

Reachout

Adults £3.00
Child 50p
Including
refreshments

NEWTONHILL PARISH
CHURCH

SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY 9TH APRIL
FROM 10.00 TO 12.00
AT THE CHURCH



Books and DVDs
Bottle Stall, J. Officer
Crafty Dafty, Ellarry Cushions,
Cards, Home Baking, Fruit & Veg
Spring Hamper & lots, lots more



Newtonhill Parish Church Magazine

March 2016

Website: www.newtonhillchurch.org.uk



Dear Friends,

Happy Easter. Perhaps that greeting still sounds a little odd in Scotland. Our Presbyterian forebears were so keen on avoiding the dangers of celebrating 'special days' that they all but obliterated Easter and Christmas. It all came about for the best of reasons; they wanted to emphasise that we celebrate the Resurrection every Sunday and Jesus' presence with us every day. However, for better or worse, things have moved on a good deal. 'Merry Christmas' certainly doesn't sound at all odd in Scottish ears.

In fact Christmas is a huge celebration, both outside and inside the church. It may be a matter of legitimate debate whether our secular culture has 'bought into' Christmas or taken it over and commercialised it to within an inch of its life, but there is no denying it is part of the fabric of our lives. Anyone who doesn't celebrate Christmas without a cast iron excuse, e.g. actively belonging to some other religion, is considered miserable and anti-social.

Easter is still very different. Easter eggs apart, it passes by very quietly with only a sense of gratitude for a public holiday or two. That is natural enough in the general population, but now that even the Church of Scotland makes such a fuss of Christmas should we not be paying more attention to Easter as well?

Obviously the two festivals are connected. No Christmas, No Easter; if Jesus had not lived he could not have died. However the connection runs the other way as well; No Easter, No Christmas. As Paul puts it, 'This is a true saying, to be completely accepted and believed: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners' (1 Tim 1:15 GNB). The Cross and Resurrection are the focus of the gospels and the focus of Jesus' ministry. The Son of God became a man because of your sins and mine, to bear our guilt, to die in our place and to bring us resurrection life, eternal life.

Who's Who at Newtonhill Church

Minister	Rev Hugh Conkey	39 St Ternans Road	Tel 730143
Session Clerk	Ken Cruickshank	Cluaran, 9 Cliff View	Tel 730180
Clerk to the Congregational Board	Wendy Croft	27 Cliff View	Tel 730829
Treasurer	Zoe Ashby	58a St Ternans Road	Tel 730955
FWO Treasurer & Gift Aid Convener	Robbie Middleton	7 St Ternans Road	Tel 730852
Roll Keeper	Ken Cruickshank	Cluaran, 9 Cliff View	Tel 730180
Safeguarding Coordinator	Pauline Platt	2 St Michaels Road	Tel 730465

Contacts for Organisations:

Boys Brigade	Ken Cruickshank	Tel 730180
Girls Brigade	Fiona Leslie	Tel 731418
Sunday Fun Club	Ailsa Conkey	Tel 730143
JAFFA Children's Club	Zoe Ashby	Tel 730955
Guild	Fiona Leslie	Tel 731418
Fly Cup	Irene Middleton	Tel 730157
Bible Study	The Minister	Tel 730143
Publicity	Wendy Croft	Tel:730829
Website	Steve Hill	webmaster@newtonhillchurch.org.uk

Transport to the morning service for elderly and infirm members:

Alfie Henry Tel 730072

This edition of Reachout has been sponsored by
Norma and Alfie Hendry and Elsie Bruce.
If you would like to sponsor Reachout
please put your name on the list on the noticeboard.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Good Friday	25th March
Easter Sunday	27th March
Girls' Brigade Display Evening	28th March
Car Wash	2nd April
Spring Fair	9th April
Christian Aid Lunch	15th May
Christian Aid Coffee Morning	21st May
Father's Day	19th June
Skateraw Fair	25th June
Holiday Club	1st-5th August
Holiday Club BBQ	6th August

**Café Kirk runs every Wednesday 2—4pm at the church
(except 23rd March).**

BLOODWISE CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

A huge 'thank you!' to everyone who supported the coffee morning on 20th February for Bloodwise (formerly Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research). The excellent sum of £1,800 was raised.



The Father foresaw the scourging, the thorns and the Cross and still he sent his Son. Jesus foreknew the betrayal, the desolation and the agony and still He came. That is how much God loves us. Easter is the purpose of Christmas. Jesus came into the world intending to die for us. It was 'for the joy set before him' that Jesus 'endured the cross, despising the shame'; the joy not only of regaining heaven himself, but of seeing you and me there with him.

If we celebrate Christmas, surely we should celebrate Easter even more? I look forward to seeing you at some of our special services over this wonderful season.

Yours in Christ
Hugh



October 28, 2015
Mrs Fiona Hanson
of 131 St Michaels Road

January 4, 2016
Mr John Chew
of Mowatt Court

January 5, 2016
Mrs Margaret Masson
of Rannoch, Cammachmore

January 10, 2016
Mrs Aileen Morrison
of 16 Hanover Court

February 2, 2016
Mr Alan Fraser
of 19 Greystone Place



The Church of Scotland
World Mission Council



LET US BUILD A HOUSE

Just before noon on Saturday 25 April 2015, was when the first earthquake struck Nepal. Lasting just 45 seconds; causing devastation, changing lives forever. 45 seconds that caused over 8000 people to lose their lives and over 6 million families to lose their homes.

The Earthquake in Nepal was devastating. Church of Scotland's World Mission is asking churches to try to raise money to rebuild houses for those struck by the terrible earthquakes last year.

How much does it cost to build a house?

In Scotland, £100,000, £200,000, £300,000, More?

In Nepal - £500. Only £500 to make the poor people of Nepal's lives better, give them shelter, a place to belong to again.

What can we buy with £500?

We have an outline of a house in the vestibule of the church. Obviously a bit grander than what we will be getting built. Can you help us build our house?

£5 will buy a small brick, £10 will buy a large brick, £50 a window, £100 a door. You can put your name on your brick, or colour it in? We



be visiting us in March to talk about Diabetes and April brings the AGM followed by a meal in the church hall.

Two of our ladies attended the Guild Annual Meeting in Dundee and we attend Presbyterial Guild Gatherings. As Newtonhill Guild we support Sari, our little Indonesian girl, and sponsor her education. We support the national Guild projects and our church.

If you have not tried the Guild we would be delighted to see you.

Margaret Brooks

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE

As we near the end of another successful session, I would like to invite you to come along to our Display evening on Monday 28th March at 7pm in the Church. This is your opportunity to see some of what the girls get up to over the session and also show support for the leaders who so willingly give of their time.



The girls have excelled in the Divisional competitions this year with firsts in Junior Drill, Brigader Physical, Junior/Brigader Choir and Brigader Krypton Factor, 2nds in Junior Zumba and Junior/Brigader Drill to Music. Eden Birkett was one of the winners of the CJ Bruce Award. Ruri, Aria and Daisy have completed their Brigader Brooches and Mollie, Ruri, Aria and Daisy have now completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. These trophies and awards were presented to the girls at the Divisional Display in the Beach Ballroom, it was certainly a great and very proud night for Newtonhill.

Fiona Leslie

SOUPA TUESDAY

For a mere £5 you can get a steaming hot bowl of delicious homemade soup accompanied by a selection of the best crusty breads Tesco can make, followed by a wonderful dessert, usually homemade too. As if that were not enough culinary delights for your gastronomic stomachs to cope with, you can follow that with a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits.



No! I hear you yell. That's not possible for only £5.

I know. But we are kind and thoughtful people and prepared to slave over a hot stove to fill your little tummies. And you can have a good catch up with your friends, or meet new ones.

Soupa Tuesday runs on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 12pm – 2pm.

The next Soupa Tuesday is on 5th April.

GUILD NEWS

The Guild in Newtonhill started its new session in September 2015 with 14 members. The Rev. Gilchrist from Cults church was our first speaker, and in October we had a very interesting talk from a lady from Banchory who is involved with 'Forget Me Not' – a dementia support group. In November, Ian Balgowan from Stonehaven spoke to us about his life in fishing and in December we went to the Neuk, Old Portlethen for a lovely Christmas meal.



In January, February and March we meet in the afternoon (2.30pm) which has proved to be very successful. The Rev. Jim Falconer from ARI has spoken about the Rooftop Garden at the hospital. We have had a 'Bring & Buy' sale and supported Café Kirk. Sandra Wilson will

want to see our organisations getting involved. Can you fundraise to buy a window, or a door?

Brick, by brick, window by window, we will get our house in Nepal built.

Can you help us reach £500?

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2016



Please look out for your envelope, fill it in and give it back to your collector. In order to deliver envelopes to the whole village, we need more collectors.

Being a house-to-house collector during Christian Aid Week is a wonderful way to meet your neighbours, make new friends, strengthen links within our local community and contribute to the well-being of others on a global level.

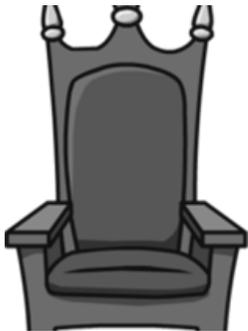
You can choose which streets/houses you would like to visit and give as much or little time during the week as you can manage. Your involvement and assistance will help make a difference and is greatly appreciated and valued.

For more information contact Jeannie Nuttall on **01569 731016** or email gmacdee@icloud.com

Thankyou.

Come along to the Christian Aid Coffee Morning in the Church on Saturday 21st May 10am – 12pm. There will be home baking, a chocolate tombola and a bottle stall amongst other stands.

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE



ESTHER, Courage to Act – Esther 5: 1-8, 7-8

On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, in front of the king's quarters, while the king was sitting on his royal throne inside the throne room opposite the entrance to the palace. And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won favour in his sight, and he held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. Then Esther approached and touched the tip of the sceptre. And the king said to her, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom." And Esther said, "If it please the king, let the king and Haman come today to a feast that I have prepared for the king." Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, so that we may do as Esther has asked." So the king and Haman came to the feast that Esther had prepared. And as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king said to Esther, "What is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Esther answered, "My wish and my request is: If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my wish and fulfil my request, let the king and Haman come to the feast that I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."

Wendy Croft

Why not take a few minutes out of life's hustle & bustle and drop in?

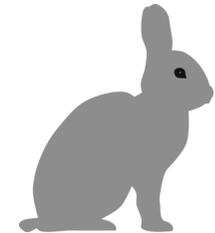
One of us will be in the building and ready to pour you a cuppa if you want to come through to the kitchen afterwards, for a chat but when you are in the church it is your "own" time.

Robbie Middleton

A RECIPE FOR EASTER BISCUITS

Ingredients

- 250g Caster Sugar
- 150g Butter (Room temperature)
- 2 Eggs
- 450g Plain Flour
- 1/2 Teaspoon Salt
- 2 Teaspoons Baking Powder
- 2 1/2 Teaspoons Orange Zest
- 1 Tablespoon Orange Juice



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190 C/ Gas Mark 5
2. In a large bowl, cream together the sugar and butter. Add eggs and beat until smooth. Stir in the flour, baking powder and salt until well blended. Mix in the orange juice and orange zest.
3. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to a 6mm thickness. Cut out rabbit shapes with a biscuit cutter. Place rabbits onto a baking tray. Bake in the oven for 8 to 10 minutes. Ice and decorate as desired.

EASTER OPENS THE DOORS OF OUR CHURCH



During the weeks of Lent that lead up to Easter many Christians look forward to a time of inward thought, readjustment and even what is often called self renewal in the midst of this modern day and age of hustle and bustle.

This ends up with the Easter week story that is a mixture of peace and of turmoil. For the last few years we have opened the doors of the Church for periods of reflection and quiet on three days of Easter week to allow people to drop in for a few moments to themselves. Not many have perhaps realised that this facility was there for them or importantly understood why they might want to come along.

Here is what is it's all about.

The Church is laid out with a few chairs in a semi-circle facing a table with a few prayer cards and meditations on it. These are short but often very thought provoking verses. There are of course bibles available and a few suggestions of verses to read. There is often a prayer shining up on the wall to think about as well and there is low level background - music to listen to.

The Church will be open as follows:

Tuesday 22nd March 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Wednesday 23rd March 2.00pm – 4.00pm

MONEY MATTERS

At the time of writing this, we have not had the end of year accounts completely examined, nor approved by the Trustees, so I can't give you a proper report on their contents. This will be printed in the next Reachout and will be available on the website once completed.

What I can tell you though, is that we have made a surplus of over £4,000.

This is a brilliant amount and due, in no small part, to fantastic fundraising over the last year. We have many new initiatives – Soupa Tuesday, Café Kirk and the Car Wash, which are all doing really well, involving new people in fundraising and bringing people into the church building. Thanks to all who have helped and attended these events and please keep coming. To anyone thinking it about it – just come along and give it a try.

One of the things we are looking to do in the future, hopefully the near future, is update our kitchen in the church. This may be an internal update, but, we hope to be able to extend the church into the car park and totally renovate the kitchen and storage areas of the church. This is big undertaking. It will take time, talents and money. If you think you can help us in any way, please get in touch

Zoe Ashby.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

Every ten years, the monks in monastery are allowed to break their vow of silence and speak. Ten years go by and it's one monk's first chance. He thinks for a minute and says "food bad".
Ten years later he says "bed hard".

A decade later he gives the Abbot a long stare and says
" I'm leaving". I'm not surprised" said the Abbot.
"You've never stopped complaining since you got here!"

CREATURES IN THE BIBLE

Matthew 26: 33-35 – Jesus predicts Peter’s Denial

Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the cock crows, you will disown me three times.” But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

Reggie was a cockerel, who lived in the Garden of Gethsemane, but could often be seen, wandering around the Mount of Olives. He liked to strut and preen his feathers underneath the shade of the cooling olive trees.

On one particular evening he was about to leisurely walk his way back down the Mount to the Garden, when he heard raised voices. He stopped, listened and heard the conversation between Jesus and Peter (see above) and thought to himself, ‘who is this special man he is going to disown when I start to crow’?

Matthew 26:69-72,74-75 – Peter Disowns Jesus

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said. But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!” Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the cock crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Reggie loved his crowing sessions and always prepared himself by lubricating his throat with lots of water and filling his lungs with good, clean air. He remembered the conversation he had heard on the Mount



of Olives, and thought he had better crow as loudly as he could to ensure the young man who was to disown the ‘special man Jesus’, heard him. He didn’t really understand why, but felt that his ‘crowing’ was also very special that morning and would be remembered for a long, long time.

Wendy Croft



We have just had a fantastic DVD evening watching the brilliant *Inside Out* on the big screen. The children got to bring a friend and we had 44 children attending, all with their goody bags of sweets. I’d never seen it before and it is brilliant, highly recommended.

We are also about to run our legendary Sport Relief Mile after the Easter holidays and will be on the lookout for some ‘Road Marshalls’ to make sure the little athletes stay on the straight and narrow and don’t stray from the path – like the biblical reference there? If you can help, please let me know. And Jaffa children? Keep fit, not too many Easter eggs over the holidays and get in training.

We have had a fantastic year so far and are looking forward to the rest of the session. We have loads of children, but we’ve never turned anyone away yet, so if you would like to come along and learn more about God and Jesus and the Bible in a fun and exciting way through games, songs, drama, discussions then please come along. We’d love to see you.

Jaffa wishes everyone a very Happy Easter. Hope you enjoy your holidays and remember the reason for the season.

If anyone would like more information on Jaffa please give Zoe a call (see back page for contact details).