



REACHOUT



Newtonhill Parish Church Magazine

November 2018

Dear Friends

Our schedule for Reachout this year has been disrupted by a number of things, not least the happy event that Katherine, who usually does the layout, had a baby during the summer, and the sadder one that Roy, our editor, is far from well. Please accept my apologies for the delay to the magazine.

I am writing just before Remembrance Day, which is specially poignant this year because it marks the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War One and all sorts of special events have been taking place. It is long time ago, of course, beyond the memory of all of us now alive, but many families are still aware of their losses from that time. Moreover, the 'War to End Wars' turned out to be nothing of the kind, and many people today bear the physical and mental scars occasioned by their service in much more contemporary conflicts or carry in their hearts the loss of their loved ones through such service. So it is right that we should remember the cost of war and honour those who serve and gird up our intent to seek for peace and justice. As part of that I have included the poem opposite.

'Time and tide wait for no man' as the saying goes, and although it seems far too early, the Christmas season with all its events is sweeping towards us. First as far as the Church goes is our Christmas Fair on Saturday 24th November from 10 till 12, with some new craft stalls this year and our usual festive fun and goodies. I look forward to seeing many of you there, and why not bring along your friends and neighbours?

Please also bring your friends and neighbours along to our Christmas services and share with them in the special joy of celebrating Jesus' birth and the goodwill he brings from heaven to earth. There will be a Nativity service with all the young people on a Sunday close to Christmas. A family Carol Service at 6pm on Christmas Eve with a chance for children to dress up and take part in the Christmas story. (Suitable for adults as well as families) A more traditional Watchnight Service illuminated by the Christmas lights at 11.15 for 11.30pm. Our Christmas Day Service is at 11am next morning to allow you time to open some presents first, and bring them along to show us.

I wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas, full of Christ's peace and joy

Yours in Him, Hugh

For the Fallen

Laurence Binyon's poem is often quoted at Remembrance Services, but we rarely encounter all of it. Too old to enlist himself, he was deeply moved by the British losses of the early part of WW1 and wrote the piece on a visit to Cornwall in 1914. Although he speaks of England, the poem is now used in several Commonwealth countries.

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Girls' Brigade



The first term of Girls' Brigade was as usual busy with girls doing badgework and learning various competition routines. We have changed our times and our way of operating slightly this year to ensure girls and leaders get the most out of their GB experience.

On 26th August some of us travelled along with others from Aberdeen Division to join with the GB Scotland family at the Caird Hall, Dundee for a celebratory praise service to mark 125 years of Girls' Brigade, sadly there was no celebratory cake so at our dedication service on 16th September we rectified that and were able to share our cake with the church family. This service was part of the Church Stewardship Month and at that time I challenged those present to pass a bee to a girl in their street and encourage them to 'buzz' along to GB.



Did you see the new slogan 'Get the Buzz' or 'Buzz along to GB the place to be'? This was on various bus shelters and advertising spaces during August, to date we have only had two new girls join us, but both are thoroughly enjoying their GB experience. We would be delighted to welcome any other girls or young ladies who would like to be part of GB.

We are looking forward to welcoming Robyn as a new leader, Robyn came through the ranks of a company in Falkirk, moved to Aberdeen to university and is now settled in Newtonhill.

Prior to the summer holidays some Explorers and Juniors enjoyed celebratory 125 parties. Amy and Erin joined with other Brigaders from throughout the division for a pea fayre and pamper evening and Donna, Tanya and I attended the leaders dinner. All these events have been enjoyed by those attending.

We have helped with the filling of Christmas boxes for the Rotary and on



Friday 9th November we held a sleepover in the Church as part of the 'Wee Sleep out' an initiative which GB Scotland has partnered with and is based on the Big Sleep Out with all monies raised going to help Social Bites fundraising efforts to end homelessness in Scotland. If you didn't get cajoled into sponsoring a girl or leader and would like to donate you may do so by speaking to Zoe or going to the Virgin Money giving page and in the make a donation box search for 1st Newtonhill Girls' Brigade, your support is very much appreciated.

So several competitions, a visit to the Bettridge panto and a party all to come before the end of term two so we are certainly keeping busy as bees.

Fiona Leslie

Give Him a Call!

The phone was a great invention. How easy it is to press a few numbers on our small devices and speak to someone the other side of the world. There was a time when a phone in a home was a luxury item. Now, it seems, we take it for granted that we have a gadget in our pocket enabling us to contact anyone, at any time, in any place.

However, how many times have you wanted to speak to someone, only to be given a recorded message giving a variety of options? Then you have to wait in a queue for ages before your call is answered. Sometimes a voice informs you 'your call is important to us' ... but meanwhile you are left waiting, listening to endless music. Yes, a phone may be useful in all kinds of circumstances, but they can also be very frustrating!

So, it's good to know that God can be contacted immediately we need Him. There is no celestial call centre where our messages are delayed or referred. With prayer we can call on God directly. This service is free with no charges. He hears our every call and we can be confident that our Creator will answer us in ways which are only for our good. 'When you pray, I will answer you. When you call to me, I will respond.' (*Isaiah 58:9*)

Submitted by Jim Farquharson

30 Years an Elder

Where have the last thirty years gone to? On the 7th February 1988 I was ordained the first lady Elder at Newtonhill Church. Some of you may have been there as there are still a few of us who were involved in the starting of the church in the village. I was also eight months pregnant and I mentioned to Rev Jim Simpson not to ask me to kneel at the ordination as I may go into labour. Thankfully thirty years later I did not have to kneel as I don't think my knees would have got me up again! How things change. On Sunday 11th February 2018, Communion Sunday, the church was busy, the service and the prayers were very meaningful and the certificate that was presented to me by Rev Hugh Conkey is very special. The cake which



was shared with members of the congregation with the teas was thoroughly enjoyed and my thanks go to the Kirk Session for their beautiful card and for the cake.

So many changes over the years. I hope the church family continues to grow in fellowship and friendship in the years to come.

It has been a privilege to serve as an Elder for thirty years and I hope that I will be able to continue for some time yet.

I would like to share this poem that was given to me and I am sure you will be able to relate to it.

The Train of Life

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believed that they would always travel by our side. However, at some station, our parents would step down from the train, leaving us on life's journey alone. As time goes by, some significant people will board the train, siblings, other children, friends and even the love our life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we won't realise that they vacated their seats. This train

ride has been a mixture of joy, sorrow, expectations, hellos, goodbyes and farewells.

A successful journey consists of having a good relationship with all passengers, requiring that we give the best of ourselves. The mystery that prevails is that we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. We must try to travel along the track of life in the best possible way, loving, forgiving, giving and sharing.

When the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who continue to travel on the train of life.

Let us remember to thank God for giving us life to participate in this journey.

I close by thanking you for being one of the passengers on my train.

Margaret Brooks

Sat 24th Nov, 10-12

**Christmas
Fair**

**Stalls, Baking, Games,
Tea, Coffee and Christmas Goodies,
The Man in the Red Suit!**

Come along and enjoy the fun

The Emblem and Motto of the Kirk



We are all fairly familiar with the lozenge shaped emblem of the Kirk with its burning bush and saltire, as it appears on various publications and also frequently on the preaching scarf which many ministers wear on special occasions. It is something we are used to and accept as part of the Kirk but it has a very informal history and origin.

The emblem first appeared in 1691 but there is no record indicating that any General Assembly of the Church has ever given express approval for the use of the burning bush symbol in any shape or form! However the printer of The Principal Acts of the General Assembly, George Mossman, under his own initiative, introduced a title page that year which carried a representation of the burning bush. It was accompanied by the words: *Nec Tamen Consumeatur*. This logo and motto seem to have been in common use for about 200 years between 1691 and 1888, but over that time it appeared in no less than eight variations!

In 1930, the square logo, designed by the artist Sir D. Y. Cameron, was introduced in place of the more familiar emblem and this was used extensively until 1939.

In 1958 the then General Administration Committee, on the instructions of the General Assembly was charged with registering the emblem with the Lord Lyon King of Arms to safeguard the use of the seal for the Church. For the first time, the burning bush emblem became the official mark of the Church for use on stationery, banners, signs, and other material.



While the square logo is still in use today – sometimes with the background of the bush in blue - the Council of Assembly in 2005, following a major restructuring of the Church's central administration, advised that the use of

the original emblem was to be encouraged.

Variations in the emblem still occur and many parishes have differences in the portrayal of the bush itself and also in the color of the saltire on which it is superimposed – there is in any case apparently no specific designation for the exact tone of blue to be used for the saltire. In some versions the saltire is almost totally hidden - and if you are ever passing Kirk headquarters at 121 George Street in Edinburgh, have a look at the one above the door where the saltire is nearly covered by the rays of fire emanating from the bush. As you pass on you may care to speculate as to why the Kirk maintains its HQ in some to the most expensive real estate in Scotland!

A quick trawl through the internet reveals a wide range of logos, carvings badges and castings incorporating the burning bush in various forms. It has been adopted by Presbyterian churches throughout the world and appears in places as diverse as the Kirks moderatorial ring and in a superb piece of ironwork above the entrance to the United Reformed Church's Westminster College in Cambridge.

The Latin - *Nec Tamen Consumebatur* -used by George Mossman roughly translates as: "It was not, however, consumed". It refers to the Book of Exodus when Moses encountered the burning bush. No matter how much it burned, it was never consumed by the flames. Scholars suggest that Mossman may have got the idea to use the Latin from France or Holland. The Latin is that of the biblical scholars Tremellius and Junius of 1597 and not the earlier Latin of the Roman Catholic Vulgate of St Jerome. Some think that the printer deliberately used the wording in its new context to celebrate the liberation that came following the bloodless revolution of 1689, when the suffering of the Church involving the monarchy and the Covenanters was finally over.

The emblem also echoes the teachings of 16th century theologian and preacher John Calvin who saw the burning bush as representative of the people of God: the Church which suffers in any age or place but against which not even the gates of Hell can prevail.

Colin Young

Diary Dates

November 2018 – January 2019

November

- Wed 14th 2-4pm Café Kirk
Sat 24th 10am -12 Christmas Fair
Sun 25th 10am Guild Week Service
Wed 21st 2-4pm Café Kirk
Wed 21st 7.30pm Guild
Wed 28th 2-4pm Café Kirk Christmas Special
Wed 28th 7pm Kirk Session

December

- Tues 4th Guild Christmas Soup and Sandwich lunch
Wed 5th 7pm Congregational Board
Wed 19th 6.30-8.30pm Carol-singing round village
Mon 24th 6pm Family Carol Service
Mon 24th 11.15 for 11.30pm Watchnight Service
Tues 25th 11am Christmas Day Service

January 2019

- Sun 6th 10am Communion Service

In addition there are the following groups:

- Sunday Fun Club (every Sunday at 10.00)
Bible Study (Thursdays from 7.00 to 8.30pm)

In School term time

- Jaffa Club for primary age children (Thursdays from 6.30 – 8.30 pm)
Girls Brigade P1-3 (Mondays 6:15 – 7:15pm)
Girls Brigade P4+ (Mondays 7:00 – 8:45pm)

Who's Who at Newtonhill Church

(All Email addresses are "@newtonhillchurch.org.uk" and all phone numbers are Newtonhill (01569) numbers.)

Minister	<i>Rev. Hugh Conkey</i>	<i>theminister@</i>	730143
Session Clerk	<i>Mr Ken Cruickshank</i>	<i>session@</i>	730180
Board Clerk	<i>Mrs Myra Stewart</i>	<i>board@</i>	730327
Reachout	<i>Mr Roy Browning</i>	<i>magazine@</i>	731337
Sunday Fun Club	<i>Mrs Ailsa Conkey</i>	<i>sfclub@</i>	730143
Girls Brigade	<i>Mrs Fiona Leslie</i>	<i>girlsbrigade@</i>	731418
Jaffa	<i>Ms. Zoe Ashby</i>	<i>jaffa@</i>	730955
Guild	<i>Mrs Margaret Brooks</i>	<i>guild@</i>	731029
Bible Study	<i>Rev. Hugh Conkey</i>	<i>theminister@</i>	730143
Publicity	<i>Mrs Wendy Croft</i>	<i>publicity@</i>	730829
Treasurer	<i>Ms Zoe Ashby</i>	<i>treasurer@</i>	730955
Roll Keeper	<i>Mr Ken Cruickshank</i>	<i>rollkeeper@</i>	731029
Website	<i>Mr Steve Hill</i>	<i>webmaster@</i>	
Safeguarding } Coordinators }	<i>Mr David Platt Mrs Pauline Platt</i>	<i>safeguarding@</i>	730465



Guild 30th Anniversary

Newtonhill Guild celebrated it's 30th anniversary with a special meeting on 19th September, with friends from other Churches and several former members who had been invited to return for the occasion. A photograph from 1987 had us all trying hard to recognise the astonishingly young faces. It was surprising how little many had changed and we managed identify everyone, with a little thought.

Being the Guild, the Rev Shauna Dick's inspiring talk about her unexpected journey into the ministry and her present charge, was followed by an extensive buffet with many fine pieces, which were enjoyed by all.

Although many have been members of the Guild over the years and many existing members have participated in it for a long time, only three current members have been involved since its inception, Mrs Pauline Platt, Mrs Joan McNaught and Mrs Margaret Brooks. As part of the celebrations, the minister presented them all with 30 year long-service certificates in thanks for all they have done for the congregation through the Guild during that time.

