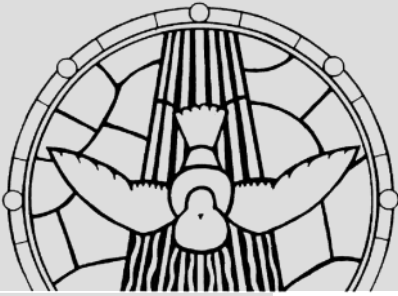


Newport-on-Tay

Church of Scotland Journal

Easter 2021



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

'But this I call to Mind and I have Hope'



In 1858 the Illinois legislature used an obscure statute and sent Stephen A. Douglas to the U.S. Senate instead of Abraham Lincoln, although Lincoln had won the popular vote. When a sympathetic friend asked Lincoln how he felt, he said, 'Like the boy who stubbed his toe: I am too big to cry and too badly hurt to laugh'. 'I am too big to cry and too badly hurt to laugh'!

Lincoln took this disappointing decision concerning his life and career not with a sense of hopelessness but with confidence, resilience and hope. He would become the 16th president of the United States from 1861 until his assassination in 1865. Howbeit, disappointment, disillusionment, disenchantment, disgruntlement and inconsolable - all those words and more describe our attitude to failure or when we are downcast. And often we take it on ourselves that we suffer because we have

done something wrong, for which God has punished us. That was the perception of the prophet Jeremiah when he lamented at chapter 3:1: 'I am one who knows what it is to be punished by God. He drove me deeper and deeper into darkness and beat me again and again with merciless blows...he has shut me in a prison of misery and anguish'.

The book of Lamentations is an ancient lament, written in the year 587BC, after the destruction of Jerusalem. In the early chapters, 1-2, the author-prophet Jeremiah, describes the scenario in Jerusalem after the Babylonian army had finished their desecration of the land and everything was in ruins. It is a poetry that alternates between the realistic and figurative depictions of the horrors of war, deprivation, starvation, and fear.

All of us understand the situation in Lamentations because of the frequent bad news we get from around the world and the ways in which we individually experience suffering and deprivation. Those living in countries that are torn and ravaged by war, know the meaning of destitution, desolation and deprivation. And in a time of pandemic, we all know what it means to suffer, to be unhappy and lonely. For over a year now, the Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to be locked up in our homes with little or no freedom to live our lives however we want. We feel God has shut us in a prison of misery and anguish. The evidence suggests that the pandemic has impacted on several key areas of life, including, on children and young people's mental health; on interpersonal and family life; on the economy, with the consequences of redundancy; and within the context of education. All of us have been overwhelmed by the statics of people infected by the virus and those who have sadly passed away. This is a world health crisis, but it is the individual who suffers most.

I think Jeremiah's personal lament is a reminder to all of us that suffering is always personal. When nations go through times of tragedy and tribulation, the greatest suffering always takes place at the individual level. However, after recounting his woes and tribulations, there comes a relaxing glorious change at Lamentations 3:22-23, where the prophet bursts out in ecstatic praise. 'But this I call to mind and therefore I have hope, the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning great is thy faithfulness'. In other words, I remember, God says he will never leave me alone, so I have hope. We need to understand that nothing had changed around the prophet. The city was still in ruins. Within too, there were doubts and fears. His soul was still restless and bereft of peace. But what changed is that he remembered the covenant and character of God. The covenant God first made with Abraham four thousand years ago and then renewed through Jesus Christ on the cross. In that covenant, God says I will be your God and you shall be my people. I will put my spirit within you. I will write my law in your heart. I will remember your sins no more. I will never leave you alone. I will never, never forsake you. Behold I am with you always till the end of the age.

I reckon it is the joy of remembering God like that and knowing he holds us in his hands, even in the face of death, that is the hope of Easter.

Hope keeps people from killing themselves. It helps people get out of bed and go to work, even work from home! It gives meaning to daily life, even, locked-down, quarantined, stay-at-home life. It liberates us from the selfishness of fear and greed. It empowers love and risk-taking and sacrifice.

Perhaps this Easter you are in the midst of death! the death of a loved one, a relationship, a dream, the consequences of sin. The good news of the Easter story not only offers us the hope of the future glory of eternal life after death, but the lens through which to look in the meantime as we gaze at Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

This I call to mind and I have hope.

A very Happy Easter

Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

This journal has been produced and delivered in accordance with the strict Church of Scotland published guidance on the distribution of church-related material

Update on Church Services

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Act 3 Scene 1 – or so it seems! Yet another 'take' in what has seemed like an ever-ending horror drama as wave after wave of Covid-19 infections have spread around the world resulting in soaring hospitalisation figures, rising death rates, condemning us all to a state of 'lockdown' – enforced isolation, restricted movement and limited interaction with family and friends.

Last March the national lockdown forced us to close the church, then we were permitted to re-open again in the Autumn, before another wave forced closure once more! Thankfully, our infection rate in the UK is dropping and our vaccination programme promises protection from the worst that the virus can convey – so, with strict guidance and evidenced compliance the Scottish Government has deemed it safe to allow places of worship to re-open just ahead of Holy Week and Easter. Fife Presbytery have since reviewed our Building Inspection Records and Covid-19 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Measures and have granted us permission to re-open w.e.f. 26/03/21.

Our intention is to hold our first Church-based service on Easter Sunday, with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services conducted on-line. After Easter we intend to follow a programme of alternating church and online (Zoom) services for the month of April, then reappraise the situation. Weekly services delivered both in church and online have been proposed and we the Kirk Session are currently evaluating such a possibility as it will necessitate additional resources, mainly volunteers to host.

Attendance at church will follow the same rigorous measures as were undertaken in the Autumn. Booking will be essential, either online (Doodle) or by telephone on the Friday preceding the service; details will be sent by email each week to those on our service mailing list. If you are not on our mailing list to receive details on how to book/join our Church services (whether in Church or online) please email newportcos@btinternet.com or phone (01382) 543034 to be added. Entry and movement within the church will be 'one-way', regulated by Stewards, barrier tape and floor level signage. You should only attend if you feel well and are not experiencing any of the published Covid-19 symptoms. As an addition to our safety measures we will be taking a temperature reading (forehead) using a non-contact thermometer upon entry. Within the building a face covering or the wearing of a mask (unless exempted) will be obligatory and there will be no singing.

The ringing of our church bell and our attendance back in the building on a Sunday morning will herald a return towards normality, make a reaffirming statement and witness to the community. That our Lord does indeed have plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us all hope and a future.

Francis B. Robertson
Session Clerk

Diary of Service Delivery

Date		Worship Leader	Service Type	Reader	
March 2021	28 th	Palm Sunday	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Zoom	Catherine Merrylees
April 2021	1 st	Maundy Thursday	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Zoom	N/A
	2 nd	Good Friday	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Zoom	N/A
	4 th	Easter Sunday	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Church	Ron Caird
	11 th		Rev Dr A Chewachong	Zoom	Fraser Ritchie
	18 th	Communion	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Church	Isabel Armstrong
	25 th		Rev Dr A Chewachong	Zoom	Kevin Campbell

Please note that due to the alternating weekly cycle of services between church-based and online, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday 18th April in Church, a week earlier than our normal practice.



There may be changes/additions to this schedule. For up to date information on all services and times, please visit our website www.notchurch.co.uk

Christian Aid

Just Giving - As you may remember from the Christmas Journal I opened a Just Giving page over Christmas and asked for donations for Christian Aid. I also enclosed a slip about the page in all my Christmas cards to family and friends. I had done no fundraising for Christian Aid all year and hoped I might raise about £200.

However when we closed the page the sum of £515 had been donated with £115 of Gift Aid to be added. This was a tremendous response and I would like to thank everyone who gave. I have sent individual thanks to those who left their name but several donors gave anonymously. For them, if they are church members, I can only use this article to give them my heartfelt thanks.

Like many organisations, Christian Aid faces uncertainty with regard to future planning and they have decided to again cancel the sponsored bridge walks in April.

However they are asking supporters to sign up to the annual Kiltwalk instead. This takes place at the end of April but this year will be a 'virtual' Kiltwalk. In essence this means participants set themselves a personal challenge - walk, run, cycle - for which they obtain sponsors for their nominated charity. The Hunter Foundation runs the Kiltwalk and tops up all sponsorship by at least 100% which means it is



very worthwhile taking part.

I heard myself agreeing to take part - definitely a walk! - and would be very happy to hear from anyone else interested in doing so. It may be that we could walk together, if rules allow.

I have no firm plan about the walk - perhaps the Bridge, as usual, or along the Nature Trail - but will aim to do it around the end of April. I am waiting for further information from Christian Aid.

However, a sponsored event needs sponsorship and I would be very glad to have offers of this.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to prowl the church hall, clutching my sponsorship form, during coffee time, which is my normal method of finding sponsors. I will be truly grateful to hear from you. I can be contacted by phone on 543446 or by e-mailing margaret.imlay@btinternet.com.

Thank you and I hope to hear from many of you!

Margaret Imlay

Medical Research Project

This is information on a medical research project who are keen to spread knowledge of their existence.

SHARE - the Scottish Health Research Register and Biobank is a database of volunteers who are interested in assisting and promoting research for improving health. Anyone who signs up will be contacted and offered opportunities to get involved, and this could be to help us write guidelines, complete a questionnaire online, design a study or to take part in a clinical investigation for a disease. The choices are very different and there is no obligation to take part in anything. You choose if and when you would like to be involved. In addition to the permission to contact you, we are asking permission to use any leftover blood which remains following a routine clinical test done by your doctors. This is used anonymously for genetic research looking into how medicines work and why they don't work for everyone.

To register for SHARE today please visit www.registerforshare.org

The Scottish Health Research Register and Biobank (SHARE) is a register of people aged 11 and over who are willing to be invited to take part in research projects, and have also consented to allow SHARE to use any leftover blood following routine clinical testing. This will aid health research and improve future healthcare throughout Scotland.

To register for SHARE today please visit www.registerforshare.org



Youth Update

Well what a year it's been! As I am writing this update for our youth ministry here in Newport-on-Tay, it has been over a year since we went into our first lockdown. It has been a difficult year for everyone. Our young people have experienced a very different school life this year, with exams being cancelled, having lessons at home and online. Yet it has been a real joy seeing our young people online almost every Sunday for the last few months! We are running Youth Cafe every Sunday evening between 7-8pm. We are also running Youth Seekers every second Sunday between 10-10:45am. This gives us time with our young people while reducing the potential of Zoom Fatigue. Please keep our young people in your prayers!



We are hopeful with restrictions easing soon, and more people receiving the vaccine that we can start meeting up in person again! It will probably be outdoors to begin with. As we haven't been able to do in-person meetings with our young people we created Easter Goody Bags for each of our young people! They contained an Easter Egg, some chocolate, an Easter Card and a bookmark with a QR Code on the back that linked to a worship song! We also put them in paper bags so they can be recycled easier! I have included the QR Code to the right.

If you have a smartphone, you can download a QR Code Scanner app. Once it's downloaded open up the app, scan the code and follow the link. This link will take you to a worship song by Hillsong United! We hope you enjoy listening and worshipping along!



Blessings,
Chris Cameron



Easter Story

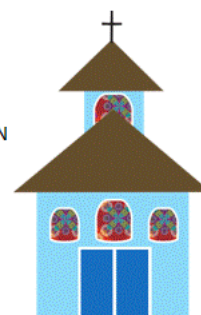
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APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 CAVE
 CHURCH
 CROSS
 CROWN
 CRUCIFIXION
 DISCIPLES
 FAITH
 GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
 JUDAS
 LAMB
 LAST SUPPER
 LENT
 MARY
 MIRACLE
 PASSOVER
 PENANCE
 PENTECOST

PRAYER
 REDEMPTION
 REJOICE
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN
 SAVIOR
 SON
 THORNS
 TOMB



Reflections on a Year like No Other

"Monday March 16th 2020. Day 1 of the Coronavirus crisis. Of course this isn't really the first day, but this is the first day when restrictions actually start to bite. We over 70s have been told to self-isolate and stay away from others. No unnecessary social contact. I'm thinking I will count to a hundred days. If it's not over by then, at least hopefully we will see light at the end of the tunnel."

So began my 100 day coronavirus journal last year, and so began a year which none of us could ever have envisaged, a year which turned normal life for everyone upside-down. One week later, on Monday 23rd, lockdown began in earnest. It was complete and all encompassing. We no longer knew what day of the week it was, our calendars and diaries were empty and we were all quickly adding words and phrases to our vocabulary that we had never really used much before, or giving familiar words new meaning – lockdown, furlough, zoom, socially distant, bubble, blended schooling, and so on. Very soon, school was out, with the children facing an extended summer break from March until August.

Those first weeks of last year's spring lockdown drifted past here in Newport, in a blur of phone-calls, zoom calls, face-timing or whatever, spring-cleaning (for some), gardening (for others) and of course the daily exercise walk. In what seemed like endless days of sunshine we all marched round the Tayfield loop, the Inverdovat loop (for the more energetic), or (for the really energetic) the Scotsraig loop. Walking took hours as we stopped and chatted to everyone else doing the same thing, and we all soon became adept at the pavement quickstep as we danced our way around each other at a distance. Conversations took place from one side of the road to the other, which was no problem at all as there were no cars on the road. I crossed the dual carriageway on Easter Sunday last year and took a photo in both directions – not a car in sight. We were all much more aware of nature's blessings – new buds everywhere, the lambs at Inverdovat, birdsong, the lengthening days and their spectacular sunsets. Later on there was the swan and cygnet family in Tayfield to keep an eye on. How fortunate we were here in Newport is what we all said.

But here in North-East Fife trouble was also not hard to find. The local foodbank has been stretched to its limits as families have struggled with reduced income. There have been illnesses, deaths, job/money worries and mental health concerns. There has been much worry and loneliness for those living on their own, and most of us have desperately missed seeing friends and family. On a wider stage, there has been anger too, at those who blatantly flaunt the rules, whether by travelling unnecessarily, or by participating in large gatherings both inside and out. In supermarkets people selfishly cleared the shelves of essential items, leaving none for exhausted nurses at the end of their shifts. Some of our leaders and those in positions of authority and responsibility have been found to have feet of clay – no names needed here as reminders.

Thankfully, however, coronavirus has also brought out the best in people. Right on our doorsteps, the Rio Community Centre has been doing a sterling job helping those in need. Jigsaws, books and food deliveries have been made, and shopping done by volunteers. Although stretched in all directions, the foodbank has enjoyed huge support from the community. And who can forget the manna baking initiative, when the manna bakers provided baked goodies to NHS and other key workers across Fife and Dundee. An astonishing 268 deliveries were made by local infection control nurse Jackie Donachie between April and August, with the baking all being co-ordinated by our own Morag Rowley. All over the country inspiring community initiatives have taken some of the sting out of this pandemic. And now we know who our real key workers are. They're not the bankers, lawyers, managers etc, but instead the front-line workers in hospitals, care homes, shops, on refuse lorries and so on. How good it was to be able to cheer them every Thursday night.

When I reached the end of my 100 days, we were at the end of June. Lockdown was easing across the country, travel was permitted, and shops and businesses were reopening. There really was light at the end of the tunnel, or so we thought. But my diary sounded a cautionary note... "It is certainly not over, and if there's light at the end of the tunnel, it's certainly not the same light we knew before." How right that was! I remember a friend said to me around that time that she thought there was still quite a chance of catching Covid, but that there was much less chance of dying from it! Small comfort perhaps, and little did we know! By June, Covid deaths in the UK had indeed dropped to single figures per day from almost a thousand at the earlier peak in April. In some ways, summer almost felt normal. We could travel to meet friends and family, some people were brave enough to go on holiday (although in some cases foolish might be a better description....) and shops and restaurants were open for business. Perhaps most normal of all – we all had our hair cut and Santa Clause look-alike beards were trimmed – again, no names needed! But how could it be normal, as we all went about our daily business mumbling to each other from behind face masks?

I'm glad I didn't count another hundred days! I might have been too shocked to find that by October we were indeed finding numbers of both cases and deaths on the increase again. As the situation deteriorated, the eagerly anticipated family Christmas was put on hold for many. By January the situation was at its worst with the number of daily new cases soaring to 68,000 and deaths to over 1,800 on one day. Back into lock-down with shops, businesses, churches and schools all closed again, and families again finding themselves struggling with home working and home schooling, often in desperately cramped conditions.

But in early December had come the news that would help get us through these black days of January and February. A vaccine had been approved for use in the UK! This astonishing scientific achievement immediately brought real hope of an end to the Covid nightmare, and its roll-out to date has been nothing short of miraculous.

So here we are, one year on from the start of it all. What lies ahead now? Well there's certainly a feeling of déjà vu, as we take our first tentative steps out of lockdown. We've been here before, breathing a huge communal sigh of relief and feeling optimistic again. Last year, sadly, the feelings of optimism didn't last long, but this year surely it will be different. This year we are armed (excuse the pun) with the vaccine. Slowly but surely the age level for the vaccine is coming down, and already numbers receiving their second jab are increasing. So I'm inclined to think that yes – there might well be light at the end of this tunnel. As I said in my diary last year, it won't be the same light we knew before. But a different light is fine by me, as long as it works this time. And I'm so looking forward to that haircut!

Mairi Shiels

Annual Accounts

Despite the restrictions of COVID-19, we have managed to prepare our accounts for 2020 and these have been approved by the Kirk Session and by our Independent Examiner. Copies of the accounts are on our website (www.notchurch.co.uk). If you wish a printed copy, please let me know.

Unfortunately, until we come further out of the current restrictions, it will be some weeks until we will be able to hold our Stated Annual Meeting (which will also include a report on the 2019 Accounts).

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any queries you may have, and I shall endeavour to answer them.

Philip Owen
Finance Convener



Sunday Club Update

The Sunday Club has continued on Zoom before Sunday Morning Worship (from 9:45 – 10:15am), with five to eight attending children most weeks. We will let everyone know when we plan to restart face to face sessions once again.

If you know any children who would like to join, please contact Neil through the church website.

We started the year with a focus on the Kingdom of God; enjoyed one session of Godly Play then continued on with Jesus' last week.

See if you can match the themes with the stories in the quiz below:



Epiphany	Jesus' arrest and trial
The beginning of the Kingdom	Jesus welcomes the little children
Jesus calls people to help him	Jesus dies on a cross
The value of the Kingdom	The wise men come to see baby Jesus
Who is important in the Kingdom	The resurrection of Jesus
Welcoming the lost	The story of the baptism of Jesus
The Servant King	Story of Zacchaeus
Washed with tears	The story of the lost treasure
A dark night in the garden	The woman pours expensive oil on Jesus
The sun stops shining	Jesus washes his disciples' feet and shares a meal
Easter Sunday: God's wonderful surprise	The story of the desert and the calling the first disciples

(Answers: 1-4; 2-6; 3-11; 4-8; 5-2; 6-7; 7-10; 8-9; 9-1; 10-3; 11-5)

Update on Sunday Club Sponsorship of Rimberto from Bolivia

As you will know, we have committed to sponsoring through World Vision, Rimberto, a young boy from Bolivia. The children keep up-to-date with Rimberto's progress through frequent reports received from World Vision. This allows them to better understand the lives of children growing up in very different circumstances and to pray for Rimberto and his family and community in a relevant and intercessional way.

Fundraising

Whilst we have not been meeting we have not been having a weekly offering to support the sponsorship of Rimberto. If you would like to support this please get in touch. For further information about World Vision and its work do have a look at their website: www.worldvision.org.uk

Neil Merrylees
Sunday Club Coordinator

manno matters

We are very excited to be reopening on Tuesday 27th April 2021. We will still have lots of guidelines to follow to keep all staff and customers safe. We will be open Tuesdays - Saturdays from 10am - 4pm daily. We will have soup, sandwiches and our lovely home baking.



Our indoor seating will be as it was before we closed in December. We ask all customers to wear a face mask when sitting in unless you are exempt. We also will take your contact details for track and trace purposes. We will have some socially distanced seating outside daily. Dog bowls are available to give refreshment to our four legged friends too.

We can't wait to welcome our customers back.

Diane & the manna team

manno is open Tuesday – Saturday 10am-4pm

manno (01382) 542781

Diane Miller (01382) 541141 & dianemillermanna@gmail.com

Morag Rowley (01382) 541157 & moragrowley.4@gmail.com

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Like every other charity our income has dropped during the COVID-19 pandemic, but we still have almost all our overheads. Last year income from our Open Plate fell by over £7,000 and from Weekly Freewill Offering (WFO) envelopes by a similar amount; thankfully, some more of our members have set up standing orders which has helped to reduce this shortfall. Nevertheless, we did incur a small deficit last year and our best estimate for 2021 shows a projected deficit of £4,000. While not disastrous, this situation cannot be allowed to continue and so your help is requested.

If you have not been able to give your WFO envelopes during the COVID-19 lockdowns, then now is the time to resolve that. We will gladly accept either a small number (even one) of filled envelopes or a sizeable collection of them if you have been dutifully filling one each week! Please feel free to either put them in the offering plate at a service in the church building one Sunday soon, or give them to someone else who will be attending, or get them to Philip Owen, our Finance Convener.

A big THANK YOU to all those who already support us. If you could spare something to support us further, or if you want to know more about setting up regular giving or a one-off donation (this can be either through internet banking or via your own bank branch) – THANK YOU.

If you would like to send us a donation, all cheques payable to Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland and sent to our Finance Convener, Philip Owen – THANK YOU.



Once again, thank you for your support during these difficult times and we look forward to seeing you once again sometime soon.

Philip Owen
Finance Convener

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Next Edition

We hope to produce another edition of the Journal for the start of May. If you would like anything included in the May edition please email newportcos@btinternet.com by Sunday 18th April 2021.

Parish Register

Deaths

27th Dec Mr Ronald Beatt
Newport-on-Tay Dist 98

16th Feb Mr Millar Whitelaw
Newport-on-Tay Dist 32

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Member left by Certificate

Mrs Frances Bignell
From Newport-on-Tay Dist 98
To Aberdour

Towards the Garden

As Mary, standing by the tomb
on the third day
before the coming of the light,
turned in the dewy gloom
blinded by tears
and saw the gardener – who was no
gardener – as with a start
she recognised her Lord, and so
grief with the shadows of the night
melted to joy. . . In the same way
our sadness and our fears
will vanish, when we come to know
the Easter garden of the heart.

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Afternoons and Evenings



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email: AChewachong@churchofscotland.org.uk

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Rev Dr Amos Chewachong (01382) 542893

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Property Manager : Don MacLeod
Telephone: 07730496244

Safeguarding Co-ordinator : Lesley Gray
Telephone: (01382) 543287
email: lesley.gray@talk21.com

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