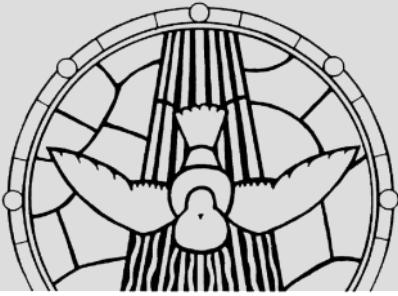


# Newport-on-Tay

## Church of Scotland Journal

September 2020



### MINISTER'S MESSAGE

#### Church in a Time of Covid-19 and Beyond!



When Rev Peter Neilson and his team submitted their report of the special commission Anent Review and Reform to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2001 entitled 'A Church Without Walls', we would hardly have imagined that they were being prophetic. Their report partly advocates for the deterritorialisation of church ministry and the flexibility of structures, which consider the networks of people and virtual communities that may sometimes be transient. This is important because in their view, 'society is such that everybody lives in a parish, but nobody lives in a parish. People belong to networks of friendships, work and leisure pursuits..., but apart from rural communities, the virtual community of the...internet may be more real than the neighbour next door'. It seems to me we are at a point where the church is clearly from everywhere to everywhere through its virtual connections and the seeming

'domestication' of God is no longer fashionable.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 and the lockdown that followed, everything has changed, and many of us are wondering whether 'normal' would return! be it normal in the sense of pre-Covid-19 or what is now commonly referred to as the new normal. There is an increasing anxiety about the future of the church after a significant time of no church in terms of buildings and physical contacts. But, did no physical church services mean no church at all? One of the great lessons that we have learned during this time of lockdown is that God is not hidden behind some church walls but is everywhere and can be worshipped and reached in different ways. The knowledge of this fact dawned on the Israelites when they were in exile in Babylon, because there, they realised that God was not locked up in the Temple in Jerusalem. And thank God! Their exilic experience was hopeful because of their expectations for returning home to normality, unlike diaspora, which is often 'a practice of life and faith among those who are far from home, who settle in new contexts that become home, with no serious expectation of returning home or returning to an old normality'. I think that striking the right balance between being in 'exile' (out of church buildings) and returning to physical church services is crucial for this moment.

We are grateful to God that during this time of lockdown, prayer and online church services have continued all over the world, and ministers and other lay leaders of congregations have become increasingly inventive through mediation and the media in order to meet the spiritual and other needs of the people. Here in Newport-on-Tay, we started with recorded services during the first weeks of lockdown in March and have held Zoom services every week since. In order to maintain the fellowship we enjoyed during our normal physical services, we introduced breakout rooms after each Zoom service so that people could chat away with one another and share their news, including any specific areas of support. For those who have not been attending the Zoom services, either because they are not able to do the technology or simply because they do not enjoy this relatively new way of doing church, we have maintained connections with them through phone conversations as part of pastoral care.

As lockdown restrictions continue to ease, we have been allowed to reopen our church buildings to the public and will be returning to church on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Two church services are being planned for each Sunday: a physical church service would be held at 11am and then a Zoom service at 6.30pm.

As we continue to investigate what this new way of life and church means for us and our world, we need to maintain the integrity of the church and deliver truthful, powerful narratives of the gospel among the multiple narratives in our society. How do we preach challenging and compassionate messages that emphasise the bold confidence we have in God and resist our cravings for certainty at a time when the only certain confidence that we have is that we lack all confidence? As a faith community here in Newport-on-Tay, our aim is to continue to deliver the life-giving word of God through our own Christian witness and to strengthen our relationships with one another and with God Almighty. 'The Church works where people join together, building relationships with each other and the community to which they belong. It is through these relationships that the Gospel is spread. In each place the church is different. There is no one model that fits all'.

Every Blessing,

*Rev Dr Amos Chewachong*

# Our Church is Re-opening



September 2020						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Following the Scottish Government's move to Phase 3, in their four-phased approach to the easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, guidance has been published to allow Places of Worship to re-open provided their state of preparedness and proposed mitigation measures can be evidenced and approved through the submission of certain mandatory documents.

The Kirk Session decided by a majority vote to move towards re-opening our Church by firstly undertaking all the necessary inspections and preparatory work; then, secondly, submitting the mandatory documentation (including a Buildings Checklist, a Covid-19 Risk Assessment and details of our proposed Mitigation Measures) for approval to the Presbytery of St. Andrews. At their meeting on 19th August, Presbytery approved our request to re-open our Church in Newport-on-Tay and the Kirk Session resolved to do so on Sunday 20th September.

It was however agreed that a 'Blended' approach should be adopted over the coming months, at least until the current uncertainties surrounding the virus, its persistence in our communities and a proven vaccination programme can be determined. This approach will utilise both the physical Church Service in conjunction with our highly successful online virtual (Zoom) Services. This would give everyone a choice of worship opportunity dependent on their spiritual needs, personal preference, and confidence level.

**However, anyone displaying any of the Covid-19 symptoms should remain at home and heed the Scottish Government's guidance.**

Can I just turn up to Church on the 20th September as normal?

No - the Government have placed strict limits on the number of worshippers who can attend a Service. This limit currently stands at 50 - so, to avoid disappointment we will be trialling a booking system over the course of the next 4 weeks. People who find that we are already fully booked when they register their request will be given a priority booking for the following week.



How do I book a place at a Service?

We currently envisage that you will have a choice of booking process, either online or by telephone. A booking window will be established between 10 am and 5 pm on the Friday leading up to the Service you wish to attend and will allow you to: -

**Doodle**

A) Go online and register your request to attend along with contact details through a software application called 'Doodle'. Precise connection information will be communicated by e-mail nearer the time. If you have not recently submitted an e-mail address to the church - then, please defer to the telephone booking option; or



B) Telephone and register your request to attend along with contact details to (01382) 543034.

The requirement for name and contact details (one per couple/family group) is to satisfy the 'Test and Protect' measures introduced by the Scottish Government, a public health measure designed to identify and break chains of transmission of Covid-19 within the community.

Will access to our Church be different?

Yes, without a doubt - there will be strict adherence to social distancing - employing barriers, ground/floor markings and a one-way system to control the flow of worshippers entering the Church. The church pews have been partitioned to accommodate three types of worshippers - individuals, couples, or family groups. Labels mark seats which can be occupied (green tick) and tape blocks off pews to be left unoccupied.



What hygiene measures are in place?

In terms of personal hygiene measures - you will be required to wear a mask/face covering (unless you have a medical exemption), use the Hand Sanitizers provided, follow Steward guidance and sit in the seat allocated to you. Should you forget to bring your mask/face covering we can provide you with a disposable mask.



Can I sit in my normal pew?

This may happen by chance, but the likely answer is No. You will be directed by a Steward to the next available pew within the appropriate partitioned section. Any personal items which would normally reside within your regular pew have been removed as part of the deep cleaning process and stored away for the time being. Should you wish to recover any such item you should speak to a Steward at the end of the Service.

Will our Worship Be different?

Yes - our worship Services will be approximately 40-50 minutes in length and will follow our normal Service format - including prayers, Bible readings, a sermon and reflection. Although we are not permitted to sing at this time, our Services will include music (Hymns and other inspirational pieces) played by Hannah our organist. All pew cushions have been removed - so, should you wish you may bring your own personal cushion to sit on, but must take it away with you after the Service.



# Our Church is Re-opening



## Family Service

### Will there be a Sunday Club, Youth Seekers and Crèche available?

No – we have agreed to open the Church only in the first instance, certainly for the duration of the 4-week booking system trial. The Sunday Club and Youth Seekers will continue with their online meetings and activities. Worship will however be family friendly and include a children's address with children remaining in the pews.

### What if I feel ill during the Service?

Please retain your mask (if worn) and make your way to the Stewards at the back of the church. They will ascertain your health issue and activate the Covid-19 Safe Evacuation Plan if it is felt necessary.

### How will I leave the Church at the end of the Service?

You will be directed by Stewards when to stand-up, leave the pew and exit the building following the one-way system in place. Social distancing must be adhered to, both inside the building and outside in the church grounds. There will be no teas or coffee served after the Service.



### Can I visit the toilet at any time?



Yes - Stewards will be in place at the front of the Church to guide you to the toilets. Please adhere to the signage and floor markings within the link corridor and outside the toilet entrance. To avoid contact in the common toilet entrance - the ladies will use their normal marked facility, the men however will be directed to the downstairs toilet in Kirk House. Only one person will be allowed to occupy the toilet at any time. Good hand hygiene should be observed using soap and hot water, with paper towels to dry hands before disposing in the bin.

**We look forward to welcoming you back into fellowship in God's House. However, for everyone's safety we ask that you comply fully with this guidance and the general Covid-19 guidance issued by the Scottish Government.**

**Francis B Robertson**  
Session Clerk

## Financial Giving to the Church

During the Covid-19 restrictions, our expenditure continued at almost its usual level, but our income fell by almost £3,000 per month. Our only reliable source of income was from those members whose offerings came direct from their bank by Standing Order. A number of our members have since started to use this method, while some others gave "interim" payments to keep their givings more up to date, and we are very grateful to all those members, along with those who gave the occasional one-off donation.

We also took the decision to place all our employees (including those in manna) on "furlough", meaning they were unable to do any work for the Church (paid or voluntary), but we were able to reclaim 80% of their normal salary from HMRC. These employees are now beginning to return to work and, obviously, our costs are increasing to their normal level.

While we were unable to gather physically on a Sunday morning for 27 weeks and all of our buildings were closed, the income from our worshippers through WFO Envelopes and the Open Plate stopped. We are hopeful that members who use the Weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes have been able to keep up to date with them and now that we are about to resume worship in our church building we hope that, as worshippers return, they will be able to help us to address the missing offerings.

If you do use the WFO Envelopes, please feel free to bring your offerings along one Sunday soon – whether you have been saving in WFO Envelopes each week or simply add it all together in one envelope. If you have previously been accustomed to simply putting cash into the Open Plate, then please be mindful of the times you have not been able to do this over the past 27 weeks!

Also, please note that for the foreseeable future, we will not be using offering bags during the services but instead there will be plates available at the Church doors to receive offerings as worshippers enter or leave the service.

Cheques (payable to "Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland") are equally acceptable and can also be sent or delivered to me at any time (see address on back page).

Thank you in anticipation of your continuing support.

**Philip Owen**  
Finance Convener



*"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Luke 6:38*

## Youth Seekers Update

As most of you will know, Chris (our Youth Worker) has been on furlough since the beginning of lockdown and still is. However from mid-March he was on to Zoom, recognising its potential for maintaining contact with the youth and finding out about safeguarding implications etc. By 20th March he had sussed out Zoom tutorials, selected materials from the Urban Saints Energize material and had got 6 of us lined up on a rota, 2 at a time, to meet Youth Seekers online via Zoom for 30-40 minutes prior to the church Zoom service at 11am! So from March to June, on a weekly basis, Lesley Gray, Alison Heywood, Fiona and Scott Harris, Jane Campbell and Thomas Seabrook bravely tackled Zoom and Energise online (not without some hiccups!). We met regularly with usually about 4 of the youngsters who participated well.

We had a break from the end of June and started up again on 16th August, this time on a fortnightly basis partly due to work commitments for some of the volunteers. Chris was permitted to work briefly to put another wee programme together for us.

We do hope and pray that Chris will be able to get back to work before too long but in the meantime we are offering fortnightly sessions (next one 13th September) from approximately 10.15am to 10.50am on that Sunday morning. Please encourage any youth you know to give it a go. Just get in touch with me and we will take it from there. We are focussing on mental health issues in the current programme running until the end of October.

### Alison Heywood

Tel: 543369

mob: 07719367347

email: [alisonbob@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonbob@btinternet.com)

## Holiday Club

We had plans to hold our Holiday Club during the last week of the summer holidays. Unfortunately due to restrictions and the fact that the children went back to school a week earlier than planned we made the decision not to run the Holiday Club during the summer. We contemplated running the Club one week during the October holidays but as there are still uncertainties regarding restrictions and how we can deliver the club in a similar style to usual we have made the decision to not run the Club this year. We are planning to run a Holiday Club during 2021. Many thanks to everyone who was planning to be involved this year - we look forward to having you involved next year!

**Claire Owen**

## Online Zoom Services

Since the beginning of April we have been running weekly services on Zoom at 11am on Sundays. This has allowed people to come together, see each other and share in worship. We have welcomed not only members of our own congregation but also visitors from other churches and the local community. We also invite everyone to stay behind after the service to chat in small groups. This is a great opportunity to chat to others, share news and stay connected. If you have not joined us yet and would like to find out more, please email [newportcos@btinternet.com](mailto:newportcos@btinternet.com) with the heading 'Zoom Services'.

## Parish Register

### Deaths

21st Mar Mrs Margaret Dawson  
Newport-on-Tay Dist 34S

21st July Mrs Anna Barrie  
St Serfs Care Home Dist 32

### New Members by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs Amanda Wilman and Mr Chris Wilman  
Balmerino Dist 31

### Member left by Certificate

Dr James McKellican  
Newport-on-Tay Dist 18

## GH Handyman Services

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Plastering - General Handyman

All Jobs considered

**Graeme Heywood**

111 Brackens Road  
Dundee, DD3 9QZ  
Mobile: 0781 4527062



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# Manna Baking Project



Early in lockdown, Morag (aka manna star baker) was walking in Tayfield. She met Jackie Donachie, daughter-in-law of Mairi Shiels. They chatted, appropriately distanced of course, and soon the conversation turned to baking – what a surprise! Morag, it seemed, was missing her baking. Indeed, she felt that if she baked any more for her family, she would have to go out and invest in some different sized clothes! Jackie, never one to miss a good opportunity, immediately said. "Bake for the NHS, and I will deliver to all the hospital staff!" (Jackie is an Infection Prevention and Control Nurse, based at Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy, but visits all the hospitals in Fife, from St Andrews all the way to Dunfermline. She also has very useful contacts in Ninewells from when she worked there.)

And so a plan was born. Morag immediately emailed the manna bakers, and asked them to get out their rolling pins and pinnies. She raided the manna cupboard and distributed the baking supplies that were held there. Everyone got busy. However, there was a slight problem. As most of you will be aware, there have been huge shortages of certain items in our supermarkets, possibly the most noticeable being flour, but many other baking ingredients too. During lockdown it seems that everyone wanted to be Mary Berry. But our Mary Berries were not discouraged. Jackie contacted Jamie Scott at The Newport, and he has been selling us flour at cost price. Mairi wrote to all the Dundee supermarkets to ask if they would support us in this venture and Sainsbury's came up absolute trumps. They suggested someone come over and do some shopping. Jackie, as the youngest and least vulnerable, got that job, and she was given a shopping trolley and completely free rein in the baking aisle. It was manna from heaven indeed! Many bags of goodies were delivered to



Morag that morning to distribute to our bakers. Tesco were also helpful, giving us a gift voucher to spend on ingredients as we wished.

Now the task of distribution. Jackie's job takes her to all hospitals in Fife, checking up on hygiene arrangements, a particularly difficult job at the moment. Sometimes, understandably, she is not the most welcome visitor on the ward, but my goodness, how that has changed! Staff are now welcoming her with open arms, even clamouring for visits. In Fife every hospital has been visited, and at the last count, staff in 129 departments and wards across Fife had received sweet treats from our team. Did you know there were ten

hospitals in Fife? – St Andrews, Adamson (Cupar), Stratheden, Glenrothes, Cameron (Windygates), Victoria and Whyteman's Brae (both Kirkcaldy), Randolph Wemyss (Buckhaven), Queen Margaret and Lynebank (both Dunfermline). Dundee is not forgotten, and at Ninewells 29 different departments/wards have been on the receiving end of our goodies. Also in Dundee, King's Cross Hospital, the Royal Victoria Hospital, Carseview, Dudhope Young People's Inpatient Unit and of course the Maggie's Centre have all been included. Jackie always points out that our bakers have all undergone food hygiene training, and all items are individually wrapped. She takes it all very seriously, and has even, occasionally, felt duty bound to do a bit of quality control tasting. All in a day's work, but it has to be done.

I think it's true to say that our project has grown arms and legs. Of course the hospitals were not enough. What about the staff in health centres, in food shops here in the village, in the hub schools that were still operating for key workers' children, and even the police? And so we expanded... Soon we had delivered to the Spar and Scotmid, to our own health centre and pharmacy and to other health centres in Dundee, to Newport and Sidlaw Primary Schools, both being used as 'hubs', and to the police in Dundee. We also began to hear stories about some of our bakers leaving out goodies for local and 'white van' delivery people.

We have also been quite overwhelmed with local support. As news of our venture spread, local businesses and individuals made donations to us. Local artist Morag Muir, disappointed at the cancellation of the Open Studios weekend, decided to host her own virtual Not Open Studios weekend. She made prints of two of her paintings, put them up for sale, and donated all the proceeds to us. Elma Longair made a generous donation to us, as did an anonymous supporter. Knowing that flour was in short supply, Boat Brae handed over all their unused flour to us, and local upholsterer Funky Bobbin has donated a huge supply of ingredients.



We are also delighted to have been able to fulfil personal requests for delivery. In some cases these requests have been made for family members working on the front line, and others have been requested as a special thank you for treatment received.

We have received many messages of thanks and appreciation, particularly from some of the 'behind the lines' workers. Many have stated their intention of coming to visit manna once the emergency is over – Diane and Morag, please be aware! We're not sure just how long our project will continue; in the meantime we are all loving having an excuse to bake, and being able to put a smile on people's faces!



# manna matters



We were delighted to reopen at the beginning of August. Like other places things are different. You have to wear a mask and sanitise your hands on arrival. We have reduced our seating and most tables now sit 2 or 3. Our home baking is as tasty as ever—no change there. We also have a selection of sandwiches. We are not doing soup yet. We have a small group of volunteers helping Morag and I at the moment - Sharon, Andrew, Linda, Kirsteen, Sheila, Lorna and Laura.

Our hours are slightly reduced at the moment and we are open Tuesday - Saturday 10am-3pm. People seem really pleased that we are open again. We feel we are being a blessing once more in our community.

We really need your prayers at this time more than ever before as we go forward in these strange times.

Many thanks.

Diane & the manna team

**manna** is open Tuesday – Saturday 10am-3pm

manna (01382) 542781

Diane Miller (01382) 541141 & [dianemillermanna@gmail.com](mailto:dianemillermanna@gmail.com)

Morag Rowley (01382) 541157 & [rowley.4@btinternet.com](mailto:rowley.4@btinternet.com)

## Youth Café Online

Everyone in the Church Youth is eagerly waiting for when we can meet each week in manna, as we did before lockdown. Back in March Chris, our Youth Worker, set up a series of sessions online with activities and thought-provoking discussions using resources from the Christian Youth Group, Urban Saints. Five of our Youth joined us online through the summer and shared their own stories as we all discussed topics that affect young people's lives and as we discovered what it means to be a disciple today. It was a joy for us to meet with them online each week and give them the opportunity to meet with each other as well. We will be staying with our online meetings meanwhile, but we will be looking forward to when we can all see each other face-to-face.

**Graham and Catherine Johnston**

## Sunday Club Update

### Teaching so far this year

As many of you will probably know, we continued Sunday Club via Zoom during lockdown. We adopted a structured format with welcome and sharing news to start with. This was then followed by a story led on many occasions by a guest storyteller which gave rise to craft activities the children could do for the following week. We had a quiz on the story they had just heard and they showed their craft activities from the previous week to one another. The session then closed with a prayer. The sessions took place between 0945 and 1015 each Sunday until the beginning of August. This meant that they were finished well before the main service started. The theme for the first sessions was 'lockdown' and then we explored 'creation' based on Genesis Chapter 1. I am grateful to Catherine Merrylees for coordinating and running many of these and to all the guest storytellers. Jane Campbell also recorded a Godly Play video which was sent out to the children before they started school and was very well received.



### The term ahead

We have decided not to start back with face to face teaching when the church resumes face to face services on 20th September. We will be starting back online in the first instance and are currently deciding the best date. We will then review the situation after the main services start and decide when to start Sunday Club face to face. If anyone would like to be involved in any way please let me know.

### 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. For further information about World Vision and its work do have a look at their website: [www.worldvision.org.uk](http://www.worldvision.org.uk)

### Fundraising

We are still keen to continue fundraising during this time and if anyone would like to contribute, please let me know.

**Neil Merrylees**

**Sunday Club Coordinator**

# Update on Malawi Safe House - March 2020

As everyone will no doubt remember the church very kindly made a generous donation towards the furnishings of a safe house in Malawi from the Harvest offering in 2019. The progress in putting up the building was delayed by the annual rains which were still going on in mid-February. However the foundations are now laid and hopefully the walls will be going up soon. It is still likely to take two to three months before it is complete. All the organisation, including the build, is being coordinated by a local organisation called Fisherman's Rest. They have worked in an area about twenty minutes drive south of the largest city in Malawi, Blantyre, for more than twenty years. If you want to know more about their work go to: <https://www.fishermansrest.net/about>



The following is adapted from the website (with permission). 'Fisherman's Rest was purchased in 1997 by the Chichlowscy family. Since then it has changed from a family home to a family run lodge, which supports long standing community programmes. Fisherman's Rest is set within an enchanting 500 acre forest with breathtaking views over the Great Rift Valley and our very own nature reserve. For twenty years Fisherman's Rest has been working alongside its communities in the surrounding schools and villages. It is a thriving not for profit Lodge and Nature Reserve, which employs more than one hundred people from the local community.'

Current projects include improving water supply through maintenance of bore holes and pumps, promoting education through school feeding programmes, building classrooms and equipping libraries, and improving the environment through for example tree planting.

Here are some pictures of the build.



Foundations February 2020



15<sup>th</sup> Feb View of Foundations



24<sup>th</sup> March View of Site with Wall to Gable Height



24<sup>th</sup> March : 3 pictures of the site including door and window frames in place



## August 2020 Update

Plumbing and electrics are in and finishing touches being completed. The walls are being painted and the compound made secure.

For more information on this project please email Neil Merrylees at [nm1000@btinternet.com](mailto:nm1000@btinternet.com) with the subject : Malawi Safe House.

# NEWPORT CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

*Our vision is to be a church which inspires people with the Good News of Jesus Christ through our enthusiasm, worship, witness, nurture and service.*

## Church Garden

Graham and Jane Johnston have very kindly been looking after the church garden over the lockdown period but due to work commitments we are looking for volunteer garden helpers to keep the church garden tidy. Please email Sheila Johnston on [sheilamanray@gmail.com](mailto:sheilamanray@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping.



## **DON'T MISS OUT!**

Catch up with the latest 3 Services at:  
[www.notchurch.co.uk](http://www.notchurch.co.uk)

Check out our website and facebook page for news and updates.



If there is anything you would like to see published - lockdown stories, news items, poems, pictures, etc. - please email them to [newportcos@btinternet.com](mailto:newportcos@btinternet.com) for inclusion in future Journals.

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## Contact Numbers

### Minister:

Rev Dr Amos Chewachong  
17 East Station Place, Newport-on-Tay  
Telephone: (01382) 542893  
email: [ACHewachong@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ACHewachong@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### Session Clerk:

Francis Robertson  
Telephone: (01382) 330687  
email: [fbrfbr12@gmail.com](mailto:fbrfbr12@gmail.com)

### Church Office :

3 Blyth Street  
Newport, DD6 8DB  
Telephone: (01382) 543525 (Answerphone)  
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### Pastoral Care Team :

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Rev Dr Amos Chewachong (01382) 542893

**Finance Convener :** Philip Owen  
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**Organist :** Hannah Gibson  
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email: [hannah.gibson1991@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.gibson1991@gmail.com)

**Youth Worker :** Chris Cameron  
Telephone: 07927253827  
email: [youthworker.notcos@outlook.com](mailto:youthworker.notcos@outlook.com)

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