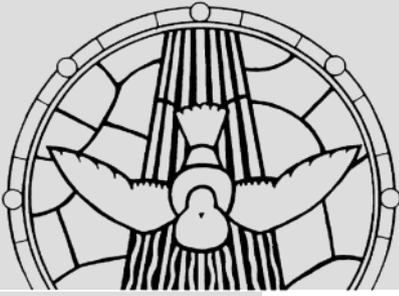


Newport-on-Tay

Church of Scotland Journal

Summer 2021



MINISTER'S MESSAGE - "We'll understand it all by and by".

Late in the nineteenth century, W.B. Stevens, a preacher in the little crossroads village of Queen City, Missouri was devastated because his young son had died suddenly. He had counselled many people who had lost loved ones. He had given them the right Bible verses, and he had prayed with them and comforted them, but this sorrow struck home. He wondered if he could keep preaching; recently his sermons seemed hollow. How could a loving God allow such a horrible thing to happen? Why do good people suffer, and bad people prosper? Why me, God, why me? Stevens wrote down his thoughts in a poem. He had no easy answers, only the assurance that 'we'll understand it all by and by'. That simple poem expressing a father's heartache later became one of the best-known gospel songs to comfort others with heavy hearts.

I am one with a heavy heart as I write this message, because of the passing on to glory of my father. However, my sorrow is nothing compared to that of Mr Stevens because the loss of a young son must be quite devastating compared to losing a father at a ripe old age. Yet still, the love that we have for those who have been near and dear to us for the most part of our lives and the memories of exiting times bring tears to our eyes and grief to our hearts, whether they die young or die at an old age.

My father - Mr Daniel Che Wachong - rested on the 18th of June 2021 at the age of 79. The news was brought to us while Florence and I were having such a wonderful time away to the town of Oban in celebration of Florence's birthday. We had just visited the Dunollie Museum and were walking along the river, basking in the bright sunshine, when my phone rang. My elder sister had called from Cameroon to announce the sudden death of my father. Florence's birthday celebrations on the 17th had been spoiled by the news of my father's passing the very next day. The sequence of events exemplifies the story of life from birth and life celebrations to death and eternal life for those who love the Lord.

As a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, I have had the opportunity to solidarise with people who are mourning, and I have taken many funeral services. I have spoken to people who could not control themselves because the pain of death was overwhelming. I have read biblical texts about death and said prayers to comfort those who mourn. And I have preached edifying sermons to help people overcome their sense of loss. However, some persons, unable to cope with their loss and the place of God in tragic circumstances of death, especially when young people die, have fallen away from the faith. Why me, God, why me? They continue to ask!

The story of Mr Stevens is our story and the story of so many people across the world who are grappling with bereavement and the unanswered questions of death. But when death takes a loved one from us, what is left for us to do is cherish the moments we shared with them in their lifetime. I am happy that I took time to visit with my father severally (recently??) and spent some very wonderful moments with him. I last had a great dinner with him in February of this year in Cameroon and was privileged to know that he was satisfied with how much he had enjoyed from this life and contributed too! But most especially what he was still contributing through the many children he had brought forth and raised. I will remember my father as a good father and a strict disciplinarian whose values and ethics have shaped me into the kind of person I am.

As we mourn our loved ones and continue to seek answers to the questions of life and death, I pray that the chorus of the hymn that was born out of the poem of Mr Stevens following the death of his son, will give us comfort and hope:

'Farther along we'll know all about it
Farther along we'll understand why
Cheer up my brother, live in the sunshine
We'll understand it all by and by'.

Can I ask for your prayers for Florence and me as we leave for Cameroon on Monday the 5th of July to participate in the funeral of my late father. And may God continue comfort all those who mourn.

Every Blessing

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

Worship / Covid Update

Following the conclusion of the recent trial, the Kirk Session agreed to continue the practice of one Service being conducted (in the Church building) and for this to be streamed online via Zoom to those unable to attend in person. This has shown that the principle can be achieved, though in a relatively basic format and consideration will be given after the summer with regard to whether something more elaborate and efficient (and expensive!) is to be investigated and developed.

Due to the sudden death of his father in mid-June, Amos has been granted compassionate leave by the Church of Scotland to allow him to return to Cameroon for his father's funeral and to be with his relatives. During his absence, the Services will be conducted by our Worship Team and pastoral cover will be provided by Rev John Duncan of Leuchars St Athernase (Tel. 01334 870038). Along with the whole country, it certainly looks like we are slowly but surely moving towards the easing of the restrictions placed upon us by the current pandemic.

Following the conducting of rigorous risk assessments, we have enjoyed a whole month of congregational singing – though muffled by the requirement to continue wearing face coverings. Indeed, our choir has recently been allowed to regroup (without face coverings while leading worship – i.e. singing) albeit social distancing requirements mean that only seven of its members can gather together in the Chancel each week and their pre-service practices have been held in the hall as the Choir Room is too small.

While current regulations make it impractical for us to gather in fellowship over tea/coffee in the hall post-Service, a trial was held on Sunday 27th June when a table was set up outside the Kirk House porch and a limited number of people (i.e. Margaret Imlay) served those who stayed behind in glorious sunshine; hopefully, this is a sign of what can be achieved and will be repeated each week.

Also in the pipeline, but a little later, will be the return of pew cushions (although they will need cleaned each week after use), pew bibles and hymn books, printed orders of service, etc. Hopefully, the changes planned by the Government for 19th July will see the social distancing measures reduced to 1 metre indoors and removed altogether outdoors.

As restrictive measures have eased, our weekly attendance has slowly but surely increased, and it is hoped that the changes to come will encourage those who have not felt able to join us in person on a Sunday morning to come along and help us all to worship together in a safe environment.

mannn matters

Usually manna is quieter over the months of July and August as many people leave the village to enjoy holidays, often abroad. This year we are not sure what to expect as staycations are all the norm now. We hope that this summer will be different. We hope that new customers will find us the warm and welcoming place to visit that our regular, local visitors do. Our menu remains simple with a selection of sandwiches, soup, home-baking and ice-creams too for you to enjoy when the days are warm and sunny.



Our gift sales are good for the time of year. We have a selection of new jute bags which arrived last week. We received another batch of cards from Gina Wright which are always popular. Our rainbow ceramic teapots, plates and mugs would cheer up any kitchen!

Whatever you and your friends and family are doing over the summer months we wish you a safe and happy time.

Please keep us in your prayers.

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

Global Hunger Appeal

Christian Aid are asking for urgent help with a global hunger emergency. They estimate that over 30 million people in 20 countries are facing famine. Money raised will provide clean water, food, seeds & tools. Christian Aid are working with Give Star which provides an online Giving page and have set up a specific page for our church. To access it go to <https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/newport-on-tay-church-of-scotland-global-hunger-appeal>.

For more information or ways to donate please visit our church website www.notchurch.co.uk

Margaret Imlay

Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone in the church family who sent prayers, good wishes, cards and flowers to us after Neil's unfortunate accident at work. He has made an excellent recovery. Thanks again.

Morag, Neil, Andrew and Peter Rowley

Sunday Club Update

The Sunday Club continued virtually on Zoom until the end of term and we concluded on 20th June. It continued to run for half an hour each Sunday from 0945 – 1015. This allows anyone taking part to join the main service if they want.

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

We plan to resume at the start of the Autumn term. We hope that this will be face-to-face. We are keen that all the children who have been attending will be able to continue, but if any have travel problems please do let us know and we will see what we can do.

In the meantime have a great summer.

Neil Merrylees
Sunday Club Coordinator



Youth Update

Hi everyone! I can't believe that summer is already here! It has been an interesting past year or so for everyone. We have run Youth Seekers and Youth Cafe over Zoom for all of the past school year. There is hope that rules are easing and we aim to have a couple of in-person events to see our young people outside of Zoom! More information for these events will be sent via email. The last couple of months we finished our series on 'The Sermon on the Mount' where we learned how to love a Christ-filled life through the lessons that Jesus taught. We also did a couple of quizzes recently over Zoom!

Please keep our young people in your prayers as they all prepare to move to the new Madras College in the new school year. Please also pray that as our young people enjoy the summer, that they would keep safe and well!

Blessings
Chris Cameron



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 still 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 get in touch by email with the heading 'Messy Church Core Team'.

For more details please visit the church website www.notchurch.co.uk/index.php/news/

Blessings
Chris Cameron - youthworker.notcos@outlook.com

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Scottish Charity No. SC006758

Next Edition

Our next Journal will be the September edition. If you would like anything included in that edition, please email newportcos@btinternet.com by Sunday 22nd August 2021.

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