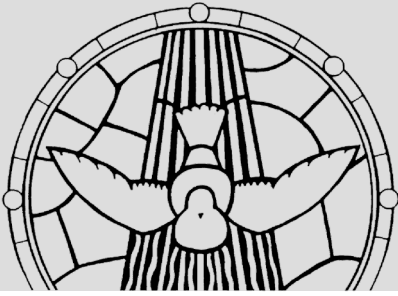


Newport-on-Tay

Church of Scotland Journal

March 2022

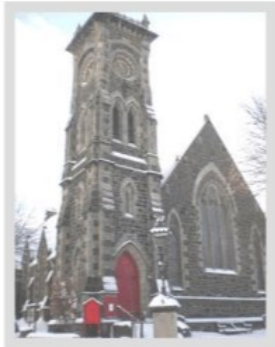


MINISTER'S MESSAGE - LENT 2022

Fasting during Lent and a Spirit of Generosity (Matthew 6:16-21)

Dear friends,

Another Lenten season has come, and we are engaging spiritual exercises to draw closer to God and to ask his help in various aspects of our lives. Lent, in the Christian church, is a period of penitential preparation for Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter, and spans a 40-day fast, with the exclusion of Sundays, in imitation of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness for 40 days before the beginning of his public ministry. There are three elements that are almost always part of Lent: prayer, giving something up and giving something back.



Some of the reasons for fasting include part of the discipline of self-control, a way of sharing that we depend on God alone and that we draw all our strength and resources from him, a way of focusing totally on him when seeking his guidance and help for our existential problems, showing that we are honest about our quests and requests. It is an expression of sorrow and deep repentance. There are no prescriptions on things we must not consume during fasting. We can fast from anything. If we love music and decide to miss a concert in order to spend time with God, that is fasting because fasting is about sacrifice. When we desire to be in the presence of God more than we want dinner, that is a good chance to fast. Therefore, fasting, like praying and giving, are legitimate spiritual disciplines to be practised in private between a Christian and God. But as with other disciplines, fasting opens the door to hypocrisy or theatrics rather than spirituality. In Jesus's day the Pharisees fasted twice a week. While fasting, they went about with sombre faces and dishevelled appearances so that everyone would see and praise their piety. This hypocritical behaviour attracted the scorn of Jesus because he could see their hearts and true motives. Their aim in fasting was to show off their piety and not for repentance. Moreover, they were not generous enough. Instead of sharing their resources with others, especially the less fortunate of society, they were accumulating their wealth. What then can we do differently during this time of Lent?

This year, the season of Lent has coincided with a tumultuous time in the history of our world, the unfortunate invasion of Ukraine by Putin's Russian military might. As we fast and pray for our own individual needs and the needs of our communities, let us think of the people of Ukraine who must face a war they never chose to fight because of the exercise of power by an individual. How do we help those who are immigrating into our country and extend generous hands to other suffering people of the world? Jesus invites us to store up riches in heaven and not on earth. What that means is, by giving up some of our luxuries and investing in people, we are putting our treasures in heavenly places through changing and transforming lives. We brought nothing into this world and will take nothing out of it.

The story is told of a lady in the United States of America who died in 1915, leaving behind an estate valued at over one million dollars. However, she always ate cold oatmeal because she believed it cost too much to heat. Her son had to suffer through a leg amputation unnecessarily because she wasted too much time looking for a free medical clinic. This woman was wealthy, but she chose to live like a pauper. She was so foolish that she hastened her own death when she suffered a stroke by becoming too excited over a discussion about the cost of drinking skimmed milk. She had a treasure in this life called money and her heart was devoted to her treasure.

Jesus was right when he said that our heart will be devoted to our treasure. He challenges us to store up our treasure someplace other than in this life. As the apostle Paul encouraged young Timothy, "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed." (1 Timothy 6 : 17-19)

I wish you the best as you journey with Christ to the cross of shame during Lent, and I pray that our fasting would be meaningful and life-changing, both for ourselves and for those who need our assistance to survive the problems of this world.

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.

Kirk Session's Guidance on Covid Measures and Mitigations

The Scottish Government have moved the whole of Scotland into the 'beyond level 0' phase of the pandemic easing. The need for Risk Assessments however has not diminished, it remains vital that congregations ensure that their Risk Assessment is regularly reviewed and updated in line with current Church of Scotland guidance / practice. The detailed guidance and 'actions' below were approved by the Kirk Session on Wednesday 9th February 2022.

The status of most government and church COVID guidance has now changed and should be regarded as 'good practice' rather than strictly enforced regulations. However, some aspects, such as face coverings and registering attendance in some settings (e.g. Hospitality,) remain a legal requirement.



Capacity and Distancing

The limits on capacity within churches have been removed. It is important that when congregations feel it necessary to increase capacity they do so safely and after undertaking a Risk Assessment process. It is recommended that congregations consider whether keeping distancing throughout a church building will be a useful mitigation to continue in the months that lie ahead.

Action – Maintain current capacity/seating restrictions until 1st April; then, if prevailing conditions permit, open-up the central 'individual' section and the 'family' section to normal seating layout – retaining LHS/'Couples' section with 1m spacing restrictions until 1st June to appease those members still concerned about their personal safety and welfare.

Church building visitors, contractors, volunteers and employees should continue to register all visitations until a review is conducted ahead of 1st April.

Booking, check-in and contact details

The regulation to keep a register of those attending worship has been removed by the Government.

Action – Encourage use of Lateral Flow Test before coming to Church and w.e.f. 1st April withdraw the weekly need to maintain a congregational register for those in church.

Face coverings

It is still a legal requirement that people wear a face covering when attending a church for worship. Unless people are medically exempt or under the age of 12, everyone needs to wear a face covering when entering and leaving churches, when they are seated in pews and when they stand to sing. Those leading worship, reading scripture, or singing in a choir which is physically apart from the congregation (for example, on a chancel) have an exemption to remove their face covering when actively involved in the leading or singing, but should return to wearing the face covering when, for example, sitting listening to the sermon.

Action – Maintain current guidance, signage and provision of masks.



Choir

A choir may also remove face coverings when actively singing if they are in an area apart from the congregation (chancel or choir loft, but not in the main seating area of the church) and remain 1m apart from each other. The size of the group will be defined by the available space.

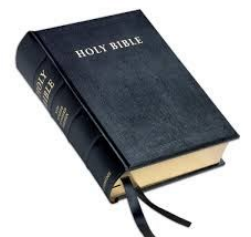
Action - Reinstate choir room w.e.f. Sunday 13th Feb (PDBC = 11) and 1m spacing within chancel.

Sunday Schools and Bible classes

Children can play a part in worship as they might have done 'pre-pandemic'. Young people aged 12 and over are required to wear a face covering.

It is important to consider how young people can continue to keep a safe distance from those in other households whenever possible. (Sunday Club children move to front for Address, then exit to class).

Action - Sunday Club Room - Continue with existing mitigation measures and practices until Church of Scotland guidance suggests otherwise then review.



In the meantime – thank you for complying with our guidance and all associated measures. Your safety whilst in the church building remains the paramount focus of the Kirk Session. We pray that in the coming months further rules will be relaxed and additional freedoms can once again be enjoyed with family and friends.

Francis B. Robertson
Session Clerk & Covid Co-ordinator



Afghanistan Crisis Appeal

Recently I sent Christian Aid £239 which is the total from the Crisis Appeal for Afghanistan which ran over the Christmas period. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this appeal, either by giving a donation to me or by putting coins in the Penny Bucket, and I would like to add a special thank you to manna for their generous contribution.

I have no way of knowing of gifts made directly online to Christian Aid but would add thanks to folk who gave in this way. I am sure all contributions will be received gladly and put to good use. Many thanks again.

Margaret Imlay

Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful flowers I received from the church recently. They cheered me up no end.

Margaret Eddy



Jeanette Dempster and family wish to thank everyone at church who sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy following our recent sad loss of Ally. They were all very comforting.

Try Praying Initiative

From 14th March for a month there will be a major publicity campaign throughout Scotland with posters on buses and on the ticket barriers at the main railway stations in Glasgow and Edinburgh!!

Watch out for them!!

Very soon you will be hearing more about this in church and being asked to be part of this outreach to those who don't 'do' church.



Didn't February feel like a very short month? Nevertheless, we have managed to fit in interesting programmes each week for our enthusiastic (though small in number) band of members. We even took the decision to meet during the school mid-term holiday this month.

Having prepared for the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch, we also celebrated the Chinese New Year with a variety of activities, and we experienced the thrill of the Winter Olympics – even having a shot at curling (albeit not in its traditional format!). We then moved on to Fairtrade Fortnight and learned about the process of how chocolate gets from a tropical tree to our mouths. March will see us looking into the life of bananas (again, from growth to consumption).

Our thoughts will also turn towards Lent and to Easter, with the significance of this to us all (and not just the school holidays); hopefully, our boys will learn something new about this special occasion.

Unfortunately, the current restrictions do not make it possible to be able to speak to potential new members at the local schools, but anybody wishing to come along and join us will be made most welcome.

Philip Owen
Company Captain

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, having previously been approved by them.

Normally the accounts are for the previous year, but due to Covid restrictions, we have not been permitted to hold this meeting in 2020 or 2021. Consequently, congregations are now playing "catch up", with three years accounts requiring to be presented.

Our Stated Annual Meeting will be held immediately following the close of the Service on Sunday 13th March. All members are cordially invited to attend, whether in the Church 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 three years and to give details of our budget for 2022. Thereafter a small number of other, short, reports will be given to update members on recent activities.

Copies of the three years' 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

Can You Help?

We have some exciting ministries that we are working on which are planned to launch soon. We are looking for people to help in some ways. Below is some more information on these exciting opportunities



Youth Alpha

We are looking for some people to cook a meal for our Young People. We are asking if you can take one night during the 9 week programme. If you are interested please contact me by phone or email.

We are launching Youth Alpha in March and do have some weeks booked up already!

Bible Alive

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated props! We are almost complete with our props! We are now looking for people who can make jackets and headdresses from material. If you can sew, we would love to hear from you! The jackets and headdresses we are looking for are of simple design.

Bible Alive

If you are interested or can help in this way, please contact Jane Campbell or me by email or by phone.

Many Thanks

Chris Cameron

Email: youthworker.notcos@outlook.com

Phone: (01382) 791374

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Youth Update

It has been an incredibly busy month for our Youth. At the start of February, we took 16 young people away to Lendrick Muir for a weekend away when lots of fun was had. Some of the activities that our young people participated in were: Social Games, Disc Golf, Archery Tag and Wide Games. Our theme was Superheroes and we looked at the transformational power Jesus has in our lives when we choose to believe in him. We also learned that Jesus not only meets our physical needs, he meets our social needs, emotional needs and spiritual needs, which we read about through the miracles he performed during his ministry.

Our next big camp is this summer where we will be going to Lendrick Muir once more. The dates are Tuesday 12th – Saturday 16th July. It's for those who are leaving P5-S4. Cost is £211 pp and travel will be included from Newport-on-Tay. A list of activities that you can do is down below. We would love to see you there as we know you will have a great time! Bookings will be available shortly! Please get in touch to reserve your space today!

Adventure Park	Kayaking *	Foot Golf	King Swing	Challenge Course
Archery	Disc Golf	Raft Building *	Crafts	Sports and Games
Trail Biking	Archery Tag	Bungee Trampolines	Tree Climbing	High Ropes Course
* = weather dependent;				

Another event we did during February was an Interactive Workshop: Science and Faith. We invited Douglas and Hannah McClintick (pictured right) up to discuss how their work affects their faith and vice versa. Our young people asked lots of questions which were answered amazingly by Douglas and Hannah. It was a fun, interesting and informational evening that our young people got a lot from.



Going forward we are starting Youth Alpha. It is for P7-S6 pupils, where there is an amazing opportunity to discover Jesus and discuss life's big questions together. There will be a free meal provided and amazing ice breaker games to challenge our guests!

We are splitting our ages up for this programme. Details of timing are as follows
 Sunday Evenings – manna – P7-S2 – 6pm – 7.30pm
 Sunday Evenings – manna – S3-S6 – 7pm – 8.30pm
 We would love to see you there!

Blessings
Chris Cameron

Pictures taken from a recent youth night!





Church of Scotland Guild

The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action.



(Taken from www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the-guild)

This new Newport-on-Tay Local Branch of the Guild will be dedicated during the service on Sunday 20th March.

For more information contact :
Catherine Merrylees on 07484 726754
or your District Elder.

Sunday Club Update

Teaching

We have continued with the series in the Energize materials looking at 'I am' statements of Jesus. We began with 'I am He' followed by 'I am the Bread of Life' and 'I am the Light' and have lately looked at 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'. These will continue for a total of seven sessions. On February 20th we had Funday Sunday activities and on the 27th one session looking forward to Lent as well as planning the foodbank collection that we usually do at this time of year. We plan to continue with the series of Energize studies on the 6th March.

Lent Foodbank Collection

Throughout Lent we will be encouraging the young people to take a lead on this to help them to understand the challenges that some people in our community face. Of course, we greatly appreciate contributions by all members of the congregation.

Funday Sundays - Request for Volunteers

I am still looking for helpers for the Funday Sundays.

'Funday Sundays' have proved very successful in the past and they provide fun activities for children during the 11am service throughout holiday periods. This often means that parents feel able to come to church even when there is no formal Sunday Club teaching. As a church, they allow us to have children's activities on almost every Sunday throughout the year.

A big thank you to those who have already volunteered to help. However, I am still looking for more volunteers to run these.

Jane Johnston did a fantastic job for many years coordinating them. However, she has now had to step back due to other commitments and therefore if anyone feels called to be a coordinator I would also be grateful if you would let me know.

Therefore, in summary I am looking for :-

- ◆ people to run individual sessions - the commitment is roughly once / twice a year
- ◆ someone to help coordinate the programme.

Please do get in touch with me if you feel led to contribute in this way or even would just like to find out more. Thank you!

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 other donations from members of the congregation and other friends.

Please do feel free to have a look at the information board in the Sunday Club Room with some background about Rimberto and copies of letters sent and received.

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



Lent Reflections 2022

Every day during Lent our minister, Amos, will record a short reflection which will be posted daily on our Church website <http://www.notchurch.co.uk/index.php/lent-2022/>

Please spread the word to others who might be interested in this resource.



Can you help manna?

manna started in 2006 with a vision to provide a Christian service to the community, to support the provision of a Christian Youth Worker and to promote Fair Trade. For those of us involved over these last 16 years we can take much satisfaction and encouragement from all that we have achieved towards those aims. We have provided a welcoming community space where many have found great comfort over the years, we have financed our youth workers and we continue to be a showcase for fairly produced gifts.



The pandemic of course, has affected us. We had to close over the two main periods of lockdown and after opening had to find a new way of working which protected staff and volunteers. We also had to reduce our table numbers and our hours. We are very thankful for all the government financial assistance we received without which we would no longer be in existence.

More hopeful times are beckoning but we are at something of a crossroads as we look ahead to 2022 and beyond. For several months now we have not been covering our costs and while we have some reserves to support us we need to increase our takings over the coming months and, where possible, reduce some costs.

manna is a beacon of light in our community; all of us involved try to serve and show Christ's love in whatever way we can, whether that is working directly in the shop, baking, making soup or serving on the committees.

We are financing a Youth Worker who is reaching out to the youngsters in our community through school work and running a youth cafe as well as directly in the church, helping to bring in a new generation of the faithful. What could be more important for us as a living church in this place?

Could you be a part of this outreach of Christ into our community and help us to rebalance our books and keep going?

This support could take many forms, from simply USING the cafe for meeting up with friends or enjoying a wee coffee in the sunshine to serving more directly as mentioned above. We have recently made a big investment in a new coffee machine which Morag describes in her best Italian as "bellissimo"! This is us saying that we plan to be here for many years yet as we invest in this but we do need some help...

Alison Heywood
Chair of manna management committee

Mother's Day

Afternoon Tea @ manna
Sunday 27th March 2 - 4pm
£10

To book please phone 07707241338
or email dianemillermanna@gmail.com



manna is now open until 4:30pm Tuesday - Saturday!

More time to enjoy a coffee, some quiet time, a slice of cake in the sunshine, a natter with friends!

manna (01382) 542781
Diane Miller (01382) 541141 & dianemillermanna@gmail.com
Morag Rowley (01382) 541157 & moragrowley.4@gmail.com

Calendar of Worship

Sunday 6th March 2022 at 11am Child Presentation

Service led by Rev Dr Jim Connolly

Call To Worship/Intercessory Prayers : C Owen

Beadle : L Gray **Reader** : C Wilman

Flowers : E Thomson **Delivery** : A Gray

Coffee : M McCabe, I Navickas, W Whyte +
D MacLeod

Sunday 13th March 2022 at 11am Stated Annual Meeting

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Call To Worship/Intercessory Prayers : J Campbell

Beadle : K Campbell **Reader** : E Owen

Flowers : M Heron **Delivery** : A Heywood

Coffee : A Barona, F Durward, M Rowley + P Owen

Sunday 20th March 2022 at 11am Dedication of Guild

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Call To Worship/Intercessory Prayers : G Johnston

Beadle : A Gray **Reader** : Guild Member

Flowers : L Robertson **Delivery** : M Imlay

Coffee : A Heywood, P Laurence, E Thomson +
W Imlay

Sunday 27th March 2022 at 11am Mother's Day

Service led by Mr Graham Johnston

Beadle : A Heywood **Reader** : K Cruickshanks

Flowers : C Barr **Delivery** : J Johnston

Coffee : A Gray, M Shiels, A Waugh + F Ritchie

Sunday 3rd April 2022 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Call To Worship/Intercessory Prayers : D Collison

Beadle : M Imlay **Reader** : J Campbell

Flowers : M Wright **Delivery** : S Johnston

Coffee : J Latto, L Robertson M Wright +
C McCowan

Next Edition

If you would like anything included in our
April edition of the Church Journal,
please email newportcos@btinternet.com
by Sunday 20th March 2022.

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The Pop-Up Post Office continues
to run on Wednesdays and Fridays
from 9:30 - 11:30am
in the Kirk House Complex.



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