

Newtonhill Parish Church

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER
FROM 10.00 TO 12.00 NOON



Stalls will include
home baking, fruit
& veg., crafts,
Santa, Christmas
hamper, jewellery,
face painting,
bottles and lots more



Adults £3, Child 50p (Includes refreshments)

Visit to Santa £1.50

Charity No. SC0005679

www.newtonhillchurch.org.uk

Reachout



Newtonhill Parish Church Magazine

November 2016

Website: www.newtonhillchurch.org.uk



Dear Friends,

This is the last edition of Reachout this year, the Christmas edition, even though I am writing this in early November. Still, Halloween is past so even the most restrained shops reckon we must now be in the Christmas season. It's a time for families and togetherness, and we have been very blessed that our two girls have always, so far, made it home for Christmas, wherever they might have been living. That cannot work out for everyone, and when it doesn't I think there is always a particular sense of a gap at the table.

In 1979 I was living away from home for the first time, in Edinburgh, as Christmas approached, perhaps that's why I was particularly taken with the big sign that the Church of Scotland had in its office window at 121 George Street. 'Christmas means a Son away from home!' it ran, and I thought it was very clever and likely to appeal to people passing by. I said as much to my landlord, by way of a compliment, because he happened to work for the publicity department in the Church. Much to my surprise, he turned round and told me that he didn't like it at all, 'I disagree with the theology' he said.

I had been thinking the phrase captured very well the self-giving love of God in sending Jesus into the world, but I immediately realised what he meant and mentally slapped my forehead. Jesus was not a son away from home that first Christmas. This world is God's world and in coming to earth as that baby at Bethlehem, God's Son was entering into what had always belonged to him. He was its maker, its life and its light. John's Gospel says as much, 'He came to what was his own.' The tragedy was that, 'his own did not receive him.' The Son was not away for Christmas - he came home and most did not want to know him. But to those who did receive him he gave power to become the children of God.

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	Myra Stewart	3 Puffin Court	Tel 730327
Treasurer	Zoe Ashby	58a St Ternans Road	Tel 730955
FWO Treasurer & Gift Aid Convenor	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 07818415643
Sunday Fun Club	Ailsa Conkey	Tel 730143
JAFFA Children's Club	Zoe Ashby	Tel 730955
Guild	Fiona Leslie	Tel 07818415643
Bible Study	The Minister	Tel 730143
Publicity	Wendy Croft	Tel:730829
Deputy Clerk to the Congregational Board	Jennifer Leighton	Tel 730850
Website	Steve Hill	webmaster@newtonhillchurch.org.uk

This edition of Reachout has been sponsored by Jenny Soper and Catherine & George Innes.

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

Dates for the Diary

Christmas Fair	26th November (10am-12)
Kirk Session	30th November (7.30pm)
Guild Week Service	27th November (10am)
Advent Service	4th December (10am)
Congregational Board	7th December (7.30pm)
Carol Singing for MS	14th December (6.30pm at church)
Family Carol Service	24th December (6pm)
Carols followed by Watchnight Service	24th December (11.15pm for carols, 11.30pm for service)
Christmas Day Service	25th December (11am—NB change of time)

Church Service and Sunday Fun Club (every Sunday at 10.00am)

Jaffa Club for primary age children (every Thursday from 6.30 – 8.30 pm)

Bible Study Group (every Thursday evening from 7.30—9.00 pm)

Re-commencing 10th January after Christmas break:

Boys Brigade Anchor Boys P2 – P3 (Tuesdays 6.30 – 7.30 pm)

Boys Brigade Junior Section P4 – P6 (Tuesdays 6.30 – 8.00 pm)

Re-commencing 17th January after Christmas break:

Girls Brigade P1-3 (Mondays 6:15 – 7:15pm)

Girls Brigade P4+ (Mondays 7:00 – 8:45pm)

The Guild meets monthly on Wednesdays, commencing 18th January at 2.00 pm. Check notice boards and website for speakers and events.

Café Kirk re-commences Wed 1st Feb and will continue every Wednesday afternoon after that from 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Soupa Tuesday re-commences 7th Feb and will continue the first Tuesday of the month thereafter (12 noon to 2pm)

Saturday Car Wash every first Saturday of the month from 1st April.
from 10.00 to 12.00.

We look forward to welcoming both old and new friends and, if you would like to get involved in any of the events or organisations listed above, in any way, please speak to anyone at the church or through our website www.newtonhillchurch.org.uk

Christmas is about family; about God being here with us in our world, because it is really his world, and making us part of his family through our trust in Jesus. It is not about a separated, broken family, but about a healed, restored and united family, sharing in our Father's love. Wherever our earthly families may be this Christmas, Jesus is with them and with us, and we can share that joy wherever we may be.

May you know Jesus very close to you and your loved ones this Christmas, and may you find joy and peace in sharing with our church family as we worship him together at this special time.

Yours in Christ,
Hugh



Mrs Georgina (ina) Ross
Donald 15/11/35, St. Anne's
Cranhill Brae.

Rev Christine Creegan

Christine Creegan



Following the departure of Jim Simpson to the USA, Christine Creegan was selected to be our new minister and joined us from a probationer position at the High Kirk in Dundee, preaching as sole nominee on 27th June 1993.

With her husband Joe and family of Arlene, Grant, Martin and Stuart, she moved into the manse and was inducted to the charge in August where she remained with us as a very popular minister until 2000.

She moved to the parish of Grandtully, Logierait and Strathtay in May of 2000 and ministered to the congregation there until she retired.

She was a very active person and she and Joe participated in many cycling and walking trips throughout their marriage. She was an active member of the Skateraw Ramblers group while in Newtonhill.

Sadly the full enjoyment of her later years and retirement was hampered as she was diagnosed with Parkinsons Disease and she passed away on 24th September 2016 at the age of 72.

Our thoughts and prayers were extended to Joe and her family and, as testament to her impact on the congregation, a bus was organised to attend her funeral in Perthshire with nearly 20 members attending.

Ken Cruickshank

A Prayer for When You Are Waiting

*My Father,
I know I am impatient, so prone to
worry, to give up, to lose hope.
Help me to rest in Your promises
today.*

*In this season of waiting, renew my
joy in this moment so that I do not
miss Your presence in this place.
Thank You for being with me and
for never giving up on me.
Thank You for always working for
my good and for Your glory even
when I can't see.*

*In Jesus' name,
~Amen~*



heathercking.org

The Girls' Brigade

1st Newtonhill Girls' Brigade

Our session is now well underway and we currently have 11 Explorers, 15 Juniors and 5 Brigaders attending regularly. Explorers are looking at all things Pink and Beautiful, Juniors badgework comprises GB Badge, Cheerleading, Bees and Water whilst Brigaders are looking at some of the ladies of the bible, keep fit routine, fundraising ideas and getting experimental.

Our dedication service was held on Sunday 18th September and our Company section will attend the Remembrance Sunday Service.

Six of our explorers and seven juniors enjoyed a Divisional Fun Day at Templars Park on 1st October, a great time was had by all hunting for teddy bears, participating in games and activities, getting faces or hands painted and finishing with a sing song.

We are looking forward to the Bettridge Panto prior to our Christmas Party which will end the 2016 part of the session.

Fiona Leslie



Christian Aid Week 2017

Starts: Sunday 14/05/2017

Ends: Saturday 20/05/2017

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR REQUIRED

To recruit and support house to house collectors in Newtonhill for the annual fundraising Christian Aid Week.

If you can give approximately 10 hours across April and May 2017 to support this worthwhile cause, please contact Jeannie on 01569 731016 up to 31/12/16 or thereafter by email to gmacdee@icloud.com

Thank you.

What Does God Want for Christmas?

George asked, 'I don't know what to get my Dad for Christmas. What do you give somebody who has everything?' Harry replied, 'A burglar alarm!'

Presents can be a real problem, when we want to give those we love something they really want. But what about God? What would he want from us this Christmas? What's a suitable gift to celebrate the birthday of Jesus? What do you give someone who not only has everything, but who actually made everything.

The answer can be found in Micah, a prophet who lived about 700 years before the birth of Christ: 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' (Micah 6:8).

This Christmas, God is looking for the gift of lives characterised by justice, mercy and humility:

Justice:- God is just he is absolutely fair and righteous in all his dealings. Justice means 'treating people right because you know God.' In the Bible it means caring for the poor, speaking the truth and refusing to take advantage of the less fortunate. For us at Christmas, justice means doing right for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Mercy:- This speaks of sharing God's heart by loving the unlovely even when they don't love us back. How has God dealt with us this year? If He has forgiven us, then forgive others. Has God lifted us up when we were down? Then let's seek to lift others. Where God has overlooked our faults, let's overlook the faults of others. If God has been merciful to us this year, Christmas is a time to show mercy to others.

Humility:- Humility is the opposite of pride. It reminds us that everything we have in life is a gift from God. Although some may have more or less than us, we can still thank God for what we have and do the best with what God has given me. This is the attitude we can reflect at Christmas, when we invest so much time in the presents we give. God is looking to all these actions arising genuinely from our heart. As the carol says:-

"What shall I give him, Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I'd give him a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I'd do my part.

What shall I give him, I'll give him my heart."

Jim Farquharson

Christmas

What is this thing called Christmas?

An awful lot of stress,

Shopping, cooking, baking,

I'm sure we could eat less!

Presents, cards and tinsel

Is it money down the drain?

It never ends – and next year

We'll be doing it again!

The tills are ringing out with joy

I've bought up all the tatt

There's toys for every girl and boy

And even for the cat!

But at the stroke of midnight,

A sudden peace descends,

As people gather at the church

To give their thanks with friends.

The real joy of the season

Isn't what we can afford,

It's acknowledging the greatest gift-

Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Moira Hogg



celebration of the birth of Jesus – indeed much of how we celebrate has origins long before the birth of Christ!

There are many other traditions and theories as to why Christmas is celebrated on December 25th. A very early Christian tradition said that the day of the Annunciation when Mary was told she would give birth to Jesus, was on March 25th - and it's still celebrated today on that date. Nine months after the 25th March is the 25th December! March 25th was also the day some early Christians thought the world had been made, and also the day that Jesus died on when he was an adult. It's not clear how these theories arose!

Colin Young

Cloutie Dumpling

8 Heaped tablespoons of flour

Half a packet of suet

2 Tablespoons of golden syrup

2 Tablespoons of sugar

Half a teacup of currants

Half a teacup of raisins

Half a packet of dates (chopped)

1 Teaspoon each of cinnamon and mixed spice

1 Teaspoon of Baking powder

$\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon of salt

1 chopped apple

1 Egg and milk to mix

Method: Mix dry ingredients. Add syrup, egg and enough milk to mix to a sticky consistency. Scald and flour a pudding cloth and tie, leaving room for swelling. Boil for 3 to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours till pudding feels firm to the touch.

Serve slices with a sprinkle of caster sugar and some cream.

Enjoy!



Why 25th December?



The gospel writers Matthew and Luke carefully give us the historical setting to Jesus' birth -- under the reign of Caesar Augustus when Quirinius was governor of Syria and while Herod was ruling Palestine. Yet, the exact date of Jesus' birth is unknown, and the early Christians did not even celebrate Christ's birth. Birthdays and their celebrations had always been Roman feast days. The resurrection was the big event for Christian celebration and to this day the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches celebrate Easter to a much greater extent than the reformed churches.

By the fourth century, however, many Christian groups had begun to observe Christ's birthday, though the day chosen for the celebration differed from place to place. Christians in the East generally celebrated on January 6; those in the West on December 25. Others set dates in March, April, or May.

The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25th was in 336, during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine - the first Christian Roman Emperor. A few years later, Pope Julius I officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th December. This corresponded with the Roman feast of Saturnalia, the festival of the Unconquered Sun which took place between December 17th and 23rd and honoured the Roman god Saturn. December 25th was also the 'birthday' of the Pagan Sun god Mithras. In the pagan religion of Mithraism, the holy day was Sunday – hence the name we still use for that day!

Since ancient days, people throughout the northern hemisphere had celebrated at the winter solstice when the daylight hours had reached their shortest and again began to increase. To pagans this meant that the winter was over and spring was coming –so they had a festival to celebrate it and worshipped the sun for winning over the darkness of winter – in the same way as the Romans! In Scandinavia, and some other parts of northern Europe, the winter solstice is known as Yule and is where we get Yule Logs from. Some traditions have the Yule log lit from the remains of the previous one and slowly slid into the fire to burn over the 12 days of Christmas. In Scandinavia Christmas is still called Yule. Pagan temples were also decorated with greenery and candles, there were feasts and parades with special music, and gifts were given to family and friends.

Among the British Druids, mistletoe was worshipped, and the Saxons used holly and ivy in their winter religious ceremonies. As Christianity spread throughout Europe, many of the pagan customs and festivities of the winter solstice were absorbed into the

“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these” Luke Chapter 18, Verse 16



MONEY MATTERS

We have had a relatively quiet time financially recently.

We continue to do well with Fundraising, especially with our new ventures – Soupa Tuesday and the monthly Car Wash, and Café Kirk continues to do well as a social enterprise. We thank everyone who comes along and supports us in these and we hope you enjoy coming. Other forms of income are not doing as well with offerings dropping off slightly, but not of any major concern yet.

We raised £311 for Aberdeen Cyrenians at our Harvest Thanksgiving service and Soup Lunch which followed the service which was a wonderful amount, and we will be Carol Singing around the village again this year so are continuing in our support of other charities.

Due to a lack of space in the church, both in the kitchen and for storage, and a need to provide more space for the community, the church is looking at an extension at the back of the church. This would allow for 2 large meeting rooms, a large storage area over these rooms and an extended kitchen. We are currently in consultation with our members and hope to start seriously researching funding, grants, drawings and planning in the new year. This is a HUGE undertaking for the church and we would really appreciate everyone's support, ideas and help. If you think you can get involved in any way, please let us know.



As one of our committee said – 'If the church does not go forward, it can only go backwards, it cannot stay the same' and we want to go forward.

Zoe Ashby



Aberdeen Cyrenians

Aberdeen Cyrenians is the charity that Newtonhill Church will be supporting with this year's giving tree. Details of the giving tree appeal are printed elsewhere in this magazine.

Aberdeen Cyrenians was formed in 1968 and developed from a project founded by Anton Wallich-Clifford in 1963. He started The Simon Community (also known as the Cyrenian Community), named after Simon of Cyrene, a saint who took the burden of carrying Jesus' cross. Wallace-Clifford's idea for the Simon Community was to "reach out to the homeless and roofless, to be a movement of concern and, by working as a community, to offer a radical alternative to institutional care".

Aberdeen Cyrenians began as two separate initiatives, both based on Wallace-Clifford's philosophy of sharing the burden. In 1968, a group of Aberdeen University students set up a soup run in the Castlegate. They negotiated with local butchers and grocers and the kitchens at the halls of residence to get left over food to make soup and feed the rough sleepers. Initially, the soup run was a once a week occurrence, but, as volunteers and donations increased, this extended to six days a week.

Around the same time, following a public talk in Aberdeen by Wallace-Clifford, the Committee for Rough Sleepers was formed to discuss the issue of homelessness in Aberdeen. These two groups worked together to negotiate with the council about the provision of a night shelter. The council eventually agreed to provide a new facility behind the old lodging house in West North Street. Two temporary night shelters were set up by the new Cyrenian project, in the Sheret Court Mission, and then a disused chip shop in Park Street which operated till the council run shelter was opened.

Fast forward to the present time, and the cyrenians now run six key projects at different locations in Aberdeen. They cater for specific groups of homeless people including young, single people in crisis, rough sleepers, older people and women. Their aims are prevention of homelessness, alleviation of homelessness, rehabilitation (tackling underlying problems of drugs and alcohol, abuse and mental health issues), and resettling (help to gain employment and sustain a tenancy). The Cyrenians aim to give homeless people a chance to lay foundations which will enable them to make a positive contribution to society in the long term.

Please consider donating a small gift to a homeless person through our giving tree appeal this year. It may be the only one they receive.

The Giving Tree

For the last two years we have donated gifts from the giving tree to 'Befriend A Child' which has been very successful due to the generosity of our church members and friends. This year we have decided to donate our gifts to the Cyrenians and I am sure you will be equally generous to them. To celebrate Christmas the Cyrenians put together small gifts in shoe boxes which are distributed to around 350 of their service users. The labels on the giving tree are names of gifts which the Cyrenians have suggested their users would like and enjoy, particularly those sleeping rough. Please take a label from the tree, purchase the gift but please do not wrap, and deliver either to the church or the chemist's shop in Newtonhill.

We look forward to receiving your gifts on behalf of the Cyrenians.

Thank you on behalf of the church fundraising team.



We have had a great start to the session this year. So many children in and out of our doors, we started with record numbers this year. It is great to see the church full of noise and enthusiasm. We even welcomed back a couple of our primary 7's from last year as very enthusiastic Young Leaders and they are doing a great job.



We have a busy couple of months before we break up for Christmas. On 12th November we will be taking some of the children to the Sightline Christian Arts Festival in St. Marks church Aberdeen for an hour of fun, songs, puppets and stories. On 17th November we will be holding our annual Children In Need fun night to raise funds and awareness and on 26th November we will be running a stall at the Christmas Fair in the church as well as, most importantly, helping out Santa in his Grotto. Look out for our darling little Elves. And then, of course, we will be finishing on 15th December with a great Christmas Party.



In between all the busyness, we will be learning about prayer, getting on with each other and how to follow Jesus in our lives. As always, this is done in a fun and entertaining way which I hope the children enjoy.

Many thanks to all our Leaders, young and not so young. You make my job so much easier.

We are busy this year, but we have never turned a child away, so anyone interested in coming along to Jaffa will be made most welcome.

If anyone would like more information on Jaffa give me a call (730955).

Zoe Ashby