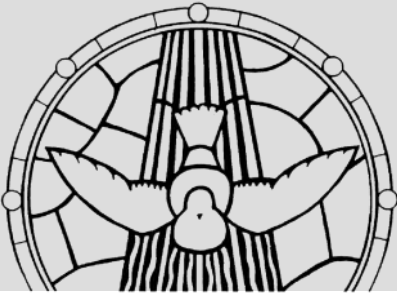


Newport-on-Tay

Church of Scotland Journal

April 2023



MINISTER'S MESSAGE - Easter 2023

John 20.1-10: The Blessing of the Empty Tomb

We will soon be celebrating another Easter, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The resurrection is a culmination of the Lenten season and comes immediately after the events of Palm Sunday when the crowds worshipped the Lord, and Good Friday when some of the crowd insisted that he must be crucified, and then his eventual death and burial. When Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday and was put in a tomb, it seemed that the hopes and dreams of his disciples were completely crushed. Judas had betrayed him to the Roman authorities and hung himself, and the crowds that had benefitted from the ministry of Jesus had moved on to mind their own businesses. The events of the week were traumatic,

perplexing, and frustrating for the disciples and all those who had come to believe in Jesus Christ. However, something spectacular happened on the first day of the week following Jesus' death. There were rumours that some women had gone to Jesus' tomb and found the stone had been rolled away and the burial clothes were lying on the floor (Luke 24:22-23). Two of the disciples wanted to see for themselves because they did not believe the witness of the women, so they raced to the tomb and found it was indeed empty (John 20:1-10).

When the disciples remembered what Jesus had told them about his death and resurrection, the empty tomb must have brought so much hope and assurance to them because Jesus had conquered death. He is the first resurrection of many. Death no longer cages him. Jesus' empty tomb and resurrection allows us to celebrate death rather than be grieved by it. To be sure, we need to grieve over the loss of our loved ones, but we should also celebrate that there will be a time when we will be in God's presence together with them. The empty tomb reminds us that this physical life is not all that there is. We are not like the Stoic philosophers whose motto was 'eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we may die'. Life is more than affluence, wealth and comfort. One of the great lessons about the empty tomb of Jesus is that it stands in contrast to the graves of everyone else in this mortal world. Kings and leaders throughout history have been laid to rest in their graves where they remain to this day, or at least what is left of them. The pyramids stand as a testimony to the mortality of those who once considered themselves to be gods. They returned to the dust from which they were made. Christian people celebrate the empty tomb because it gives hope that the grave is not our destination, and that we can be freed from sin and tragedy.

We are celebrating Easter amidst the wider problems of the world and our personal conflicts, both physical and spiritual. The war in Ukraine is persisting with devastating consequences including the loss of lives, property and other physical and mental problems. The increasing economic crisis has left families struggling to make ends meet because their financial resources are not commensurate. The political culture of many countries is not providing proper direction for resolving human problems. Climate change is threatening human existence with increasing floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters on the rise. Our spiritual lives are being weakened by a pervasive culture of immorality while the prophetic voice of the church has been silenced by the inability of its leaders to make decisions about Christian truths that are countercultural.

The events of the life of Jesus Christ our Lord, leading up to Easter, remind us that as we go through life, there will be Palm Sundays, when there is great celebration, life is good and people applauding us. There will be Good Fridays when things don't seem right including the prospect of death. And there will be Easter Sundays when new life is ushered in again, and we are no longer held captive by the forces of evil.

The empty tomb gives hope to us and especially to those who are currently grieving the loss of loved ones. That is the blessing of the empty tomb.

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.



Palm Sunday at 11am
Maundy Thursday at 7pm (including Communion)
Good Friday at 7pm
Easter Sunday at 11am

All these services will take place in the Church Hall and it is hoped, where possible, to offer a Zoom log-in for those unable to attend in person to join too. For more information please email newportcos@btinternet.com

Holy Communion

We will be holding our Service of Holy Communion on Sunday 30th April 2023.



Everyone is warmly welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.

HELP!!

Volunteers urgently needed.

Many of you make use of the weekly coffee/tea provision after church services and I expect you know that this is provided by a group of volunteers, divided into small teams. Since Covid we have lost a number of the group either by "retirement" or folk not returning. This means we are working at a really minimal number for the weekly team and this is becoming more obvious as numbers coming in have gradually picked up to pre-Covid levels. There is no slack in the system to allow for illness, absence, holidays etc.

Please would you consider if you could offer this service?

You would be committing yourself to doing a turn every 8 weeks. This means arriving at 10.30am to set up, after church serving tea etc., and clearing up in the hall and kitchen. Usual finishing time is about 1pm-ish. Please contact me or chat to me after a service if you would like more information.

This is a good way of meeting or getting to know others in the church and also provides a very worthwhile service.



Thanks.

Margaret Imlay phone (01382) 543446

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.

Two large containers are available 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 so much for the lovely flowers Gordon and I received from the church following his fathers passing.



Diane Miller

I would like to thank the church for the cheering and colourful flowers received on my recent return from hospital.

Vinorah Caird



I would like to thank all my church friends for the beautiful flowers received on my birthday. May the Lord bless you all.



Moira Clark

Sunday Morning Worship

During recent stormy weather some plaster fell from the church ceiling.

Whilst we work to organise contractors and a timetable for the repairs to be carried out to the ceiling, we will continue to worship in the church hall until further notice.



The Boys' Brigade Update



March has been a month of fluctuating attendances due to a number of reasons, but nevertheless we have managed to cover a wide variety of topics during our weekly meetings.

These have included finalising our look at the BB around the world (complete with a couple of montages pinned to the hall notice board), St David's Day, and Red Nose Day (quiz and activity sheets). As the month drew to its close, we viewed a series of six videos produced by the BB each relating a different event in Holy Week, hopefully increasing our boys' understanding and appreciation of this important part of world history.

We also found time to give the boys an opportunity to consider the varied type of activities we can/could provide and rank them in order of their own personal preference – with some interesting results. This information will be passed to BBHQ for incorporation to a national overview of boys' responses.

Of course, we also found time for games and other physical activities, not least to let the boys expend some of their sometimes limitless energy!

Time now moves on to the time of Easter and the break we take during the school holidays – a chance for us all to recharge our batteries.

Philip Owen
Company Captain

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

mannā matters



We are again saying goodbye to our latest two placements - John who has been with us for 6 months and Natalia for 3 months. They have enjoyed their time with us and have learnt a lot during their placements. We wish them all the best for the future.

At this time we are unsure whether a further placement will take place. We again look at increasing our circle of volunteers to help in manna. Please keep manna in your prayers at this time of change and uncertainty and if you feel you could help during the week please get in touch.

We continue to have a wonderful selection of home bakes from our team of volunteers. They would give Mary Berry a run for her money. If you're planning on meeting up with friends or family for coffee you can call us and book a table.

mannā is open Monday – Saturday 10am - 4:30pm

mannā (01382) 542781

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

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

Next Edition

If you would like anything included in our May edition of the Church Journal please email newportcos@btinternet.com by Sunday 23rd April 2023.

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



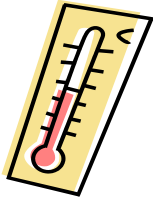
Sunday Club Update

Teaching this year

On the last Sunday in February we had one session looking at the meaning of Lent. This was followed by two sessions exploring the meaning of Easter. The reason we talk about these a bit early, is because some of the children are away when we actually celebrate Easter and so would otherwise miss the teaching.

We have some Funday Sunday activities planned over the Easter holidays. Following these we will continue with 'Encounters with Jesus' in the Energize materials. We will continue this until we break for the summer.

A big thank you to all the Sunday Club teachers and everyone who has supported the children this year and to those who have volunteered for the Funday Sundays.



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

Christian Aid

A Christian Aid Drop-in event will take place on Tuesday 25th April at Broughty Ferry St James Church from 10.45am - 12.45pm. This is an opportunity to drop in for a coffee and an informal chat with Christian Aid staff and other local folk involved in Christian Aid. Anyone interested is welcome to go along between these times.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14th - 20th May

This is just an early alert of the date for this year. As usual we will have an envelope collection in church so please look out for the familiar red envelopes in the pews. Christian Aid is struggling, like many charities, and I would urge you to try to support them, no matter how little you feel able to give.

Don't forget the Penny Bucket - your small handful of coppers, added to many other handfuls, can add up to a goodly sum.

With thanks.

Margaret Imlay



Safeguarding

Church Safeguarding Refresher Training for volunteers/workers has been arranged for Tuesday 18th April from 7.00pm until 8.30pm. Training is mandatory for all church volunteers and Kirk Session members. Neighbouring presbyteries are also invited to attend. It will be held in the Agnes Duncan Room. Please notify me if you can attend this session. If you cannot attend, please contact me as other sessions are available (<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding-service/training>).

Lesley Gray, Safeguarding Co-ordinator (Tel: 07779 506 994)

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Public Talk by Maggie Lane



On Tuesday 11th April, Newport Church will welcome Maggie Lane to talk to us. She is already known to many, through our previous minister and Maggie's brother, Rev. Stan Brook.

Maggie stepped down as minister of Kirkliston Parish Church of Scotland in 2019, and is now responding to God's call to speak prophetically to the church, to call it to rise from weakness and decline, to humility and holiness. She urges the church to face the challenges of our world today and to lay down the burdens the church ought not to be carrying. Maggie's personal testimony is a remarkable and inspiring story of her own death, resurrection, heaven, and being commissioned by God to speak to the church.

Maggie's talk will be held in the church hall from 7pm. There will be a time of worship at the beginning of the evening, and tea and coffee will be available. All will be made most welcome, and I would encourage everyone to come and hear a most challenging and uplifting message.

Graham Johnston

Thank You!

I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:3

Dear Friends,

What a privilege it has been to journey with you all over the past six months! The life of a minister in training is full-on, particularly with a lively family in the mix, but sharing the time with you all has been a tremendous blessing amid the rush of everything else.

I've had so many enjoyable and hugely worthwhile experiences across this parish. My time spent with you and your minister has greatly increased my sense of what it means to be a minister in today's changing context and my sense of God's closeness during times such as these. It has been hugely affirming to walk this road with you.

I'd like to thank you all again for the part you've played in making these months so special—I'll certainly not forget the many memories made as my ministry continues. My experience has been so positive and affirming. I wish all of you wonderful people every blessing for the road ahead, and I will always keep a special lookout for you in the months and years to come. I will look forward to visiting in the future and catching up with you all then.

I'd also like to thank you for being so kind to us as a family over what has been a hugely significant time for us. Jenny and I have been so acutely aware of the love, prayers, and kindness of very many.

The book of Acts narrates a group of itinerant apostles going from place to place and living out the ministry of the ascended Lord Jesus. Scattered though they were, they were held together by their commitment to God's kingdom, the fervour of the Spirit within them, and the love of Jesus that sustained them. I look forward to visiting you again and sharing the great joy of God's kingdom in Newport-on-Tay, and until then, I pray that you will be uplifted and sustained by that same love of Jesus in the good times and the bad.

With love and every blessing,

Alastair Stark



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Youth Update

As I write this update just now I'm currently in a cafe with a fellow youth worker in Oban waiting on a ferry to go to Iona for a 3 day training and retreat with the Church of Scotland!

I wanted to take this time to update you with what is going on in our ministries.

Messy Church

During April we will have 2 Messy Church sessions. The first will be on Saturday 1st April and the second one will be on Saturday 29th April, both from 10:30am - 12:30pm. There will be the usual mix of crafts, songs, activities, table top games, artwork and of course lunch is included too! All families are welcome to join us.



Bible Alive



This past term we have been in Newport Primary doing a 7 week programme called Bible Alive, where we bring the bible to life with drama, storytelling, quizzes, costumes, props and more. This was received brilliantly by the children, who were really enthusiastic, got right into the characters they dressed up as, and they really loved learning about the rhyme and sign, which helps them remember what we were teaching them about the bible.

A big thank you to Newport Primary for allowing us to teach Bible Alive. A huge thank you to Jane Campbell and Jill Walker who were part of the team that presented Bible Alive as well. We are looking forward to doing this again soon.

Youth Groups

We are almost finished our series on The Lord's Prayer. We only have the last 3 lines to cover and we look forward to resuming this on Sunday 16th April.



Our Youth Cafe is running along smoothly, we have a chat about the evening service and play games of all kinds, as well as having some amazing hot chocolate towers. Again we will be resuming this group on Sunday 16th April!

Next month I will update you on my trip to Iona, Easter Code and our Church Weekend Away which is happening at the time of printing.

Blessings
Chris Cameron,
Youth Worker

Reset Service

We have had an amazing 5 weeks of our new evening service. The worship has been fantastic, thanks to Alan and the band for leading us so beautifully!

Our testimony time has been a real source of encouragement hearing about what God has been doing in our lives. Thanks also go to all those who have brought God's word to us. Thank you for being inspiring and getting us to think more about God being our shepherd, How God was with David when he faced Goliath and more!

Our next service is on Sunday 16th April 6 - 7pm, where we are welcoming Andrew Bennett who will be bringing God's word to us. He will also be leading our young people in our youth group later that evening!

Chris Cameron



Church Weekend Away

By the time this Journal goes to print, the Church Weekend Away at the Compass Christian Centre in Glenshee will just have happened!

There will be an update and pictures in the next Journal.



GUITAR AND UKULELE TUITION

PRIVATE OR CLASS



**Newport and Dundee
Afternoons and Evenings**



Contact Tom Cleary on 07599215626

The Guild Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland

Winter Food and Fuel Crisis: Community Lunches

The third winter lunch of 2023 was held on Monday 6th March. Nine guests attended and enjoyed lunch with a choice of two homemade soups, steak/chicken pie, mashed potatoes and veg, and coffee / tea with biscuits to finish. Thanks very much to everyone who helped and also to all those who donated. We carried out an informal survey at the end of the lunch and it was unanimous that those attending wanted them to continue in some form. We will be having discussions about the best way to do this over the coming weeks. If anyone would like to help please let me (Neil Merrylees) know. As explained previously these lunches are part of an initiative to support everyone in our local community with the pressures of rising fuel and food costs. They are an extension of lunches already held in the Rio Community Centre and Betty Martin has offered vital support in promoting them.

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.

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

Contact Numbers

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

Session Clerk : Graham Johnston
Telephone: (01382) 541606
Email: g.johnston606@btinternet.com

Church Office : 3 Blyth Street,
Newport-on-Tay, DD6 8DB
Telephone: (01382) 543525 (Answerphone)
email: newportcos@btinternet.com

Youth Worker : Chris Cameron
Telephone: 07927 253 827
email: youthworker.notcos@outlook.com

Safeguarding Co-ordinator : Lesley Gray
Telephone: 07779 506 994
email: lesley.gray@talk21.com

Organist : Hannah Gibson
Telephone: 07476 372 311
email: hannah.gibson1991@gmail.com

Finance Convener : Philip Owen
80 West Road, Newport-on-Tay, Fife, DD6 8HP
Telephone: (01382) 543034
email: notchurch@gmail.com

Hall Hire : Jane Johnston
Telephone: (01382) 541606
email: j.johnston58@btinternet.com

Calendar of Worship

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday 2nd April 2023 at 11am Palm Sunday

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Beadle : K Campbell **Reader :** P Owen

Welcome : J Johnston

Flowers : S Johnston **Delivery :** A Waugh

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

Sunday Club : Funday Sunday - K Cruickshanks

Youth Elder : A Barona

Thursday 6th April 2023 at 7pm Maundy Thursday

Service, including Communion, led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Friday 7th April 2023 at 7pm Good Friday

Ecumenical Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Sunday 9th April 2023 at 11am Easter Sunday

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Beadle : F Harris **Reader :** C Wilman

Welcome : A Barona

Flowers : Easter Flowers **Delivery :** E Wood

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

Sunday Club : Funday Sunday - M Rowley,
N Rowley

Youth Elder : M Wright

Sunday 16th April 2023 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : M Imlay **Reader :** C Merrylees

Welcome : L Robertson

Flowers : J Mitchell **Delivery :** A Barona

Coffee : F Durward, A Heywood, M Rowley +
F Ritchie

Sunday Club : A Gray, S McCowan

Youth Elder : G Johnston

Sunday 23rd April 2023 at 11am

Service led by Miss C Owen and Mr P Owen

Beadle : W Imlay **Reader :** J Cuthbertson

Welcome : K Cruickshanks

Flowers : M Robertson **Delivery :** C Barr

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

Sunday Club : F Hutchinson, N Merrylees

Youth Elder : F Ritchie

Sunday 30th April 2023 at 11am Holy Communion

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Beadle : A Heywood **Reader :** A Wilman

Welcome : D Miller

Flowers : P Broadbent **Delivery :** F Durward

Coffee : A Gray, L Robertson, A Waugh + P Owen

Sunday Club : Godly Play

Youth Elder : C McCowan

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



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25