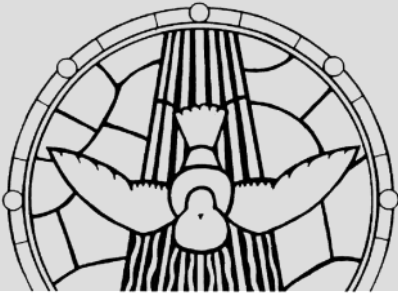


Newport-on-Tay

Church of Scotland Journal

March 2024



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Navigating Transitions with Faith: A Journey of Reflection and Hope



On the 29th January 2024, I was at the helm of a daunting task, appointed by the Fife Presbytery Business Committee. My role was to lead a task group in deciding the future of four Kirkcaldy Town Churches, a mission that would prove to be one of the most challenging of my career with the Church of Scotland. The prospect of closing churches, each a storied haven where generations have found solace and spiritual sustenance, was a burden that weighed heavily on my heart. The stories shared by congregants, of baptisms and lifelong spiritual journeys within these sacred walls, spoke of a deep connection that transcended mere bricks and mortar. Tales of community service,

shared spaces with other faith groups, and even the home of the "country's finest organ", were testimonies to the irreplaceable role these churches played in their communities. Echoing the sentiments of my fellow committee members, the idea of closure was met with reluctance and sorrow. Yet, the directive was clear: two would remain open, and two would close. This decision, though difficult, was made with a heavy heart and a prayerful spirit.

As we witness transformations within the Church of Scotland, I am reminded of my homeland, Cameroon, where the quest for worship spaces turns cinemas, nightclubs, and even pubs into sanctuaries of faith. This stark contrast with the secularisation and dwindling church attendance in Europe and parts of North America is a poignant reminder of the universal challenge of maintaining our spiritual homes in a rapidly changing world.

Our commitment to purposeful and fitting spaces for worship is unwavering. Where buildings may no longer serve their original purpose, the path forward should involve collaboration and creativity. The goal should not merely be to decide the fate of our structures but to reimagine how they can continue to serve our communities, guided by the Presbytery's wisdom and achievable targets.

Our local cluster of churches is also undergoing a transformation, with Wormit and Balmerino forming a union and potential future linkage with Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland. These changes prompt us to lean into prayer, seeking divine guidance to ensure our decisions honour the mission of the Church of Scotland and the spiritual wellbeing of our communities. In light of these transitions, we recall the five principles of mission that guide our path: proclaiming the Good News, nurturing new believers, serving with love, seeking justice and peace, and caring for creation. These principles remind us of our calling and our responsibility to the world around us.

In this time of transition, we hold fast to the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1, "to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Let us move forward with the strength and tenacity of our faith, supporting one another in times of change and loss. May God bless our church in Newport-on-Tay, guiding us to make decisions that reflect His love and wisdom, and ensuring a future where our community continues to flourish in faith and fellowship.

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.

Foodbank Collection

While we regularly collect for The Community Chest Appeal which supports the Rio's foodstuff collection for inclusion in their lunch provision programme, we have decided that during March we will give all our donations straight to the Tay Bridgehead Foodbank. We usually have a couple of direct collections for them each year and we have heard them appeal for supplies recently, so thought this was an ideal time.

Finishing on Easter Sunday (31st March) this collection will be delivered to the foodbank to help them stock up.

Please bring along any donations any Sunday during March and put them in the box at the back of the Church.

Recommended items include (but not limited to):

- tea/coffee
- dry goods
- canned goods (fruit, soup, meat, etc.)
- toiletries
- household products (washing up liquid, laundry detergent, etc.)
- sanitary goods
- UHT milk
- diluting juice

Many thanks.



Easter Sunday



Our morning service on Easter Sunday, 31st March, will include Communion.

All are welcome to join us at this service to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Evening Service

Our next Evening Service is scheduled for Easter Sunday, 31st March, at 6:30pm in the Church.

This will be a Thanksgiving Service, not Communion Round the Table, as we will have shared Communion during the morning service.

All are welcome.



TAYFIELD ESTATE

LOGS AND FIREWOOD ETC.

**Newport-on-Tay,
Fife**

Tel. 543400 and 07745045007

Thank You!

Thank you for the lovely flowers with accompanying prayers I received recently. I really appreciate the kindness.

Many blessings,



Kirsteen Cruickshanks

Thank you very much for the flowers I received when I came out of hospital.

Margaret Wright

Thank you for the flowers I received after a recent injury. It was a complete surprise but was very lovely of everyone to do that.

Lorna Hundal



Thank you very much for the lovely flowers I received recently following a spell in hospital. It was very kind of the church to remember me.

Nettie Leslie

A huge thank you to all in Church who either sent their good wishes, handed in food, flowers and cards after I was taken ill recently. Also thanks to those who have covered the various rotas I was detailed to do. Your kind thoughts have certainly helped with my recovery and I will back again soon on my flower and coffee duties.

Frances Durward



Thank you to all who arranged for me to have the bouquet of cheering bright flowers last month. What a lovely surprise. I really appreciated the gift.

I am well on the way to recovering from my injuries after a fall but it's been a lesson to me that having two hands to cope with life is a blessing!

Very many thanks and love to all,

Susan Vincent



D. & S. SMITH

**PLUMBING & CENTRAL HEATING
INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE**

**6 UNION STREET
NEWPORT-ON-TAY
FIFE DD6 8BP**

Reg. No. 41190

TEL: (01382) 543357 / Mobile 07703 889736

Report from Presbytery on Amos's Tenure

Back in 2017, when our previous minister retired, St Andrews Presbytery allowed us to call a new minister but imposed a condition that our minister's tenure should be reviewed in 7 years. This was in line with the General Assembly's instruction to all Presbyteries to create a plan to address the dwindling numbers of members and ministers and a drop in income in the Kirk nationally.

Fife Presbytery has now carried out the review and has extended the review period to May 2027. We will then be reviewed on:

- whether the life of the congregation exhibits The Five Marks of Mission; and
- the extent to which the Presbytery Mission Plan for North Fife has been implemented

The Presbytery Mission Plan requires us to develop and form a union with Wormit and Balmerino and Creich, Flisk and Kilmany and the Presbytery report says that the extension of the review will provide space for further progress with this.

As part of the review, we were visited by representatives from Presbytery. This is what they said about us:-

"The congregation is active and missional through (amongst other things) the active Guild, Worship Group, Sunday Club, Funday Sunday, Youth Seekers, Youth Worker in the congregation and school, Wednesday Afternoon Club, Sunday Coffee Team, Christian Aid, Malawi Partnership, Online Church, Holiday Club, Bible Alive and especially the manna Café. It was a joy to hear about these aspects of the church life."

Our Kirk Session will be working on being a missional church and will be working towards the union of the churches in this corner of Fife.

The Five Marks of Mission

The Five Marks of Mission were endorsed by the General Assembly of October 2020 and are as follows:

- ◆ To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- ◆ To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- ◆ To respond to human need by loving service
- ◆ To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- ◆ To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ.

A Date for Your Diary

A Date for Your Diary – Tim Scoular Visit on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7:30pm.

Many of you will remember Tim Scoular one of our earlier Youth Workers who returned to his native Australia to continue with his studies and career within the Anglican Church.

Now a fully ordained Anglican Minister, he along with his wife Lauren and daughter Zoe, are coming to Scotland in early 2025 to pursue a church-planting role with St. Silas Episcopal Church in Glasgow. In preparation for this move Tim will be visiting both London and Glasgow in March this year and has made plans to squeeze in a visit to Newport on the night of Monday 11th March at 7:30pm in the Church to share God's calling and future plans for both himself and his family.

Next Edition

If you would like anything included in our April edition of the Church Journal please email

newportcos@btinternet.com

or speak to Claire Owen

by **Sunday 24th March 2024.**

The Pop-Up Post Office is currently running on

Wednesdays AND Fridays

from 9:30 - 11:30am
in the Kirk House Complex.



Don't miss out!

Catch up with the
Sunday service at:

www.notchurch.co.uk

Sunday Club Update

Teaching in February and March

We are continuing our series of sessions looking at things that make up the Christian character. The younger children have been creating a tree with a trunk for trust and leaves of love, joy, peace and patience so far. We also created a patience wall. We will move on to kindness, goodness and faithfulness next.

Our first session in February was Godly Play, in which the story of Noah's Ark was explored. 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. On 18th February we thought about how and why we mark the season of Lent. The children thought about what they might do this Lent to make time and space to be closer to God.



Update on Sunday Club Sponsorship through World Vision

As you know, we have committed to sponsoring a child through World Vision. The children keep up-to-date with their 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 them and their 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

Emma Wisher

On behalf of the Sunday Club Team



manna matters

We have had a challenging time last month with several of our volunteers unable to give us their usual support due to ill health. However as so often happens with our manna family, others have come forward to help in their place. We firstly would like to wish Shirley, Amanda, Elizabeth, Margaret and Frances all speedy and full recoveries. Thank you to everyone who has helped with the laundry, soup making and covering extra shifts. It is very much appreciated.



The bakers too have been working away in their kitchens producing a wonderful selection of treats for you all to enjoy when you are visiting manna.

We do have spaces for new volunteers, soup makers and regular help with our laundry. It is a constant challenge to keep our volunteer numbers up. However in the last 16 years as manna's manager I have learnt not to panic but pray. I have had enough experience now to trust in the Lord. I have always felt that manna is where He wants me to be and He has constantly guided me in my role as manager.

God bless.

manna is open Tuesday – Saturday 10am - 4:30pm

manna (01382) 542781

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

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

Youth Update

Hi Everyone,

At the time of writing this newsletter I am off to Berlin for a few days, for a wee city break with a friend, after our February Messy Church. Only I would think that was a good idea! Anyway, before we get into our Youth Ministries Update for February I would like to say huge thank you to all our volunteers who help run our ministries. Without them, we wouldn't be able to do as much as we do. We have seen some amazing growth in different areas of our ministry, both of faith and in new people coming along. We are looking forward to what the rest of 2024 has in store. Below is a bit more information about what we are doing in our ministries. I hope that this update will be encouraging to you and please keep us in your prayers as we look forward to what is happening in the next couple of months.

Spark (Formerly Youth Seekers)

We have finished our series on Paul, where we ended by creating a timeline of the most significant events and points in his life. It has been a real whirlwind and it has been great to learn more about one of the great men of faith from the Bible. We don't know what we are going to be doing next but will be discussing our options at the beginning of March.



Ignite (Formerly Youth Café)

We are reading and discussing some of Paul's writings in the letters he wrote. We have looked at the Armour of God, being men and women of faith, fruits of the Holy Spirit, as a couple of examples.

Soon we will be discovering the gifts that we are given by God. We will also be doing an Art evening on 17th March where we will be looking at the Creation Story and painting our interpretation of each day in the Creation Story.

Soon we hope to be creating a video of the Easter Story from eyewitness perspectives. We are looking forward to what God has in store for us over the next couple of months.

Discipleship Group

This is a group for S4+ pupils who want to delve more into the bible. We meet in manna every second Friday at 2.30pm. For the next 7 meetings we are looking at a bible study called Better by Jen Wilkin, which is helping us to read and understand the book of Hebrews.

Our group of four are beginning our journey together where we are deepening our faith and discipling one another. It has been great to teach and learn from our wonderful young people! Our next meeting is on Friday 8th March.

Messy Church

At the time of writing, we have just had our February Messy Church and our theme was God's love for us. We specifically looked at the Parables of The Lost Coin, The Lost Sheep and The Prodigal Son. We had dramatised parables, where our children and adults had the chance to act out the parables with costumes and props; we also had 3D decorative hearts, Mother's Day cards, and Finding The Lost - where we "lost" a sheep, a coin and a Woody (representing the lost son) in the main church and had our families go and find them!

It was great fun and we had 3 new families that came and joined us, which is exciting!

Next month we are pushing back the start time of Messy Church to 11am - 1pm, with the hope that those who have classes on in the morning can come and have more time to participate in the craft and activities! Our next meeting is on Saturday 30th March, where we will have an Easter theme, as it is Easter Weekend!

Bible Alive

We have had the privilege of being able to go into Newport Primary to the amazing P6 class and go through the bible and bring it to life. We have had six weeks so far, and our final week is the last Wednesday in February, where we will be going from the resurrection of Jesus all the way through to Revelation. It is going to be a whopper of an hour and we are so looking forward to it! The P6 class has been phenomenal, energetic, excited and getting stuck in with the drama, dress up, challenges, quizzes and learning different stories and parts from the bible!

Volunteer Appeal

As I said in my introduction to this article, we couldn't run these amazing events and groups without our volunteers. However, we do need your help. We are looking for people who have skills in sewing, baking, woodwork and more. We are needing people to make us simple costumes for Bible Alive. We also need people who can work well with their hands to make us some more props for Bible Alive. We also need some bakers who are willing to make tasty treats for our Messy Church families.

If you feel any of those roles are for you, please do get in touch with me, I would love to hear from you! We also have Easter Code for P7 at Newport Primary coming up on the morning of Wednesday 27th March and need a team of 8-10 to help deliver this fantastic Curriculum event. This is where we take them through different stations on the run up to Jesus' crucifixion, which includes The Last Supper, Garden of Gethsemane, the trial and more. If you would like to help or would like more information, please also get in touch with me!

Chris Cameron

Youth & Children Coordinator

The Guild Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland

Return of Summer Concerts: Wednesdays@One 24

Following two series of very enjoyable concerts in 2022 and 2023, Hannah has now confirmed dates and performers for this year:

Ukraine Project

~ Fundraising for Ukraine

The sunflower cards (both greeting and postcards) 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 for Peace in Ukraine and other conflict areas

Every Thursday evening at 7pm on the Church Green (and on Zoom for a trial period).

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

It is important that we continue to bear witness to the ongoing suffering of people affected by conflict and pray for peace.

Please do join us if you are around at that time. We usually have a time of prayer starting promptly at 7pm lasting 5-10 minutes.

If you don't feel able to come in person, we are trialling Zooming the Vigils. If you would like to join please ask Neil Merrylees or Claire Owen for the link.

Wednesday Afternoon Club

This runs from 1.30pm to 3pm each Wednesday in the Agnes Duncan Room.

Attendance is generally good and those who come enjoy the refreshments (tea/coffee and biscuits) often with some home baking, and company (with plenty of opportunity to chat).

There is no charge, however if anyone wishes to make a donation, there is a collection plate. We have got enough volunteers at present but more are always welcome to lighten the load and fill any gaps. A big thank you to Margaret Wright for co-ordinating it.



Wednesday Afternoon Club Rota

6th March	- Sheila Johnston & Margaret Wright
13th March	- Linda Robertson & Jane Campbell
20th March	- Margaret Wright & Mairi Shiels
27th March	- Neil Merrylees & Bianca Hugel
3rd April	- Frances Durward & Pam Laurence
10th April	- Carolyn Barr & Eleanor Owen

If you would like to help, please do get in touch with Margaret Wright: Tel (01382) 543007.

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 2024

Wednesdays@One

Wednesday at 1pm for 30-40 mins

24th July: 'Puddledub Duo'
Stephen Morrison & Robin Bell
(Guitar and Piano)

31st July: Alison Malcolm (Organ)

7th August: Eleanor Owen (Soprano)

14th August: Sarah Elgin (Flute)

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

Scottish Charity Number - SC006758



Embracing New Beginnings: A Joyous Easter Celebration

It only feels like yesterday since I was drafting an article for the Winter edition of our Church Journal. We now already find ourselves again on the threshold of a season synonymous with hope, renewal and new beginnings; in the heart of our beautiful church, Easter takes on a very special and significant role, not only as the celebration of the resurrection of Christ, but also as a reminder of hope and promise that this season in the church calendar may bring.



Easter aligns perfectly with the season of spring, where nature awakens from a winter hibernation and we begin to see the flowers sprout out of the ground and the trees blossom vibrant, bright and earthy colours. We see the little lambs frolicking in the fields, finding their way in the world, and best of all, our days are longer and the nights are shorter. The church embraces this connection, drawing parallels between rebirth, nature and the everlasting faith in our hearts.

Many of us can relate to new beginnings; a friend recently phoned me to say she will be moving house with her parents, which is incredibly exciting news. Earlier last week, I attended an assembly at school for the first time in many years, where one of the fifth year pupils gave a talk about his mother's journey from being diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer, to the start of her new beginnings when she was given the all clear and finding a way to move forward by supporting others suffering a similar condition. While I could see the pain in his eyes as he spoke, he reiterated that the love and support of others held them together. New beginnings may also relate to a new job (or leaving a particularly horrible one), starting a daily exercise routine, or even reconnecting with someone from the past. 'New beginnings' could perhaps mean coming to terms with grief, acceptance or closure.

As the forty days and forty nights draw to a close, and in this season of resurrection, I hope each of us have the strength to embark on a journey of new beginnings, no matter how big or small, guided by the resurrection story and always in the light and out of the darkness. In classic organist style, I look forward to echoing the triumphant strains of 'Thine be the Glory', at full organ and full choir on Easter morning and whatever the musical treats in the Order of Service on the 31st March may bring us.

On a personal level of new beginnings, Ray and I are expecting a baby, due on the 25th June 2024. We are incredibly delighted and look forward to the journey of parenthood, nappy changes and creating many happy memories! New beginnings for the baby will not only be when he/she is born, but on the one hundredth day. In Chinese culture, it commemorates a new life entering society, dressed in red and gold to represent prosperity, and the paternal grandfather announcing the baby's name. And, most likely followed by a traditional Chan feast!

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Yours faithfully,
Hannah Chan



Daily Reflections

DAILY
REFLECTION

Our minister, Rev Dr Amos Chewachong, is continuing his series of daily reflections. These are uploaded to the church website (www.notchurch.co.uk/index.php/reflections/).

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 & Children Coordinator : 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 Chan
Telephone: 07476 372 311
email: hannah.chan.mcs@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

Sunday 3rd March 2024 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : A Heywood **Reader :** W Berry

Welcome : K Cruickshanks

Flowers : E Thomson **Delivery :** C Barr

Coffee : A Barona, P Foulis, Elaine Thomson + D Macleod

Crèche : C Owen

Sunday Club : A Gray, S McCowan

Young Persons' Elder : J Campbell

Sunday 10th March 2024 at 11am Mothers' Day

Service led by Mr G Johnston

Beadle : F Harris **Reader :** J Campbell

Welcome : A Barona

Flowers : M Heron **Delivery :** F Durward

Coffee : K Farquhar, K Cruickshanks, A Heywood, M Rowley + B Imlay

Crèche : C Johnston

Sunday Club : S McCowan, A Gray

Young Persons' Elder : F Robertson

Sunday 17th March 2024 at 11am

Service led by Mr P Owen

Beadle : M Imlay **Reader :** F Ritchie

Welcome : C Johnston

Flowers : L Robertson **Delivery :** A Gray

Coffee : P Laurence, S Myles, Elizabeth Thomson + F Ritchie

Crèche : F Chewachong

Sunday Club : J Wylie, E Wisher

Young Persons' Elder : M Shiels

Sunday 24th March 2024 at 11am Palm Sunday

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : C Johnston **Reader :** R Caird

Welcome : F Harris

Flowers : C Barr **Delivery :** A Heywood

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

Crèche : J Taylor

Sunday Club : F/S West, F Hutchinson

Young Persons' Elder : E Thomson

Thursday 28th March 2024 at 7pm Maundy Thursday Service

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong



Friday 29th March 2024 at 7pm Ecumenical Good Friday Service in St Mary's Episcopal Church



Sunday 31st March 2024 at 11am Easter Sunday

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : S Johnston **Reader :** P Owen

Welcome : M Imlay

Flowers : Easter Flowers **Delivery :** M Imlay

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

Crèche : D Miller

Sunday Club : Funday Sunday

Young Persons' Elder : J Johnston



Sunday 7th April 2024 at 11am

Service led by Mr F Robertson

Beadle : D Macleod **Reader :** J Cuthbertson

Welcome : D Miller

Flowers : S Johnston **Delivery :** J Johnston

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

Crèche : J Johnston

Sunday Club : Funday Sunday

Young Persons' Elder : A Heywood