectors busy and handing out leaflets.

The Sunday Fun Club held a Soup and Christmas Cake lunch after their absolutely brilliant Nativity on Sunday 19th Dec. and raised an amazing **£93.78**.

The Christmas Eve services (Family and Watchnight) raised **£64.08** and **£107.75** respectively and it was so nice to see the 1st Responders represented at the Watchnight Service.

Altogether **£505.99** was sent off and gratefully received by Stonehaven Community 1st Responders who do an amazing job with the Scottish Ambulance Service giving initial First Aid response before the ambulance can get there.

We wish them well with their invaluable work within our community.

Zoe Ashby

W O W F A N T A S T I C G R E A T

Just some of the comments from the Stonehaven Community First Responder volunteers. We could hardly believe our eyes when we saw the numbers on the cheque. Thank you Newtonhill Church and Sunday Fun Club.

We are going to buy some more helmets to protect us when we are at some jobs. We also bought some bags to protect the helmets while not in use. We have ordered special carry bags for our oxygen cylinders these will make it so much easier to carry the awkward heavy cylinders. We have bought some fleece hats, scarves and gloves for all our volunteers.

We have kept money aside to help us with training in the summer. We hope to meet up with other Responder Groups and take part in some emergency scenarios. This helps us strengthen our teamwork and cope with the 'medical emergencies' we are faced with.

Thank you once again.

Fiona Hanson

07746698116

When and what is Lent?

In 2010 Lent begins on 17 February

What is Lent?

Lent is a Christian Festival. In the past it was a long, strict religious fast when people gave up all rich food. The day before Lent starts is known as Shrove Tuesday.

What happens during Lent today?

The Christian church no longer imposes a strict fast. Lent is a time when some Christians try to overcome their own faults because they believe that it was man's sin which led Jesus to be crucified. It can be thought of as a time for spring-cleaning our lives.

They try to follow the example of Jesus in the desert by giving up luxuries and practising self-discipline. And they try to put aside more time to prayer and religious acts so that they can really let God guide their lives.

Bible Study

Many churches hold special Lent services. In some towns the churches of different denominations join together in groups to discuss and share their Christian faith.

In Newtonhill, we hold services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and are also planning to open the church for prayer and contemplation at various times during Holy Week. The St Michaels Road Bible Study Group will be holding a special Lent study, and anyone who would like to know more about this should speak to Pauline Platt (730465) – all are most welcome.

When does Lent begin?

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts for six and a half weeks.

Lent is a moveable feast which means the date changes from year to year. In 2010 Ash Wednesday is on 17 February.

When does Lent end?

Lent ends at Easter when we remember the execution of Jesus and then celebrate his rising from death.

The last week of Lent begins with Palm Sunday, which celebrates the day Jesus entered Jerusalem and the people lay down palms at his feet. The last day of Lent is Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday (Easter Day)

Why are Sundays not counted in the 40 days?

Sundays are always a day of celebration in the Christian church and so they cannot be included in the 40 fast days of Lent.

Why does Lent last for 40 days?

Lent is a time when Christians remember the 40 days and nights Jesus spent alone in the desert without food and being tempted by the Devil. Jesus used this time to prepare for His work by fasting and praying.

Luke's Gospel says:

'Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.' Luke 4:1-3 (NIV)

So, as in the Bible, Christians spend forty days in preparing themselves to rejoice at the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter.

Interesting fact

The number 40 is a special number in the Bible. It signifies preparation for something special:

Noah and the Flood – 'And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.' (Genesis 7:12)

Moses stayed on Mount Sinai forty days (Exodus 24:18)

Jonah gave the people of Nineveh forty days to repent (Jonah 3:4)

Jesus, before starting his ministry, spent forty days in the desert in prayer and fasting (Matt 4:2; Luke 4:1)

Dave Platt

GUILD

The Guild started the year with the annual outing to the Newton Arms for a post Christmas meal which was enjoyed by all.

The next two meetings of the session are open meetings and we would be delighted to see new faces.

On 17th February David Walton will talk on his cycle journey from Lands End to John O'Groats in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

The speaker on 17th March is Sheriff Douglas Cusine who will talk on this session's theme of justice. All welcome



Girls' Brigade -

Be Part of Something *big*

Thank you to all who supported the girls by purchasing the calendars produced by the Brigader section as their entry for the divisional photography competition. Unfortunately the girls were unplaced in the competition but they enjoyed the project and I believe that the calendars are now adorning walls throughout the world!

We were fortunate to have a visit from Ian Finney and his hearing dog Cinders, who had just won rescue hearing dog of the year 2009. Ian provided an insight into how his life has been changed by having Cinders and the independence which he now enjoys. The older girls have chosen hearing dogs as the charity to support this



session and are planning a sponsored cycle during a sleepover in March to help raise funds for this, please look out for sponsor forms and support them in this.

We look forward to welcoming guide dog puppies in the near future to hear about the work which they do.

Sorcha Hill and Daisy Smith represented us at the CJ Bruce Award and although unplaced had a good evening decorating cakes and making presentation baskets for them, there did seem to be quite a few decorations not quite reaching the cakes but then they were very tempting!

Our Krypton Factor team - Elizabeth Platt, Erin Crockett, Ruri Dickie and Niamh Omand-Smith did us proud coming 3rd in this event which involved tests of knowledge and various skills.

Our Christmas parties were enjoyed by all and we are now working hard at the various divisional competition entries.

Our display evening will be held on **Monday 22nd March at 7:00pm**, this is an opportunity to see what the girls have been up to please put this date in your diary and come along and support the girls and officers – we would love to see you.



Fiona Leslie

Only one race

Every human being - no matter what their nationality, their sex, or the colour of their skin - is made in the image of God. This is the basis for what we call 'human rights.' There is a natural 'family of man,' even though we often don't behave like brother and sisters to each other. This means that the person eating in a London restaurant is a brother to the beggar in Calcutta, trying to find enough food for that day. We are related and responsible to each other because of what we are.

The Bible clearly speaks out against racial discrimination, class distinction, economic oppression or anything which give one person greater value than another. Christians believe that in spite of differences in colour, culture, class or status, we are all people, and equal in God's sight.

JF

On a lighter note

A minister's wife was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus was sitting here, he would say: 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" The oldest boy turned to his younger brother and said: 'You be Jesus!'"



Soup and Pudding Lunch

We will be holding another Soup and Pudding Lunch on Sunday 14th February after the morning service. This lunch will raise money towards the Haitian Earthquake Disaster Appeal.

Come and join us for good food and good company .



Fairtrade

Newtonhill is now a Fairtrade Church. We have committed to:

- Use Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings for which we have responsibility
- Move forward on using other Fairtrade products (such as sugar, chocolate and fruit)
- Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight—and through other activities where possible

Why not visit our Fairtrade Stall on the first Sunday of the month.

We will be resuming our stall on Sunday 7th February.



Points to Ponder

Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose but midges come close.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

CREATURES IN THE BIBLE



Matthew 18:12-14 The Parable of the Lost sheep

"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off"? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.

Lucy, the lamb, opened her eyes and thought "What's happened?" She reached out a paw to touch the white stuff that had covered everything in the night. It was very cold and wet. She tried sniffing it and the soft, cold flakes went up her nose and made her sneeze. She ventured out into the white stuff which came halfway up her legs but she couldn't manage to walk very far at all. Oh dear, she thought, what am I going to do and bleated "Baa, Baa, Baa, where are you mum?" as loud as she could. She listened but there was no reply and then the white stuff began to fall from the sky. It landed on her woolly coat and made her shiver. Lucy tried to walk again but it was no good and she sank back into the cold wet snow.



"Woof, woof," Lucy heard Colin the collie dog, who lived on the farm where she had been born a few days ago. Colin's "woofs" came closer and closer and Lucy managed to stand as tall as she could in the white crumbly snow. She bleated the loudest she had ever bleated and suddenly Colin was by her side. "Well, well," he said, "what's happened to you? Did you fall asleep in the field when the snow started to fall. You silly lamb, let's get you back to the warm barn as soon as we can. Everyone has been out looking for you and had almost given up but I have never lost a lamb yet and you were not going to be my first. Come on Lucy, climb on my back and I will carry you home".



Jesus is our good shepherd. He has never lost one of his little ones yet – and he never will.

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee of the Session is currently looking at elders districts and arrangements for congregational visits and intends to suggest revisions to these soon.

It would be very helpful if you could let the minister or any of the elders know if someone is seriously ill at home or is in hospital. Due to patient confidentiality requirements, hospitals will only tell the minister you are there if you specifically ask them to do so when you are admitted.

What an E xcuse!

I had good reason not to be able to attend the October Communion, I was in Germany along with 35 other singers from Stonehaven Chorus, which also included Robbie Middleton. We had been invited to sing in Cologne Cathedral and take part in their mid day service, what a wonderful and moving experience that was. The length of the cathedral is 474 feet and the acoustics were something else.

We sang two pieces before the service and three pieces after. I described to my family that the first sopranos (of which I am one) sang like angels. "What do angels sound like" was a question I was asked. I can only imagine that is how angels would sing! We soared in this magnificent building and could not believe the wonderful sound we were all making.

We sang at two concerts outside Cologne and received two standing ovations, something we are not used to. The people were very friendly and welcoming. Since arriving back the Director of Music at the "dome" has invited us back to sing and I am sure this is something we will do again.

Margaret Brooks

Coin-A -Day Boxes

These little boxes have provided a valuable source of income for the Church for several years. They are a great piggy bank for the change which accumulates in your purse and pockets. If you would like to participate in the coin-a-day box scheme please contact Fiona Leslie who can arrange to get this to you.



Diary Dates November to December 2009

February

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Wednesday | 3 rd | Fly Cup | 9.45-10.45am |
| Sunday | 7 th | Fairtrade Stall | |
| Wednesday | 10 th | Congregational Board | 7.30pm |
| Sunday | 14 th | Communion Sunday | |
| Sunday | 14 th | Soup and pudding lunch for Haiti | |
| Wednesday | 17 th | Guild speaker David Walton | 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 24 th | Kirk Session | 7.30pm |

March

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Wednesday | 3 rd | Fly Cup | 9.45-10.45am |
| Friday | 5 th | Quiz night at the Newton Arms | 7.30pm |
| Sunday | 7 th | Fairtrade Stall | |
| Wednesday | 10 th | Kirk Session | 7.30pm |
| Sunday | 14 th | Annual Stated Meeting after church | |
| Wednesday | 17 th | Guild speaker Sheriff Douglas Cusine | 7.30pm |
| Monday | 22 nd | Girls Brigade Parents Evening | |
| Sunday | 28 th | Palm Sunday | |

April

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Thursday | 1 st | Maundy Thursday Communion | 7.30pm |
| Friday | 2 nd | Good Friday Service | 7.30pm |
| Sunday | 4 th | Easter Early Service | 8.30pm |
| Sunday | 4 th | Easter Service | 10am |
| Sunday | 4 th | Fairtrade Stall | |
| Wednesday | 7 th | Fly Cup | 9.45-10.45am |
| Saturday | 17 th | Spring Fair | 10—12pm |

Special Fundraising Events

Quiz Night at the Newton Arms on Friday 5th March at 7.30pm

Spring Fair on Saturday 17th April from 10am to 12noon.

| | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 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 |
| Publicity | Wendy Croft | Tel:730829 |
| Roll Keeper | Margaret Brooks | Tel:731029 |

This edition of Reachout has been sponsored by

**Aileen Baird, F & J Towns and
Phil and Heather O'Hara**

If you would like to sponsor Reachout
please put your name on the list on the noticeboard