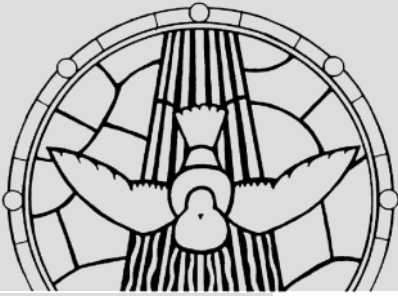


Newport-on-Tay

Church of Scotland Journal

May 2021



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

John 1:35-39

What are you Seeking?



Jesus' first words to the disciples of John were very simple: "What are you looking for?" The question is one of the most fundamental questions of life and it was particularly relevant in Palestine at the time of Jesus because people were seeking out the Messiah for different reasons. Were these two disciples, legalists looking for subtle and obscure conversations about the little details of the Law? Were they nationalists looking for a political demagogue and a military commander who would smash the occupying power of Rome like the Zealots always wanted to do? Were they humble people of prayer looking for God and

for his will, like the Quiet in the Land? Or were they simply puzzled, bewildered sinful people looking for light on the road of life and forgiveness from God? It was an investigation into the actual commitment of the people who wanted to be in his company. Were they ready for the journey of discovering who Jesus really was and what he had come to do? What are you seeking? It is a question that sets up the journey of discovery into the mystery of Jesus. It invites us to get in touch with our deepest heart longings, because in those longings lie the energy that nourishes the search for Jesus and for God.

One of our deepest longings for more than a year has been to be free from this very frustrating time of pandemic and to get back to normal life. And we have often wondered what God is trying to reveal to humankind through this deadly disease! Perhaps one of the great lessons we all have learned from this time of lockdown and isolation is just how important it is for people to be physically in touch with each other and the sense of freedom in general. The absence of that connection because of social distancing has been devastating to mental health and other areas of human life.

We are longing to move out of our homes into places that bring us hope and satisfaction. We want to re-ignite the sense of connection with our loved ones, especially those who are spending their years in Care Homes or other places where they can receive assistance. And we are longing to connect with our church family in the church buildings where we can see each other physically and even shake hands and share in teas and coffees after the service. However, I think we must recognise the sense of kindness, of community, family, and friends that have been inherent during the time of lockdown. This kindness has ranged from providing free meals to vulnerable and less privileged persons of our communities; helping in picking up medications and shopping for the elderly; and providing educational materials to some people for home schooling. There has been a feeling of togetherness, even when apart, through these difficult times - showing the love of God that is in Christ Jesus among the brethren. Going forward, we can bring these lessons into better perspective, bringing more collaboration and kindness into the everyday life and upholding a value system that recognises the needs of our neighbour. And we can learn that in seeking to minister to those needs, we draw even closer to God who calls us to care for one another.

We thank God that by his grace and through scientific accomplishments, we now have vaccines, and the number of covid-19 cases and related deaths are abating! We are beginning to experience real life again. Our church doors are open for worship even if we must not exceed 50 persons in one service. Our manna Café is also open, and people can meet up in that beautiful space for soups and teas and coffees and cakes and a chat.

Continued overleaf ...

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

Minister's Letter continued ...

To meet the spiritual needs of all our church members, we are running two services concurrently each week: one in the church and one via zoom so that those who are still finding it hard to join in physical worship can alternatively worship online. As a church community, we aim to continuously direct our efforts towards our fellow people, towards searching for peace, love, and other avenues that would enable us to live in ways that are helpful in sustaining us together through trying times. It is our conviction that our deepest desires can only be met by Christ our Saviour and Redeemer.

I wish you all a very beautiful Summer months ahead.

Every Blessing

Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Diary of Service Delivery

Date		Church Service Worship Leader	Church Service Reader	Zoom Service Worship Leader	Zoom Service Reader
May 2021	2 nd	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Eleanor Owen	Mr Bill Imlay	Kirsteen Cruickshanks
	9 th	Rev Dr A Chewachong	William Berry	Mr Francis Robertson	Alison Heywood
	16 th	Mr Philip Owen	Ron Caird	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Sheila Johnston
	23 rd	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Fraser Ritchie	Mr Graham Johnston	Claire Owen
	30 th	Miss Claire Owen & Mrs Catherine Merrylees	Isabel Armstrong	Mrs Catherine Merrylees	Jane Campbell
June 2021	6 th	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Kevin Campbell	Mr Bill Imlay	Philip Owen

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

mannn matters

As I write this piece we are preparing to reopen manna. I enjoy working in manna and feel that's where God wants me to be. It's wonderful to give our community a place to gather safely.



We of course have rules and guidance to follow at this time. We have limited seating inside and out. We have a hand sanitising station on entry, face masks must be worn unless seated and social distancing is in place.

Some things however haven't changed - we still have our wonderful home baking for you to enjoy along with fresh soup and sandwiches. All at reasonable prices too.

We are now open Tuesday - Saturday 10am-4pm and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Diane & the manna team

mannn is open Tuesday – Saturday 10am-4pm

mannn (01382) 542781

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

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

Update on Church Services

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Guidance Update for Church Worship

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12

Patience, they say, is a virtue and it is certainly an admirable personal quality, particularly when tested to the extreme in the prevailing restrictive pandemic environment. It is complemented by another saying 'good things come to those who wait' and thankfully our wait to return into our church building has ended and we can now enjoy some further freedoms in terms of the numbers we can accommodate within the building.

From the 26th April 2021, the Scottish Government has removed the cap on the maximum number of people allowed to attend a place of worship at any one time in protection levels 0-3. Each congregation however, will be responsible for establishing their buildings capacity level based on guidance provided by the Scottish Government.

From 17th May 2021, congregations will be legally required to publicly display their buildings' capacity at the entrance of their buildings. Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) will be responsible for the enforcement of the Physical Distance-Based Capacity (PDBC) limit, and we can expect a visit from our local authority's environmental health department to discuss our established occupancy limits. It will be an offence to permit anyone into our church building in excess of the declared PDBC. We are also encouraged to publish our PDBC on the church's website.

Additional volunteers will be required to assist and support the existing list of Stewards to ensure compliance with the control measures we have in place. Anyone willing to volunteer should intimate their interest to myself by e-mail (fbrfbr12@gmail.com).

Also from 26th April 2021, informal hospitality can now also resume in places of worship in protection levels 0 to 3. This includes refreshments after services, coffee mornings and lunch clubs. However, there are significant restrictions in place in terms of social distancing, face coverings, table service, etc., which would effectively inhibit the level of 'social interaction' we normally enjoy. It is therefore considered impractical to restart our after-service hospitality provision at present.

As you may know, from 2nd May we are moving into a further 6-week trial period, during which we will be offering two concurrent morning services. One will be held in the church building and the other online via Zoom, both at 11am. During this time, we will also be exploring the possibility of integrating certain elements of the church service into the Zoom service and ultimately defaulting to a single church-based service broadcast 'live' via Zoom.

For the time being, you will still require to book for the church services, 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 may 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 no singing is permitted.

Now that the restrictions are easing we hope to see more of our worshippers returning to worship with us in the Church.

Francis B. Robertson
Session Clerk

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Youth Update

Hi everyone, I hope you are well and are enjoying being able to go further afield and visit friends and family now that restrictions are easing!

As a youth group we are still unable to meet in person at this current time, but are working hard behind the scenes, to be ready to meet when restrictions ease even more so!

Currently for Youth Seekers we are going through the Sermon on The Mount and learning a lot about how we should live like Jesus in our daily lives. We are going to be learning more about how to worship, being wise in the decisions we make and giving our worries over to God, amongst other things.

For Youth Café, we are looking through a few videos done by The Bible Project that are up on YouTube. I have linked the most recent video we looked at on Genesis 1 via a QR Code that is below. I'd highly encourage you to check it out, as we all learned something, even though it is one of the most known passages in the bible. Every so often as well, we have a games night where we play online games such as Among Us and Codenames.

If you could, pray for our Young People as they are now recently back to full time schooling. Please pray that they would be kept safe, and pray specifically for our older teenagers as they are preparing their final pieces of work for their grades this year as well as studying for in school exams.



Blessings,
Chris Cameron

Sunday Club Update



*Sunday
Club*

The Sunday Club has continued virtually on Zoom for half an hour each Sunday from 0945 – 1015. This allows anyone taking part to join the main service if they want.

We continued meeting through Lent, Holy Week and Easter and so were able to share together Bible stories about the Passion of our Lord Jesus and the wonderful News of His Resurrection. In the past few weeks we have been looking together at some stories about the Risen Lord.

We have had 5-8 children most weeks. If you know of anyone else who would like to join, please let me (Neil Merrylees) know and I can arrange for you to complete the appropriate forms and let you have the weekly link.

As restrictions start to ease we hope to be meeting face to face in the not-too-distant future but still haven't set a date for that.

Neil Merrylees
Sunday Club Coordinator

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week runs from 10th-16th May this year.

Gift envelopes will be in the pews on Sunday 16th May for anyone who wishes to donate. The envelopes can be returned to me, put in the offering plate or popped into the boxes marked "Christian Aid" at the entrance/exit doors in the Church. The boxes will stay in place until the following Sunday for anyone returning envelopes then. If anyone is unable to attend church but would like an envelope please contact me on (01382) 543446.

Kiltwalk for Christian Aid

On a lovely sunny morning Muriel McCabe and I completed our sponsored round trip of approx. 3 miles on the Nature Trail. As I explained last month the Kiltwalk adds 50% to money raised and Muriel and I would like to thank everyone who has sponsored us. To date we have £225 with a few donations still to come. This means Christian Aid will receive something over £340. This is much more than Muriel and I estimated we might raise so again thanks to all who helped.



Margaret Imlay

Try Praying Initiative

A lot of you will have (I hope!) been aware of the Trypraying banner and booklets which have been outside the church since the first lockdown last year.

This is the tenth year of this outreach to people who don't "do" church by the small Trypraying team based in Edinburgh. I would encourage you strongly to look at their website: www.trypraying.org where you can find out more.

The free little booklets are beautifully produced and the simple idea is that those of us who do believe should use the booklet for a week and then "lose it" by giving it away to someone you come across or know whom you feel could benefit from it. We are also continuing to make the booklets free for the taking from outside the church.

Approximately 70 booklets have gone over this last year and I have personally given away several to people in difficult circumstances over this past year and any feedback has been very positive.

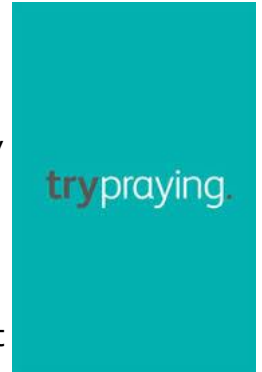
We will be putting up a new banner very soon and replenishing the leaflets both outside and inside the church (now that we are back to using the church building) as part of the 2021 initiative which sees posters on buses throughout Scotland (and also in some English cities) and an increased presence in social media.

As Christians we are commissioned by Christ to go and make disciples and yet we all find this very difficult, particularly in this age we live in. This is such a simple idea at heart, giving us something to give to those we already know or come across. So many are lost or hurting but would not think of crossing the door of a church and who do not make any link between their situation and this "God business".

I would encourage you to take a leaflet and take some time over a week to look at it. Then ask God for you to be given the opportunity to "lose it" in a gesture of love and compassion towards someone who does not know God but who needs him.

Thank you

Alison Heywood



Life and Work Magazine

The May 2021 edition of the Life and Work magazine contains articles on :-

The Privilege of Democracy - Thomas Baldwin explains why churches have a key role to play in this month's elections to the Scottish Parliament

'A Cherished Part of the Church's Tradition' - The Rt Hon Baron Wallace of Tankerness QC looks ahead to his year as Moderator-Designate to the 2021 General Assembly with Lynne McNeil, as he encourages elders to serve more widely in the Church of Scotland

Assembly 2021 - Timetable and reports to this year's General Assembly, which will be held online

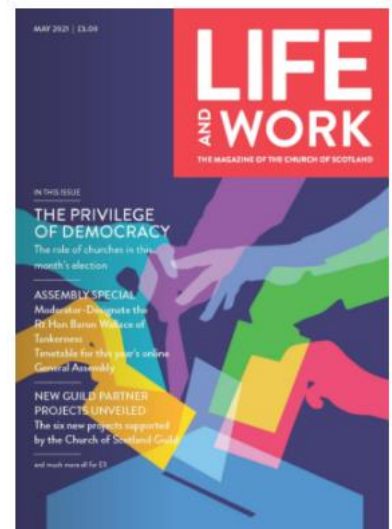
God's Table - The first in a new series of Bible studies by the Very Rev Dr Derek Browning, focusing on hospitality

Kirk Session Records Launched Online - More than a million pages of local Church of Scotland records have been published online for the first time

New Guild Partner Projects Unveiled - The six new three-year projects adopted by the Church of Scotland Guild

Our Planet is Changing - Val Brown of Christian Aid Scotland introduces the campaign for this year's Christian Aid Week

If you would like to subscribe to this monthly magazine, the official Church of Scotland publication, please get in touch with Jane Johnston on (01382) 541606.



Messy Church

Do you have a heart for children and families?
Are you interested in making disciples of all ages?
Would you like to be involved with outreach for children and families but don't know how to go about it?
Do you like getting Messy with crafts, baking and other activities?
Do you have a passion to pray for the community?

If you have answered YES to one or all of the questions, I would love to hear from you.

Messy Church is a form of Church for children and adults that involves Creativity, Celebration and Hospitality. It meets at a time and a place that is suitable to those who may not belong to any Church. It involves Welcome, Activity Time, Celebration or Worship and a Meal, and would usually meet once a month.

I am looking for a core team of 3-4 people, who have a heart and a passion for children and families, to help set up Messy Church in Newport-on-Tay.

If you are interested, please do get in touch by email, with the heading being 'Messy Church Core Team'.

Over the coming weeks and months, the core team will be looking for volunteers to help in a variety of roles, including but not limited to, Welcoming, Registration, Crafts and Activities, Cooks, Prayer and Worship. This is a unique opportunity for the entire congregation to be involved in!



Blessings

Chris Cameron

youthworker.notcos@outlook.com

Editorial

In some ways I can't believe we have had 4 months of this year already. In other ways it feels like they have dragged on and on. The new 'normal' gets a bit wearing after a while. Whilst speaking to people when out on a walk there are usually 2 or 3 main topics of conversation—haircuts, vaccines, walking! Up until now there hasn't really been much else to do apart from get out and go for a walk. It's been lovely over the past few weeks walking round by Inverdovat, seeing the little lambs and then watching them grow.



When we were allowed to reopen our church building for services again it seemed fitting that our first Service was on Easter Sunday. A change from last year, when we celebrated Easter online. This year only 50 could attend the service in the church. Progress but not normal yet. Hopefully next Easter will see us able to worship and celebrate in the church with a full congregation and some singing!



This past year has seen many changes - a slower pace of life, taking up a new skill, rekindling a skill from years ago, video calls instead of meeting up, working from home, getting outside for a daily walk, church services on Zoom, keeping a distance from friends and family as if you/they have the plague! Some of these changes have been welcomed, some will stay, some will not. Our church has experienced changes but at the same time it has remained constant.



Just like God's love for us. Whether we are worshipping online, or in church regularly or just when we feel able He is always there for us. When we are happy, sad, struggling, excited, He is there for us. The poem footprints reminds us of this — "The Lord says, 'During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you'."

However the next month goes, whatever plans you have, I hope that 'normality' is not too far away. Our church is now open for weekly 11am services, manna is open again, shops are opening, the vaccination programme is continuing and there is definitely hope for brighter times ahead.



God Bless
Claire

Parish Register

Death

24th Mar Mrs Jacqueline (Jackie) Fearn
Wormit Dist 26

Change of Address

Miss Cheryl Caird
From:- Wormit Dist 24
To:- Newport Dist 34S

Next Edition

We hope to produce another edition of the Journal for early June. If you would like anything included in the June edition please email newportcos@btinternet.com by Sunday 23rd May 2021.

You're Always There for Me

When the world comes crashing in
And chaos rules my mind,
I turn my heart to you, Lord,
And pure, sweet peace I find.

You lift me out of trouble
You comfort me in pain;
You nourish, heal and cleanse me,
Like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of joy and bliss,
When things are going right,
You lift me even higher,
And fill me with delight.
You listen to my prayers;
You hear my every plea;
I'm safe because I know
You're always there for me.

Joanna Fuchs

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