



# Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland Journal

April 2024



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Easter 2024

*1 Timothy 2 v 5 - 6 : The Indispensable Mediator*

*"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time."*

One of the most important aspects of the Lenten Season is that it invites us to reflect on the essence of mediation and its importance in faith, particularly in the Christian understanding of reconciliation between God and humankind. As we celebrate Easter, I wish to reflect on the concept of Jesus as the mediator, exploring why such an intermediary is indispensable and why Jesus Christ alone fulfils this role.

The idea of a mediator is ubiquitous in our lives. For example, distinguished and world class bodies, like the United Nations, aim to resolve conflicts between nations while marriage counsellors strive to mend relationships between spouses. However, the notion of mediation takes on a deeper, more critical role in spiritual discourse—especially in Christianity, which uniquely insists on the necessity of a mediator between God and people.

Anselm of Canterbury and Dietrich Bonhoeffer spoke of the gravity of sin and the ongoing spiritual struggle, underscoring why mere human initiative is inadequate for true reconciliation with God. The discrepancy between human disputes and our estrangement from God is vast. Our disagreements with each other are often petty and easily mendable without a third party, but our rift with God is of a different order—it is a rebellion against our Creator, that always requires divine intervention for restoration.

Jesus Christ is positioned as the sole mediator because of his unique nature and his redemptive actions. He was fully divine and fully human, paying the ultimate price—a ransom with His life—to liberate us from the bondage of sin. His death and resurrection were acts of atonement which underscore His unparalleled position as the mediator. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 teaches that no other being shares the dual nature of Jesus—God incarnate who entered our human condition, only to offer Himself as a ransom. His qualifications are unrivalled, His sacrifice unparalleled, and His mediation unmatched in any other faith tradition.

The significance of this theological truth is deeply personal and exclusive. It challenges notions of broad-mindedness that suggest all paths lead to God, and instead asserts the necessity of Christ's mediation. In recognising Jesus as the sole qualified saviour, we are invited to embrace Him as our mediator, the only one capable of restoring us to a right relationship with God.

Easter joy is found in the acceptance of this truth. Christ's mediation is not just a doctrinal point but the very means of our spiritual freedom and the foundation for a life dedicated to His service. As we celebrate Easter, let us rejoice in the living hope and the joyous freedom brought forth through Christ, the Mediator. In His resurrection, we find the affirmation of His unique role in our lives, promising us not only reconciliation but also the joy of eternal life.

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

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our collection during March for the Tay Bridgehead Foodbank. We collected over 120 items and these were handed over to the foodbank to boost their supplies.



## Community Chest

Following our foodbank appeal in March we will return to collecting for our Community Chest Appeal. This supports the Rio's foodstuff collection for inclusion in their lunch provision programme or for distribution in conjunction with the local foodbank.

A large container is available each Sunday to receive foodstuff, toiletries, etc. and any donations, no matter how small, are gratefully received. For more information and recommended items please see our website [www.notchurch.co.uk](http://www.notchurch.co.uk)  
Many thanks.



## Holy Communion

We will be holding our Service of Holy Communion on Sunday 28th April 2024.



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

## TAYFIELD ESTATE

### LOGS AND FIREWOOD ETC.

Newport-on-Tay,  
Fife

**Tel. 543400 and 07745045007**

## Thank You!

Thank you for the flowers and prayers you gave us both recently.  
We were very touched by your kindness.

**Amanda & Chris Wilman**

Thank you very much for the flowers I received on the occasion of my birthday. It was a lovely surprise and much appreciated.

**Bill Armstrong**

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers.

**Margaret and Alistair Storrier**



Thank you for the flowers I received on my birthday.

**Moira Clark**

## Parish Register

### New Members by Certificate

Mrs June Steen & Mr Stewart Steen  
Newport  
From:- The Steeple Church, Dundee

Dist 32

### Members Removed by Certificate

Mr Andrew Hogg & Mrs Dorothy Hogg  
Wormit

Dist 25F

## Evening Service

Our next Evening Service is scheduled for Communion Sunday, 28th April, 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.



## 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

## Maundy Money

We are delighted that two of our elders, Mrs Elizabeth Thomson and Mr Philip Owen, were among six Church of Scotland members who received Maundy Money from Her Majesty The Queen, on behalf of His Majesty The King, at Worcester Cathedral on 28th March 2024. A total of 75 men and 75 women from across the United Kingdom received the award after being nominated for their dedicated years of Christian service to the Church and community.

The tradition of presenting alms on Maundy Thursday dates back to at least the 4th century AD with the first record of a monarch doing this in the British Isles being in 1213. The service is held at a different cathedral in England each year, and the number of both men and women being given Maundy Money is the same as the monarch's age. The word 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for 'commandment', which refers to the instruction that Jesus gave his disciples on the Thursday before he died "that you should love one another as I have loved you".

Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton (Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland) said, "I am delighted that six long-serving and dedicated members of the Church of Scotland are being recognised in this way. They are people who have served their congregations and communities faithfully, giving up their time to help others."

Elizabeth said, "I was extremely surprised to receive the letter from Buckingham Palace telling me that I had been nominated to receive Maundy Money for service to the Church and to the Community. When I got over the shock I felt very honoured and at the same time humbled. The service in Worcester Cathedral at which we were presented with the Maundy coins by the Queen was a grand and uplifting occasion. I felt very privileged to be part of it."



Philip said, "I am elated and proud, but at the same time very humbled that I was chosen. I have a mixture of pride, surprise and humility to have been recommended and approved to receive this honour. While looking back over a number of decades of Christian service - whether through the Boys' Brigade, Church finance or leading Church worship - it had always been done as a service to others. Consequently this recognition reflects equally on our Church locally and on the other, generally unsung, volunteers who help in ministry and mission here and across the land."

Congratulations to Elizabeth and Philip!

## Easter 2024

Prior to our Easter morning service we had an Egg Walk where a number of our congregation and local families walked to Victoria Park and rolled painted eggs down the hill to symbolise the stone being rolled away.

Our Easter Sunday service was a joint service with members from Wormit and Balmerino Churches helping to create a congregation of about 150 people! We had a combined choir who led our singing and sung a lovely version of 'Before the Throne/When I Survey' as an anthem.

Our children's address was led by Alastair Stark who was with us on a placement last year as he trains for ministry. It was lovely to have him and his family back with us for this special day.

We were also all able to share Communion before having fellowship in the hall after the service.

We finished the day with a Thanksgiving Service in the evening.

On such an important day in the Christian calendar it was amazing to share all this with others.

A huge thank you to Margaret Wright and her flower team for picking the daffodils and decorating the church so beautifully for Easter Sunday. These flowers were then distributed to a number of recipients to let them know they were being thought about especially at Easter.

Many thanks also to Mr and Mrs Berry for allowing us to use the Tayfield daffodils for this occasion. For more pictures please see our Church website

[www.notchurch.co.uk](http://www.notchurch.co.uk)



## Sunday Club Update

### Teaching in March and April

We are continuing our series of sessions looking at things that make up the Christian character. We have added some kindness leaves to the tree we have been making. The children also had a goodness challenge where they had to try and do a good deed every day for a week. We have looked at faithfulness and using our talents in God's service, as well as making cards for Mother's Day.

We will finish March by learning about Easter, and then celebrating it with 2 Funday Sundays. We'll then move on to looking at gentleness and self-control. The final Sunday in April will be Godly Play. 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.



### 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.



Sunday  
Club

#### **Fundraising**

We continue to fundraise through the regular weekly offerings of the children and donations from members of the congregation. On Easter Sunday we held a bake sale and many thanks to everyone who supported this venture - we raised £119.80!

#### **General Information**

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

#### **Emma Wisher**

On behalf of the Sunday Club Team

## manna matters

Can you believe it's been 18 years since manna opened in March 2006. I've been manager since November 2007. manna has gone from strength to strength in that time. It hasn't all been plain sailing especially over the last 4 years, however God continues to bless manna with volunteers, bakers and customers.



Having been open for nearly 20 years, signs of wear and tear are appearing with one of the worst areas being the floor. The highlight of the last month has been getting our flooring sanded and re-sealed. You can see the before and after pictures on our Facebook page. We are delighted with the results. We are also looking at our decor and there are a few ideas being discussed.

We continue to look for new volunteers. Please give it some thought and if not yourself then perhaps someone you know? We also need more laundry volunteers to wash, dry and iron one load a week. Soup makers are very welcome too! Last but not least we ask for prayers for manna and all our team.

God bless.

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

manna (01382) 542781

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

Morag Rowley (Assistant Manager) (01382) 541157 & [moragrowley.4@gmail.com](mailto:moragrowley.4@gmail.com)

## 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/](http://www.notchurch.co.uk/index.php/reflections/)).

## Youth Update

This past month has been a very busy one with all our activities that we have been up to and which we have coming up. Hopefully this update can give you a glimpse of what we have been doing as a ministry and I am looking forward to next month!

### Spark (Formerly Youth Seekers)

At Spark we have been discussing what we would like to learn about from the Bible and/or about Christianity and collectively decided to learn more about David from the Bible. A few weeks ago, we covered an overview of David's life and last week we looked at David the musician. After the Easter holidays, we will continue to delve into David's life and how we can apply the lessons we learn from his life to us today.

### Ignite (Formerly Youth Café)

This past month our Sunday evening youth group have been getting creative and arty. I tasked our gifted young people to come up with different paintings for each of the 7 Days of our Creation story. They look incredible and we are looking forward to using them in Bible Alive next year, as well as potentially during a children's talk.



### Discipleship Group

We are carrying on with our bible study Better by Jen Wilkin, where we are going through the book of Hebrews. It has been very insightful to learn with our young people and we are looking forward to meeting up every two weeks.

### Messy Church

We have just had our Easter Messy Church where we made sand crosses, Easter Story Cookies, had an Easter Egg Hunt and more. We also used a teaching aid called Resurrection Eggs, where in each plastic egg there is an item to do with the easter story, we then put them in the right order and retold the Easter story.

**Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April from 11am – 1pm.**

### Easter Code

We had our final curriculum event of the year in Newport Primary School with Easter Code, where members of our church helped walk our P7's through the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We talked about The Last Supper and some of the children tasted some food they may have eaten there; we had a station dedicated to foot washing, another one for the Garden of Gethsemane, another one for the Trial of Jesus and a craft dedicated to Golgotha. We are so privileged that we can do these events in our local school, and it was a roaring success! Thank you to Bill Imlay, Graham Johnston, Ruth Bearn, Alison Heywood, Kevin and Jane Campbell who delivered this material fantastically and the kids had a great time!

### Primary School May Weekend Camp

I am over the moon to say we have 9 local children between the ages of P5-P7 booked to go on a Primary Weekend away on 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May, up at Alltnacrie with Scripture Union Scotland. For some of them, this will be their first camp away from home, and for most of them it will be their first SU Camp!

I am looking for at least 3 people who can drive us to/from Newport-on-Tay Church to Perth High School (where we will catch a bus to Alltnacrie on Friday and return on Sunday). If you can do one or both journeys, please come and chat with me!

### Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who supports our ministry - without you we couldn't do all that we do. It has been a real blessing to me that I have fantastic support in so many ways. Thank you to those who stepped up and answered the call recently for baking and making costumes. We would still welcome others with open arms if you would like to volunteer in these areas.

As I said above, we are looking for drivers for the May Weekend as well as some people who are good with woodworking to help make a few props for Bible Alive in particular.

Please get in touch if you can support us in these roles, or if you would like to volunteer in any of our groups or events we run!

May you have a restful and blessed Easter Holidays!

**Chris Cameron**, Youth & Children Coordinator

## The Boys' Brigade Update

We have been progressing our activities smoothly with our band of enthusiastic boys over the past few months. We have introduced them to a wide range of (hopefully) interesting topics in recent weeks, ranging from famous women (International Women's Day) to the Ten Commandments (and Egypt) to the centenary of Eric Liddell's famous participation in the 1924 Olympics (and how his Christian faith influenced his life).

Of course, recent weeks have seen a focus on Easter including a trail around the church building to locate a series of internet videos retelling the various elements of the Easter story from Palm Sunday to reaffirming God's promise in John 3 v 16.

We are currently enjoying a break over the Easter Holidays before the final few weeks take us to the summer.

**Philip Owen, Company Captain of 1st Newport/Wormit BB Company**



## Zoom Hosting

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!

## The Guild Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland

### **Return of Summer Concerts: Wednesdays@One 24**

A reminder of the dates of the summer concerts is in the poster on the right.

### **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 in western Ukraine

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

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

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 continuing Zooming the Vigils. If you would like to join please ask myself (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

10th April	- Carolyn Barr & Eleanor Owen
17th April	- Margaret Wright
24th April	- Bianca Hugel
1st May	- Alison Heywood
8th May	- Margaret Wright



**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**

## Christian Aid News

### Christian Aid Week

This is just an early reminder that Christian Aid Week (CAW) runs from 12th to 18th May. As usual there will be the familiar red envelopes in the pews for those who wish to donate. There will also be an online giving page for those who prefer to donate electronically, as I know many people do now. The address will be in the May Journal.

### Penny Bucket

As I hope you are all aware, donations in this also go to Christian Aid. At the moment I am holding just over £57 which have come in over the last few months and which I will include in CAW donations.

Donors often say, "It's not much" or "It's nothing". However it is amazing how all these "nothings" and "not muchs" add up. In the past year - March '23 to March'24 - the Bucket has yielded £199.73. Quite a sum.

I want to thank all the donors, many of whom are anonymous to me, for their generosity and concern for others. I am always moved when I see a wee bag of coins has mysteriously appeared in the Bucket.

I am very happy to keep counting for as long as the gifts keep coming!



**Margaret Imlay**

## Olivier Messiaen and The Ascension

One of the finest pieces of organ music composed by Olivier Messiaen is the monumental 'L'Ascension', a colourful suite that draws upon the theme of the composer's deepest spiritual connection to the church and the desire to paint his visions and beliefs through the elegance of the organ.

Completed by 1922, it is a four-movement work that explores the subject of the Ascension of Jesus Christ, a theme that aligns closely to Messiaen's devotion to the catholic church and drawing inspiration from the sacred narratives in the bible. Another example of this is 'La Nativite du Seigneur', a masterpiece that tells the story of the birth of Jesus through nine vibrant and imaginative movements.

The connection between L'Ascension and the church is firstly evident by the choice of instrument – the organ. The organ is often referred to as the 'King of Instruments', owing to the many sounds it can produce from the string, woodwind and brass family, and has a long-standing relationship with the church, dating back to the 3rd century BC in Ancient Greece. The colourful tones allow the organ to paint pictures, tell stories and provoke the imagination in many ways, shapes and forms; 20th century composers are brilliant storytellers, looking to nature such as birdsong for inspiration, personal experiences like trauma (Messiaen was a prisoner during WW2 and wrote pieces for instruments he had available in the camp at the time) or places that hold some sort of significance.

I performed L'Ascension twice around a decade ago: the first time at Bradford Cathedral and the second at Palmerston Place, Edinburgh. Journeying with this suite over four months was tough from a technical point of view, but one of the most rewarding experiences in my performance career.



Some of you may be wondering why you have never heard L'Ascension or La Nativite du Seigneur in the time I've been in post. Our instrument is versatile, but it does not have the tonal sounds or acoustic which would allow me to tell the story convincingly. The harmonies may not necessarily agree with your ear, however, if you are able to listen to the suite on a suitable instrument in a larger space, I promise that you will be in for a treat.

Each movement is unique: the first movement sets a majestic tone ('Majesty of Christ asking for His Glory from His Father'), the second ('Serene alleluias of a soul that longs for heaven') is an ethereal and delicate masterpiece that creates a heavenly atmosphere using the softer registers of the organ, the third ('Journey to joy') is a jubilant celebration in the bright key of F sharp major (a key often associated with heaven), in the form of a fast, vibrant toccata, and the final movement ('Prayer of Christ ascending towards His Father') draws the suite to a reflective and poignant conclusion, having traversed through the layers of spirituality and emotional depth in the space of 25 minutes.

Messiaen certainly does not fail in sweeping us along on a journey that explores the themes of faith, the divine and transcendence. Not only do we experience the music in an eccentric blend of sounds and rhythms, we also experience a spiritual pilgrimage guided by a visionary genius who was dedicated to his strong faith and devotion to the church.

**Hannah Chan**

## Calendar of Worship

### Sunday 7th April 2024 at 11am

Service led by Mr F Robertson  
**Beadle :** D Macleod      **Reader :** J Cuthbertson  
**Welcome :** A Barona  
**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

### Sunday 14th April 2024 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong  
**Beadle :** J Johnston      **Reader :** L Robertson  
**Welcome :** K Cameron  
**Flowers :** J Mitchell      **Delivery :** S Johnston  
**Coffee :** P Broadbent, M Cuthbertson, K Farquhar + J Cuthbertson  
**Crèche :** F Harris  
**Sunday Club :** S/F West, S McCowan  
**Young Persons' Elder :** M Imlay

### Sunday 21st April 2024 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong  
**Beadle :** P Owen      **Reader :** A Wilman  
**Welcome :** J Johnston  
**Flowers :** M Robertson      **Delivery :** P Laurence  
**Coffee :** J Campbell, L Hundal, F Hutchinson + K Campbell  
**Crèche :** C Owen  
**Sunday Club :** A Gray, E Wisher  
**Young Persons' Elder :** C Johnston

### Sunday 28th April 2024 at 11am Service of Holy Communion

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong  
**Beadle :** D Miller      **Reader :** S Johnston  
**Welcome :** M Shiels  
**Flowers :** P Broadbent      **Delivery :** E Owen  
**Coffee :** A Barona, P Foulis, Elaine Thomson + D Macleod  
**Crèche :** C Johnston  
**Sunday Club :** Godly Play  
**Young Persons' Elder :** L Gray

### Sunday 28th April 2024 at 6:30pm Thanksgiving Service

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

### Sunday 5th May 2024 at 11am

Service led by Miss C Owen  
**Beadle :** C McCowan      **Reader :** A Heywood  
**Welcome :** L Robertson  
**Flowers :** J McKendrick      **Delivery :** M Rowley  
**Coffee :** K Cruickshanks, F Durward, A Heywood, M Rowley + F Ritchie  
**Crèche :** F Chewachong  
**Sunday Club :** J Wylie, F Hutchinson  
**Young Persons' Elder :** D Miller

## Contact Numbers

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## Next Edition

If you would like anything included in our May edition of the Church Journal please email  
[newportcos@btinternet.com](mailto:newportcos@btinternet.com)  
or in the hands of Claire Owen  
by **Sunday 21st April 2024**.