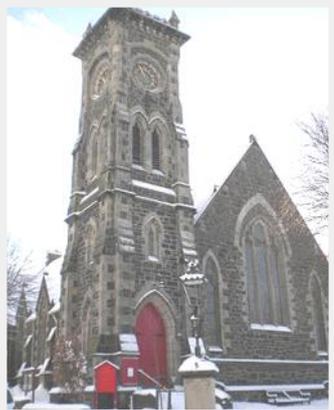
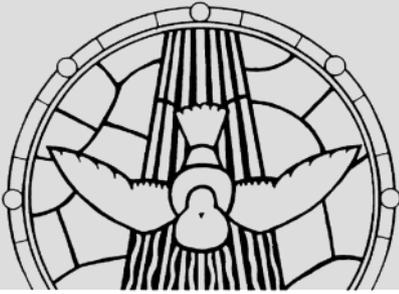


Newport-on-Tay

Church of Scotland Journal

Winter 2020



MINISTER'S MESSAGE - Advent 2020

'Broken Futures' and the Christ Child

The year 2020 has been a very challenging one for all of us. The outbreak of Covid-19 and its global spread has had life-changing consequences on humanity and shown us how fleeting our years in this life are! It is estimated that, over a million people worldwide have died from the virus with the United Kingdom losing almost 60,000 people from that number. We have spent most of the year confined to our homes, working virtually and unable to fully enjoy the traditional family and friendship bonds that hold people together in love and give mutual sense of hope in times of crises. In the midst of the crisis, several interpretations have emerged, including from false prophets who

proclaim ill-fated messages and misleading theologies to suggest that the pandemic is a result of God's wrath upon sinful humanity and a sign that the world is coming to an end. No wonder Tom Wright quickly published his 2020 monograph entitled, *God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and its Aftermath*. Wright challenges any superstitious and presumptuous attitudes towards the virus and invites us to 'consider different ways of seeing and responding to the virus - a way that draws on the teachings and examples of Scripture, and above all on the way of living, thinking and praying revealed in Jesus'. But coronavirus is not the only big issue making headlines this year! The Black Lives Matter Global Network that was re-ignited in the United States of America after the killing of George Floyd by a white policeman, and which swept across the western world challenged institutionalised racism and the marginalisation of minority ethnic groups within nation-states; meanwhile numerous killings in war torn and ravaged countries around the world due to sectarianism or ethnic conflicts again revealed a world that is truly groaning, to use the words of apostle Paul. Further still, the confession of a woman who transitioned to a male as a teenager and now regrets the fact that her feelings were not properly investigated, and the court ruling that children younger than 16 are unlikely to give informed consent for transgender engagements, has once more proven that what God has created no culture should reinvent! The young woman in question remarked: 'gender dysphoria left me depressed and anxious'.

The recent announcement of The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) that the average global temperature in 2020 is set to be about 1.2°C above the preindustrial (1850-1900), making the year on track to be one of the three warmest on record, also signifies increasing climate change problems for our world. All those problems, which are not at all exhaustive, make life on earth more of a burden than a blessing. Our personal lives and work and worship have been completely disrupted and our trajectories of having pleasure and leisure altered. The unpredictability and rapidity of some of the changes have created great anxiety in personal and public lives. Individuals, nations and churches are creatively trying to navigate their way through these changes, and I think there is no better way to express our feelings than in the comments of Gary V Nelson on Leonard Hjalmarson's book, *Broken Futures: Leaders & Churches Lost in Transition*, published in 2018:

We live amidst the collision of cultures and of worldviews, and the collapse of the Enlightenment synthesis. Rapid and unpredictable changes generate anxiety within us and stress within the organisations we lead. Individuals, institutions and whole communities are in transition. "Church" and "Christian" now carry baggage they didn't possess, and have different meanings relative to individual experience. Thankfully, we have guides who through the centuries have gone before us, entering into the paradox of pilgrimage, getting beyond the polarities of movement and stability.

Continued overleaf...

Minister's Letter cont...

Within these broken futures of unpredictable changes, challenges and anxiety, Christian people have an expectation and a hope that is anchored on the birth of a child. 'For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called wonderful counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9:6). The prophet Isaiah spoke into a situation where Judah felt powerless because their enemies only seemed to grow in strength and tighten their grasp, and they did not know if God was for them or against them or if he had simply abandoned them.

That is how most of us feel today! In the midst of a virus that is threatening the security of humanity on earth, conflicts and wars that have gone on for far too long, poverty and disease in poorer countries, the marginalisation of sections of society within nation-states, and a significant loss of confidence in democratic principles to solve human problems. However, among Isaiah's prophecies about their future defeat, exile, and return, he included two prophetic visions of a child who would represent God's presence, embody his characteristics, and bear the responsibility of governing his people. That prophecy was about Jesus Christ. Immanuel means God with us and it is an encouragement that God is indeed on our side, an assurance that by the time this child is grown, we would not be defeated.

The presence of a vaccine for Covid-19 Coronavirus signifies hope and a return to normalcy in the world, but the expectation and birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour gives Christian confidence that we are not alone in our struggles. As we look forward to Christmas and to receiving the Christ child, and as we look forward to the New Year, 2021, with renewed confidence, let us 'rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation and be constant in prayer' (Romans 12:12).

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, 2021.

Every Blessing,

Rev Dr Amos Chewachong



Update on Church Services and our Parish

Following the conclusion of our second trial, the Kirk Session have agreed to continue with the current single Sunday Service strategy, alternating between 'physical' Church Services and 'virtual' on-line Services using the Zoom Conferencing Platform. The Schedule of Services over the Christmas period is printed elsewhere within this journal.

For those of you who regularly attend our Church Services, we thank you for following our booking process and adhering to our safe distancing guidance and hygiene protocols when in Church.

'I am the Lord, I do not change' Malachi 3:6

Many of you will be aware that significant change is proposed within our North Fife Cluster of Churches. The 'Well Equipped Spaces in the Right Places' consultation undertaken by the General Trustees identified resources considered essential for worship, mission and outreach both currently and in the future. Buildings which can no longer be cost-justified or considered to serve a meaningful purpose will be sold, with other local assets, e.g. community halls, becoming the focus for Worship Services in the future. Our own buildings were rated in the highest category and will therefore be retained.

In conjunction with this property review, the Presbytery Plan and North Fife Cluster Plan have identified the need to rationalise Parish (Congregational) boundaries to reflect the significant reduction in Ministers anticipated within our Cluster.

'The Presbytery has agreed (without dissent from any member of the Presbytery including those from the North Fife Parishes) that 2 FTE ministry positions be allocated to the North Fife Cluster.'

Correspondingly, a proposal to establish two Parishes from existing congregations by June 2021 has been agreed in principle by St. Andrews Presbytery, the membership of each enlarged Parish however remains undecided and will ultimately be determined by the new Presbytery of Fife. A further proposition has been aired proposing a subsequent merger of these two Parishes into one large Parish after 2024. The wording '2 FTE ministry positions' (Full Time Equivalent) rather than two Ministers has intentionally been employed to offer a degree of flexibility in the future, as this allocation could represent 2 Ministers of Word and Sacrament, or one Minister of Word and Sacrament and a Mission Worker, or any combination of these and other full and/or part-time positions.

We, the Kirk Session, will endeavour to keep you up to date with all subsequent developments.

Francis B. Robertson, Session Clerk



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 for more details.

Christian Aid

It's a long time since I wrote about Christian Aid but over the last months I have been receiving regular up-dates from them.

This year Christian Aid is 75 but almost all of their regular fund-raising has been affected by the virus - no door-to-door collections in Christian Aid Week, no Bridge Crosses, no real breakfasts or lunches, only virtual events. The result is that, like most charities, their income has been badly hit.

But the virus knows no geographical boundaries and Christian Aid is aware of the devastating effects it is having in countries where they are working. They have been providing simple measures which can make a big difference and measures we take for granted - clean water, soap, basic medical supplies. As in the West, livelihoods and incomes have been affected by the virus and families require basic help to get by. If you go online to Christian Aid's website you will find information on their work.

As usual, Christian Aid has a Christmas Appeal and this year it is focussed on the effect of climate change, particularly in Ethiopia. Climate change and its effects is, of course, the other huge looming problem for us all.



As I have not run any fund-raising event this year, I decided to set up a Just Giving page for the Christmas Appeal and if anyone would like to contribute to this, please go to www.justgiving.com/margaret-implay . I will be very grateful for donations and would remind you that you can gift aid if you pay tax.

There are several Christmas events on the Christian Aid website but I thought the following might be of particular interest. There is a video conversation between Sally Foster-Fulton and Rev Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the Church of Scotland at www.christianaid.org.uk/scotlandchristmas . The same site gives details of a workshop on 'Just Christmas'. This could be used by a small group meeting either in person or virtually.

If anyone is interested in virtual gifts which can normally be ordered via the wee Charity Gifts booklet then go to www.charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk . You can buy cocoa saplings for £9, send a child to school for £15 or provide clean water for a family for £30.

Finally, if you wish to make a donation to Christian Aid but are not happy to do so online then a cheque can be sent. However this should go to the main office in London as Scottish offices are closed and the staff are working from home. The London address is as follows:
Christian Aid, 35 Lower Marsh, London, SE1 7RL.

However, I hope that if you are donating, you will do so through my page above that has been set up by my ever helpful and long-suffering husband who recognised a wife having a meltdown over her online inadequacies and came to her aid.

The address again is www.justgiving.com/margaret-implay

Many thanks and I hope your Christmas is as happy as the times allow.

Margaret Implay



Remembrance 2020

As with many things this year, our Remembrance events were very different but nonetheless poignant. Due to Government restrictions we were unable to invite uniformed organisations to join our morning service and have an Ecumenical Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial. We were however joined by a representative of Fife Council at our Church service and wreaths were still laid at the war memorial later by individuals from the respective organisations and local churches.

Continuing our practice in recent years, the Church bell was rung at 11am on 11th November.



At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
we will remember them.



Christmas Greetings

Wishing all my church family a Christmas season filled with the hope and joy of the Christmas message, in spite of all the challenges of this Covid year.
Alison Heywood



To our church friends and family,
 Merry Christmas and all the best wishes for the year ahead.
 Love **Fiona & Scott Harris** Xx

Kevin, Jane, Jenni and Gillian Campbell wish all our church family a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.



Seasons Greeting and Best Wishes from **Margaret and Richard McNicol**



The Journal Team would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Seasons Greeting and a peaceful New Year to everyone. **Eleanor, Philip and Claire Owen**

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.
 God Bless. **Neil, Morag, Andrew and Peter Rowley**



Christmas Greeting and Best Wishes for the New Year to you all. **Jean Maclean**



Seasons Greetings.
 Christmas blessings to one and all!
 I pray you each stay safe and well, and find comfort in the wonderful Christmas story.
Ann Barona x

Diary of Service Delivery

Date		Worship Leader	Service Type	Reader
December 2020	6 th	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Church	Jane Campbell
	13 th	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Zoom	Graham Johnston
	20 th	Nativity	Church	N/A
(Watchnight)	24 th	Youth-led	Zoom	N/A
(Christmas Day)	25 th	Mrs C Merrylees	Informal / Zoom	N/A
	27 th	Mr B Imlay	Church	N/A
January 2021	3 rd	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Zoom	Sheila Johnston
	10 th	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Church	Isabel Armstrong
	17 th	Mr F Robertson	Zoom	Kevin Campbell
	24 th	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Church	Alison Heywood
	31 st	Mr B Imlay	Zoom	Kirsteen Cruickshanks
February 2021	7 th	Rev Dr A Chewachong	Church	Eleanor 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

Christmas Gifts



In previous years we have collected gifts for disadvantaged children. For the past few years we have supported the Toy Drive who ensure that children across North East Fife get a present and book at Christmas. As 1 in 3 children live in poverty in this area it is a very worthwhile cause.

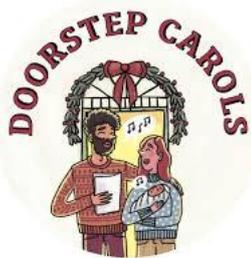
Given the current Covid-situation, the Toy Drive are not collecting gifts this year but they are looking for monetary donations to give each child referred a £10 Amazon voucher. If you would like to support this venture, please visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/toydrive2020 - this page will remain open in the run up to Christmas for anyone wishing to donate.

Foodbank Donations

In the run up to Christmas, the Sunday Club usually arrange a collection of donated items for the Foodbank. This however will not be possible this year. However there is still a need for donations and there is a collection point within Scotmid in the High Street. There is also an online mechanism for making financial donations directly to foodbank if you would like to support the Foodbank that way, please visit www.taybridgeheadfoodbank.org.uk/donate/financial-giving/



Doorstep Sing-along



As we are not allowed to sing indoors or outside in any gatherings, there are a couple of initiatives to have a doorstep sing-along. There is one on Wednesday 16th December at 6pm where carols will be played over the radio for people to sing along to. More information can be found at www.doorstepcarols.co.uk/

Other events are being organised including one by a Carnoustie Church of Scotland minister on Sunday 20th December at 6pm. For more information please visit www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/advent/advent-scots-urged-to-take-part-in-doorstep-christmas-carol-concert

Editorial

Who can believe it is already December? What a year! This time last year seems a distant memory and this time next year seems so far away. In our lives it is all too easy to spend time looking back at what was or what could have been. Or we spend time looking ahead, planning and thinking about what the future holds. But how often do we stop and take stock of actually where we are right now. The present. If this year has taught us anything it's that nothing is guaranteed. We cannot change the past and there are no certainties for the future.

The world around us feels so different. So much has changed. Yet we are still here. The Christmas story hasn't changed. The advent season still continues as normal. However this Christmas will be different to any other we have experienced and probably ever will experience.

I know one of the main things I have really missed this year has been human contact. I hadn't appreciated just how fortunate we were to be able to meet with friends for lunch, to give friends a handshake or a hug, to see our loved ones whenever we wanted, to pop in to a neighbour for a cuppa, to go to work and do the job with the worst bit being stuck in traffic. During lockdown we craved for normal. Things we had previously taken for granted were taken from us. As we prepare for Christmas, we realise it is not the presents that are the most important thing. It is being present. Being there with family - even if it is only allowed for a few days, enjoy every minute (safely). Be present. Be there in that moment. Make memories. Enjoy where you are right now. What happens tomorrow is not guaranteed for anyone.

Whatever you are doing this Christmas, stay safe. Remember the Lord looks over us all. He gave his Son as the best Christmas gift we could ever want so that we could have life in all its fullness. (John 10:10).

Wishing you all a very blessed time over the festive season and a peaceful new year.

God bless
Claire



Youth Update

I can't believe it's been about 7 months since I last wrote an update about our youth programme. I have returned from furlough on a part-time basis. I will be working 3 days a week for the next month. I want to start by thanking Alison Heywood, Fiona Harris, Lesley Gray, Jane Campbell, Catherine Johnston, Graham Johnston and Thomas Seabrook for leading our young people in my absence. Without them our young people wouldn't have any youth groups to attend over the past 7 months.

We are still in uncertain times, where we are unsure about many things, yet we still rely on God and have faith in his plans. We are looking to meet our young folk in person once it is safe to do so. In the meantime we are running Youth Seekers on Sunday Mornings from 9.45am – 10.30am every week. We are also planning a Zoom Christmas Party for Youth Café. More details will follow.

Lastly we have managed to change network providers for my work phone. This means I can be easily reached by phone or text and will aid our ministry while I continue to work from home.

In the next Journal, I will have more of an update in terms of groups and what we are planning to do for our young people in Newport-on-Tay.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.
Blessings,
Chris Cameron



Sunday Club Update

Teaching so far

Sunday Club has continued on Zoom for half an hour each Sunday from 9.45am – 10.15am. For the past couple of months, we have been talking about the theme of relationships using examples from the Bible – both the Old and New Testaments. We have looked at examples from the lives of the Patriarchs amongst others as well as from the life of Jesus and have seen what we can learn from these about our relationships with each other and with God.

Nativity

The nativity service will be similar in some ways to previous years, but also very different this year. It will be similar in that Jane Campbell has once again written a really innovative script which will portray the familiar events from a different perspective. However, it will also be very different in that we will not have all the children together in one place. However, we plan to record them in advance and merge it with the live event. Come along to the church or join the Zoom service to find out more!

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.

General Information

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



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mannna matters



Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far this year. There has been a lot going on behind the scenes since we decided to reopen. Our management team has helped to make the best decisions for manna going forward.

We have a little gift stall outside manna weather permitting which is proving popular. Christmas cards are selling fast. We have many gifts including gift cards available. Please consider shopping and supporting local where you can. We are extending our opening hours for December now not closing until 4pm. We will be closing at 4pm on 24th December and reopening on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Our Christmas window was decorated by Sarah who has done a lovely job, cheering up our part of the high street.

We have a few more returning volunteers Amanda and Laura who are both currently on furlough and happy to help. We are very grateful for their support.

We wish you all a merry Christmas and every blessing for 2021.

Diane & the manna team

mannna is open Tuesday – Saturday 10am-4pm

mannna (01382) 542781

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

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



Christmas from the Holy Bible

I M G X R T K V B I Z V Y P D S Q T G O E P J M
M B M J J V C C I Z D I E C A Z P S Q F U B D U
M E H E L H T E B Z X R C J I J E S U S E M R G
K S K K Q F A V V M D G I T Q I N U G A V K V H
J D F I Z D O G X N N I O B F K N O R S V I N T
Y R X N H P N H I A W N J N U F H T D I G O N Y
J E M G D C B K C N J T E G L P H D T L J A Q J
M H Y O G S Q R Q L S T R O E V L G L O O D K L
T P R A B E W I H I I Z C S Y A G Q Y R G G A D
B E R H H T R I B V K K O V M X X Q T N T U T A
T H Y I A E A G P M S J Z B T F Q T H S Y Y T F
P S H K C H O A P D E U V L E U N A M M E S R V
R K D B R A T S F F K D M M A R Y O E E E A P J
F H A L L E L U J A H N U V Y J R V C Q N N K B
G W A Z D G P M W K H S H U A H N P J K F Q Y Z
L Y C E Y A H J P O A X L E N B Q K I Z R W J R
Y E S H X Q T N L V K L O P Q W L N Z H I P L W
S K H H N K F Y I C N R X S T Q C P H G I M S R
L N J R U X S O Y I P L S T K E K W A H A O J L
E O L E P P R E Q W N B M R N V Z M S N A P Q M
G D F O I C H R I S T M A S X F G R G Z X R T K
N X G R I Y J Y U R C A E V F T O E D Q L Y G T
A U I K R E T A L U C A M M I W R D D J Y Q Z A
W T F W C O N F C Z Y E J H Q T K N O Q S K I E

Angels	Bethlehem	Birth	Christmas
Donkey	Earth	Emmanuel	Flocks
Frankincense	God	Gold	Hallelujah
Holy Spirit	Immaculate	Inn	Jesus
Joseph	Joy	King	Lamb
Magi	Manger	Mary	Myrryh
Rejoice	Savior	Shepherds	Star
Virgin	Worship		



Next Edition



We hope to produce another edition of the Journal for the start of February. If you would like anything included in the February edition please email newportcos@btinternet.com by Sunday 24th January 2021.

Parish Register

Deaths

7th Nov Mr John Fraser
Newport-on-Tay Dist 34

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

CHRISTMAS FUN!

Who would have thought that we would hear these two words in the same sentence this year?

Whilst we are allowed to create "Bubbles" for a few days over Christmas, some Bubbles Baubles are hidden in this Journal. How many can you find?
Answer in the February edition.



mana December Opening Hours



Tuesday - Saturday 10am-4pm



Christmas Week

Tuesday 22nd December 10am-4pm
Wednesday 23rd December 10am-4pm
Christmas Eve 24th December 10am-4pm

Then closed until Tuesday 5th January 2021

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Safeguarding Co-ordinator : Lesley Gray
Telephone: (01382) 543287
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