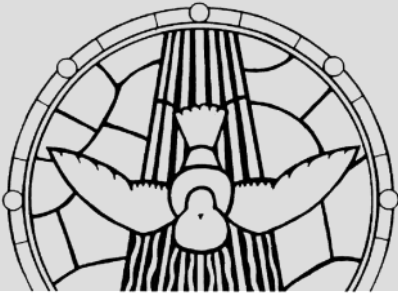


Newport-on-Tay

Church of Scotland Journal

May 2023



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The Tension Between Faith and Doubt: Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension



The tension between faith and doubt is a common experience that has existed throughout human history and continues to challenge our understanding of the world and how we are to perceive God in the general scheme of things. That is why Charles Spurgeon once commented, "I do not believe there ever existed a Christian..., who did not now and then doubt his interest in Jesus. I think, when a man says, 'I never doubt,' it is quite time for us to doubt him." C. S Lewis expressed his concerns when he said, "I think the trouble with me is lack of faith... often when I pray, I

wonder if I am not posting letters to a non-existent address." However, the tension between faith and doubt is more revealing in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

The resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ are central events of the Christian faith. They are the foundation of our hope and the assurance of our salvation. Through these events, Jesus demonstrated his victory over sin and death and paved the way for the establishment of his kingdom. For Christian people, the resurrection and ascension are sources of joy, peace, and hope, but these events have also been sources of doubt and scepticism. The idea of a man rising from the dead and ascending to heaven seems implausible or even absurd. It challenges our understanding of the natural order and raises difficult questions about the nature of God and the universe. And it can be difficult to reconcile the reality of suffering and evil in the world with the idea of a loving and all-powerful God who would allow such things to happen.

The disciples of Jesus struggled with doubt in the face of his resurrection and ascension. They were witnesses to these events but still struggled to believe that they were real. It was only through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and their own personal encounters with the risen Lord that their doubts were overcome. As Christians, we too struggle with doubts from time to time. That is why Pope Francis has asked the question: "Who among us has not experienced insecurity, loss and even doubts on their journey of faith? ...We've all experienced this, me too". Doubt is a natural part of the human experience and should not be dismissed or ignored. Instead, we should acknowledge our doubts and seek to confront them honestly and openly. We should seek guidance from the Holy Spirit and the support of our Christian community as we seek to deepen our faith and understanding of God and his mighty power among us.

If you are seeking to explore your faith journey and to seek answers to some of your doubts, I invite you to join us at Newport-on-Tay Church for our church services on Sundays, from 11:00am to 12:00pm and in the evening, for a more contemporary service from 6:00pm to 6:45pm. At Newport Church, we understand that the tension between faith and doubt is not a barrier to our relationship with God, but rather a challenge that can strengthen and deepen our faith. It is through this tension that we come to a deeper understanding of who God is and how he works in our lives. As we navigate this tension during this post-Easter time, and look forward to the ascension of Jesus, let us take comfort in the words of Jesus to his doubting disciple Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

Every Blessing

Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

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.

Stated Annual Meeting

One requirement of the law of the Church of Scotland is for congregations to hold an annual meeting for the purpose of receiving the submission by the Kirk Session of the annual accounts for the preceding year, having previously been approved by them.

Our Stated Annual Meeting (SAM) will be held immediately following the close of the Service on Sunday 28th May. All members are cordially invited to attend whether in person or via Zoom (we intend to continue the streaming of the Service to include the meeting).

The intention is to show and explain a brief summary of the finances of the past year and to give details of our budget for 2023. Thereafter a small number of other, short, reports will be given to update members on recent activities.

Copies of the draft minutes of our 2022 SAM and our 2022 accounts are available on our website (www.notchurch.co.uk) or by contacting me.

We look forward to a good attendance of members at this important meeting.

Philip Owen
Finance Convener



Church Ceiling Damage

In mid-February, there was a fall of plaster from the ceiling of the church nave, beside the vent nearest the rear of the church. The plaster fell onto the pews causing a little damage. Unfortunately, for safety reasons, morning worship since then has been held in the hall until the ceiling has been made safe.

As the damage coincided with a severe storm, an insurance claim was prepared and submitted. Various contractors have inspected the damage, along with our Presbytery's Buildings Officer and a claims consultant from Aviva insurers. Internal examination identified 3 areas needing attention / repair and at a height of 13 metres will require scaffolding at each location. Repair is also needed on the roof.

Sadly, the insurers have declined liability on this occasion, so we are now progressing with the repair work and with the need for it to be funded wholly from our own reserves. We are currently waiting on a planning schedule from the contractors to repair the damage. In the first instance it will be to make the roof wind and water tight and from there to repair the internal damage.

Unfortunately, in the meantime, morning services will need to continue in the hall until the work has been completed.



Zoom Host

We are looking for people to join our team to host the Zoom service on a Sunday morning. It is currently a team of 3 people who do an amazing job in providing a service for those unable to attend church in person to join worship online. If you think you can help please speak to Claire Owen. Zoom experience is a bonus but not a necessity as you will be guided through it all!

Newport Community Chest

The Community Chest Appeal supports the Rio's foodstuff collection for inclusion in their lunch provision programme or for distribution in conjunction with the local foodbank.

There has been a great response to this appeal so far and as the cost of living is currently high, the need of some people may well be greater so please consider supporting this if you can. Any donations, no matter how small, are gratefully received.

A large container is available each Sunday to receive foodstuff, toiletries, etc. and these items will be delivered regularly to the Rio Community Centre for their use and distribution.



Recommended items of foodstuff include tins of soup, beans, custard, fruit and meat.

Thank You!

Thank you for the visit from Eleanor with beautiful church flowers for my birthday.
Every Blessing



Edith Campbell

.....

It was good to receive a duo of card and flowers for my birthday.
My sincere thanks to our caring church family.

Ron Caird



.....

I was delighted to receive the lovely flowers.
Thank you.
Best regards



Jean MacCallum

The Boys' Brigade Update

**THE BOYS'
BRIGADE**
> the adventure begins here



Much of the past month has seen us all spend time reflecting on our own personal thoughts about the events of Easter and how that has impacted on us and on our lives today.

Having returned to meet together, the boys undertook an exercise to inform BB Headquarters (BBHQ) with thoughts and opinions from boys to potentially influence the style and content of future programmes. They had to consider quite a number of actual and potential activities and events and they were required to label each into one of four categories - "My Top 5 Activities", "More of These Please", "Maybe Sometimes" or "No Thanks". As with a similar exercise last month about overall types of activities, this information has been passed to BBHQ for incorporation into a national overview of boys' responses.

Our focus then turned to practising and undertaking our entry for the Juniors International Team Games in which a set of six games requiring minimal equipment and preparation are each played by six boys and our results have been submitted to BBHQ for comparison with other entrants from around the globe. Last year we finished 97th out of 136 teams - an excellent performance from our young boys; hopefully, this year (with more boys and last year's players a year older) we will manage an even better placing - but time will tell.

Following this, our thoughts and activities turn to focus on the Coronation of King Charles III, when we can enthuse our boys about this historic occasion and make it even more meaningful to them.

Philip Owen, Company Captain

For more details you can contact Philip on (01382) 543034 or by emailing philip.owen@talktalk.net

mannn matters



We have said farewell to our two placements which leaves room for more volunteers. It is a great opportunity to serve our community here in Newport-on-Tay - you soon get to know your regular customers and also enjoy meeting visitors from all over the world. We have had a wide variety to folks visiting our small village over the years. It can be very interesting listening to them about what has brought them to manna that particular day.

Your fellow volunteers can soon become good friends - friendships that last beyond your shift at manna. You are also rewarded for your service with a complimentary drink and a bit of home baking. If this sounds good to you or you think you know someone who would be interested in volunteering, please get in touch.

We could also benefit from a few more soup makers to help cover holidays and provide more homemade rather than bought-in soup.

For the remainder of May we will be closed on Mondays due to staff holidays.

If you are meeting friends for coffee please come and see us.
God bless

mannn is open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 4:30pm

mannn (01382) 542781

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

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

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Sunday Club Update

Teaching this year

We had Funday Sunday activities over the Easter holidays. Thanks to everyone who helped with these, especially on Easter Sunday when it was lovely to see such a large number of children – around 20 in all.

Following the holidays, we will be continuing with the sessions 'Encounters with Jesus' in the Energize materials until we break for the summer. However we will have a couple of 'special sessions' to look forward to.

The first will have been 'Godly Play' on Communion Sunday – 30th April. At the heart of Godly Play is God's Word in the form of a special story during which a calm, reflective atmosphere is promoted. This is followed by a "feast" of fruit, biscuits and juice, which is served and shared. The children then choose for themselves ways to respond by participating in a variety of crafts.

We will also have special teaching for Pentecost on Sunday 28th May.



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

We continue to fundraise through the regular weekly offerings of the children and donations from members of the congregation and other friends.

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

For more details on Sunday Club you can contact Neil on 07986 669 430.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week - This runs from Sunday 14th May to Saturday 20th May.

As usual there will be an envelope collection so please look out for the familiar red envelopes. I am only too aware of the difficult times we are going through at the moment and the many calls for your help. However, please try to help a little, no matter how small the amount. It is amazing how many small gifts can add up to a big amount in total.

Christian Aid's recent "Shortfall" in funds appeal indicates how desperately it, like many charities, has been hit by the events of the last four years. As many of you are aware, Christian Aid Week is the charity's annual and major fundraiser so the response is vitally important.

I was able to send £175 to the Shortfall Appeal. This came from individuals, donors to the Penny Bucket and manna. I would like to thank sincerely everyone who contributed.

Kiltwalk - Rather than organising Bridge Walks, Christian Aid now encourages supporters to sign up for a Kiltwalk, nominating Christian Aid as their charity. There will be 4 walks this year, each in a different area, and Dundee will have a walk on 20th August. If you are interested in taking part in a Kiltwalk please consider Christian Aid as your nominated charity.

With thanks.

Margaret Imlay



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www.gghandyman.co.uk

Time and Space Conference in Iona

I would like to thank the Kirk Session, my line manager Evelyn Wood, and our Minister Amos, for allowing me to experience the Time and Space Conference. There will be a report published in the next couple of months, that will go more in depth with my experiences on this conference. However I wanted to share a couple of thoughts before then.



I thoroughly enjoyed my time on Iona, where I met so many amazing people who were God-centred and focused on his mission. It was a real challenge living with the Iona Community as an introvert, yet I felt it was a real blessing to be a part of that community even for a short while. A lot of the experience helped me to focus on God and what he was doing in our community here in Newport-on-Tay. There were some things I would do differently, like spend more time in God's Creation and less time worrying about my social anxiety and flaws. There are some things that I want to implement in my relationship with God and my work in our community, like exploring how I can experience true rest on the sabbath day, but to summarise my experience in one paragraph it would be this:



I was speaking to fellow conference delegates and a lot of people got told this when they found out they were going to Iona - "Iona is a thin place where you can meet God easier than anywhere else."

I wholeheartedly disagree with that statement. God is absolutely everywhere you go - you just need to take your time and patiently wait in his presence. If you spend more time truly resting in God's presence, then you will be more attuned to what he is doing; oh, and expect the unexpected!

Blessings
Chris Cameron



Church Weekend Away



Over the last weekend in March we had our Church Weekend Away at the Compass Christian Centre near Spital of Glenshee. We had 33 people attend the weekend either for the Saturday or for the entire weekend. Our theme for our weekend was Reconnecting with God, with others and with ourselves. Unfortunately, an additional four who had signed up, sadly pulled out due to contracting Covid.

On the Friday evening, we welcomed those who were coming for the weekend. Each person received a Goodie bag, which contained tea & coffee or hot chocolate, chocolate/sweets, notepad, and a book. We had our first meeting that introduced the theme for the weekend.

On Saturday we had a packed day, where we started by welcoming our day visitors and we began with our session which was titled 'A Covenant God & Biblical Consecration' where we reminded that God has plans for each one of us and nothing else matters; the only thing that matters is God. Amongst other things, our children, led by Douglas McClintick, learned about the story of Hannah and Samuel! We then went into our All-Age Challenges, fantastic team names and chants were thought of like Team Craig, Team International and Team Pancake.

The challenges included Office Tennis, Bible Anagrams, Guess the Flag, Cornhole and more. Everyone was enthusiastic and got stuck in, some great memories were made!

Our afternoon activities for people included Climbing Wall, Nightline, Football, Crafts, Board Games and going for walks to explore the beautiful scenery surrounding the centre.

After our evening meal, we played a few games of Mafia, before we said goodbye to our day visitors. Those staying for the weekend went down to our campfire, toasted some marshmallows, and sang some campfire songs.

On Sunday we had our final teaching session, played some football, and travelled home. It was a fantastic weekend where everyone had a great time. We hope that this can be more of a regular event in our church calendar going forward.



Many thanks to all involved and those who came.

Blessings
Chris Cameron, Catherine Johnston, Elizabeth Thomson and Raymond Allerton

Youth Update

Youth Groups

In the last couple of months at Youth Seekers we finished exploring and understanding the Lords Prayer and why we should pray it regularly. At the end of April we looked at what baptism is all about and challenged our Young People to think about it in their next step of faith.



Youth Cafe

To fit in with the new evening service, we have changed our Youth Café slightly. We are now running Youth Café from 7pm-8pm in manna, where we will discuss the talk from the evening service in depth, play some games and have hot chocolate. On Sunday 16th April we welcomed Andrew Bennett from Youth for Christ, who came and spoke to us about why we should become influencers of Jesus and how do we go about it!



Messy Church

At our Easter Messy Church we looked at the Easter story. We made some Birds Nests, built the gate from which Jesus entered Jerusalem from our Junk Modelling, competed in the Lenten Cross Challenge and made our own Prayer Jars. Our final Messy Church for this school year will be Saturday 27th May from 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Reset - A new evening service!

Reset is a new evening service where we have modern worship music, listening to different speakers, sharing testimonies, encouragements from God and answered prayers and praying for what we feel God has placed on our hearts. This service is an opportunity for you to reset yourself before God ahead of our busy week! It is a relaxed atmosphere, with tea and coffee available throughout the service. This service is running from 6pm - 6:45pm, come when you can, even if it means you being late, we would love to see you!

Our speakers for the next month are:

7th May - Chris Cameron

14th May - Bill Imlay

21st May - Graham Johnston

28th May - Andrew Brown

4th June - Jill Walker

Blessings

**Chris Cameron,
Youth Worker**

Easter 2023

Before the Easter morning service, some of our congregation walked to Victoria Park and rolled eggs down the hill to symbolise the stone being rolled away.

We had a large attendance at our Easter Sunday service which was amazing to celebrate the risen Lord with so many people.

When the young people went out for Funday Sunday they decorated some Easter biscuits which were very well received by their tummies later on!



NEWPORT & WORMIT IN BLOOM

A.G.M.

followed by

**RESTORING AN
EDWARDIAN GARDEN**

A talk by Peter and Angie Davie



MONDAY 15th May 2023 at 7.30 p.m.
at the RIO

Donation £3 includes wine/soft drink
All welcome

The Guild Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland

Wednesday Afternoon Club

Continuing on from the Guild lunch project, it was felt that a weekly get together would benefit the community. However we all agreed that we would not be able to sustain weekly lunches. Therefore we plan to start a Wednesday Afternoon Club again in conjunction with the Rio. It will run from 1.30pm to 3pm each Wednesday (initially while we see how popular it is). It will be in the Agnes Duncan Room and will start on Wednesday 3rd May.

There will be refreshments (tea/coffee and biscuits/baking), company (with plenty of opportunity to chat), and perhaps some activity (eg table top games, if that is what people want). There will be no charge, however if anyone wishes to make a donation then there will be a collection plate.

We estimate that 2 or 3 people would need to be on duty each week. We have got enough volunteers to start but more are always welcome to lighten the load and fill any gaps.

If you can help with this, please do get in touch with Margaret Wright: Tel (01382) 543007.

Ukraine Project

~ Fundraising for Ukraine

As mentioned previously, Morag Muir, a well-known local artist, very kindly donated four prints of the 'Royal Knight' to be sold to raise funds for the Ukraine Appeal. We have now sold two of these prints. We will be arranging to sell the remaining two over the next few months. In addition, the sunflower cards (both greeting and post cards) remain on sale through manna.

All the money we raise is transferred to the Newport and Zolotarevo Twinning Association (NAZTA) to support our friends there. Please see note of thanks from them below.

Thanks so much to everyone who has contributed in any way.



~ Vigil: Every Thursday evening at 7pm on the Church Green.

We plan to continue these for as long as the conflict continues.

It is important that we bear witness to the ongoing suffering of the people of Ukraine and stand with them. The Vigil is one small way of doing this. Please do join us if you are around at that time. We usually have a Bible reading, time of prayer and short reflection starting at 7pm lasting 5-10 minutes. Then everyone adds more ribbons to the ribbon flag - you may have noticed that it is filling in nicely.

Return of Summer Concerts: Wednesdays@One 23 – Save the date

Following an initial series of very enjoyable concerts in 2022 another series of four concerts is planned for later this year. For more information on dates and artists please see poster on right.

Ways to support your Guild

If you have any suggestions about other projects we can start or get involved in please do let us know.

Why not think about joining us? (Contact Catherine Merrylees or any Guild member for more information.)

The Guild Team

Save the date
The Guild of Newport-on-Tay
Church of Scotland presents

Summer Concerts 2023
Wednesdays@One

Wednesday at 1pm for 30-40 mins

9th August | Robin Bell | organ
16th August | Rosie McDonald | soprano
6th Sept | Joanna Stark & Max McWhirter | cello
13th Sept | Sean Smith, David Smith,
Ron Oliver and Hannah Gibson | organ

Newport Church, Blyth Street, Newport-on-Tay Fife

Scottish Charity Number - SC006758

Thanks from Zolotarevo

"I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our friends from the fraternal city of Newport (Scotland) led by Анна Пацкан for their financial assistance at such an important and difficult time for us and Marion Heredia for the years of supporting good relations with our fraternity who have not left us alone with our problems.

Thanks to our Scottish friends we were able to purchase 3 projectors and accessories, along with a tennis table, stands and much more.

Thank you so much our dear friends!!!!"



Calendar of Worship

Sunday 7th May 2023 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Beadle : C Johnston **Reader** : S Johnston

Welcome : M Imlay

Flowers : J McKendrick **Delivery** : A Gray

Coffee : F Harris, M Shiels, M Wright +
C McCowan

Sunday Club : J Wylie, M McDonald

Youth Elder : L Robertson

Sunday 14th May 2023 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Beadle : G Johnston **Reader** : A Heywood

Welcome : C Johnston

Flowers : A Heywood **Delivery** : A Heywood

Coffee : M Heron, J Johnston, Y Simpson +
G Johnston

Sunday Club : A Gray, S McCowan

Youth Elder : F Harris

Sunday 21st May 2023 at 11am

Service led by Mr Graham Johnston

Beadle : S Johnston **Reader** : K Campbell

Welcome : J Johnston

Flowers : M Whyte **Delivery** : M Imlay

Coffee : P Broadbent, M Cuthbertson, K Farquhar
+ J Cuthbertson

Sunday Club : F Hutchinson, N Merrylees

Youth Elder : P Owen

Next Edition

If you would like anything included in our Summer
edition of the Church Journal
(covering June, July and August)
please email newportcos@btinternet.com
by Sunday 21st May 2023.

GUITAR AND UKULELE TUITION

PRIVATE OR CLASS

Newport and Dundee
Afternoons and Evenings



Contact Tom Cleary on 07599215626

Sunday 28th May 2023 at 11am Pentecost

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : J Johnston **Reader** : K Cruickshanks

Welcome : M Shiels

Flowers : D Miller **Delivery** : J Johnston

Coffee : J Campbell, L Hundal, L Balfour +
K Campbell

Sunday Club : J Wylie, M MacDonald

Youth Elder : F Robertson

Sunday 4th June 2023 at 11am

Service led by Miss C Owen and Mr P Owen

Beadle : C McCowan **Reader** : G Johnston

Welcome : L Robertson

Flowers : L Balfour **Delivery** : S Johnston

Coffee : M McCabe, I Navickas, M Imlay +
D Macleod

Sunday Club : A Gray, S McCowan

Youth Elder : J Campbell

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