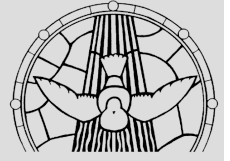




Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland November 2024 Journal



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Embracing the Change of Seasons

When the clocks went back an hour at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday of October, the United Kingdom transitioned from British Summer Time (BST) to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). This shift signals a move from Daylight Saving Time back to standard time, adjusting our schedules to make better use of natural daylight. As a result, mornings become lighter, while evenings grow darker earlier. This adjustment helps align our waking hours with the available daylight as we move toward the end of the year.

As the clocks went back this past weekend, we are reminded that this shift is more than just a practical change. It marks a transition into a new phase of the year. The shorter days and longer nights can indeed bring a different rhythm to life, but they also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. In our Church, this period invites us to pause and embrace the quieter atmosphere that accompanies this change, using it as a spiritual prompt to find meaning in the natural cycles of life.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens." As we draw closer to the end of the year, it is a fitting time to contemplate the changes in our lives—both the expected and the unexpected. The earlier sunsets and longer evenings encourage us to find moments of rest and preparation. Just as the earth cycles through times of activity and rest, we too are invited to take this time to renew our spirits and deepen our walk with God. Psalm 46:10 encourages us with the words, "Be still, and know that I am God." Even as our calendars fill, let us remember to carve out moments of stillness to reconnect with God, allowing His presence to refresh us.

As we approach Advent, a season of anticipation and hope, we are reminded of the coming light of Christ. In Isaiah 9:2, it is written, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." This transition from BST to GMT, where darkness comes earlier, can serve as a reminder of the hope we find in Christ—a light that shines even in the darkest times.

In the weeks ahead, let us embrace this season's unique opportunities for reflection and renewal. Whether it is taking time for personal prayer, reaching out to someone who might be struggling, or finding joy in simple acts of kindness and warmth, let us do so with hearts full of gratitude.

Every Blessing,

Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

OUR CHURCH'S VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be a church which inspires people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Evening Service

We have decided to again only hold one Evening Service this month which will be a Communion Service on Sunday 24th November led by our minister. It will be held in the Church at 6:30pm and all are welcome.

Holy Communion



If you were unable to attend Communion or forgot your card on the day, and still have your Communion Card, please bring it to church and put it in the offering plate or give it to your church elder to return on your behalf.

Thank You!

Thank you for the lovely flowers I received recently for my birthday. It was very much appreciated.

Ina Guthrie



I was very surprised but delighted to receive the church flowers last month. It was very kind of you to think of me and I appreciate it. It was also really nice to have a chat and catch up with Eleanor. Many thanks again.



Gill Smith

Thank you for the surprise delivery of flowers which have enhanced the joy of our Golden Wedding Celebrations.

David and Kay Husband

Newport & Wormit in Bloom

Newport & Wormit in Bloom are holding an Indoor Plant Sale as part of the Rotary Christmas Fair in the Blyth Hall on Saturday 30th November from 10am - 4 pm. Find their table next to the cafe area.



Community Chest

We are continuing to collect foodstuff for our Community Chest Appeal. The Kirk Session have decided to support three different appeals during the year - The Rio's foodstuff collection (for inclusion in their lunch provision programme or for distribution in conjunction with the local foodbank), the Tay Bridgehead Foodbank and St Salvador's Food Cupboard in Dundee. During November we will be supporting the Rio.



There continues to be a great response to this appeal and as the cost of living is still high (especially over colder months), the need of some people may well be greater so please consider supporting this if you can.

A large container is available each Sunday to receive foodstuff, toiletries, etc. and any donations, no matter how small, are gratefully received.

Suggested donations include (but are not limited to) pasta, tins of fruit, tins of soup, beans, UHT milk, tea/coffee, biscuits, toiletries, household products (washing up liquid, laundry detergent, etc.), sanitary goods, diluting juice.

Many thanks.



From the beginning of November, the Pop-Up Post Office returns to running on both Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 - 11:30am in the Kirk House Complex.



Prayer Room

A reminder our Church Prayer Room is a lovely quiet space available for reflection and prayer. It is available whenever the Church is open and you are encouraged to make use of it. Why not drop in before the Church Service for a quiet moment? Some may wish to pray out loud but there is no pressure to do so. Not sure where it is - just ask!



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The Guild Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland

Guild Projects 2024–2027

As mentioned last month the National Guild strategy for the next three years is: 'Let us build a house'. A key part of the Guild work is in supporting a number of 'Guild Projects'.

The next group of projects start at the beginning of 2025 and run until 2027. There are four projects (rather than six in the last three-year cycle) and they are:

- 1) Bibles for Bairns – in partnership with the Scottish Bible Society
- 2) Build My Church – supporting a church plant in Bulgaria and inspired by the work of the tiny Scottish charity 'Bear Necessities for Bulgaria'
- 3) Operation Hope – working with Release International serving Christian communities in Upper Egypt facing extreme poverty and marginalisation
- 4) Playful beginnings – working with Crossreach to support vulnerable families at the Sunflower garden in Edinburgh and Daisy Chain in Glasgow.

More on each of these over the coming months.

For anyone wanting to know more about the National Guild have a look at the pages on the Church of Scotland website: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the-guild>

Ongoing Activities ...

~ Wednesday Afternoon Club

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



Attendance is generally small with five or six guests each week – though sometimes more! However most of these are regulars who come to enjoy the refreshments (tea/coffee and biscuits) with usually 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.

There is now only one volunteer on each week and that seems to have been working fine given the numbers. Anne and Brian Griffiths help almost every week and Margaret Wright looks in on many occasions. A big thank you to Anne and Brian for their commitments and Margaret for co-ordinating everything.

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



Wednesday Afternoon Club Rota

6th Nov - Frances Durward
13th Nov - Pam Laurence
20th Nov - Carolyn Barr
27th Nov - Eleanor Owen
4th Dec - Margaret Wright
11th Dec - Alison Heywood

~ Fundraising for Ukraine

We have recently got a new batch of sunflower greeting cards and these 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 continue each week to bear witness to the ongoing suffering of people affected by conflict wherever that may be 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 to Zoom the Vigils. If you would like to join please ask me (Neil Merrylees) or Claire Owen for the link.

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

Poppy Prayer

When reading/saying this prayer, hold a poppy in your hand.

Let us pray.

First, hold one of the petals of the poppy. Father, the red of this petal is like the red of the blood shed by so many in the wars of the last century. We remember members of our family who were directly involved in those wars, some in the armed forces, some left behind. We remember injury, trauma, death, courage, fear, all which led to lives being changed forever. We give thanks for so many who were prepared to pay the highest price of all.

Now take hold of another petal on the poppy. In doing so, we hold before God the violence and warfare of our own times. The continuing simmering violence, open hostilities, threats of terrorism. We pray, Father, that you will give us politicians and military leaders equal to the huge tasks they face, wise in judgement, calm in spirit and makers of peace.

Now touch the centre of the poppy, the place where the seeds are kept, ready for new life. Lord, take the seeds of peace which lie in the hearts of your people everywhere, and cast them generously over every continent and nation. Let those seeds germinate, grow and flourish. Beat our swords into ploughshares, our spears into pruning hooks and our weapons of mass destruction into technologies for peace.

Now hold the green stem and remember the green and growing hope which comes from faith alone, faith in a God for whom everything is possible, even in the darkest hour. May hope guide our politics, our nation, our thinking and our lives. May hope draw us ever nearer to that day when the world shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer. Amen.

Church Prayer Group

Dear Church family,

We are delighted to announce that we now have a prayer group in our Church. We are very much in the early stages of working and praying together and would appreciate YOUR prayers for us to become a praying church.

Please let us hear any thoughts you may have about prayer. We will endeavour to keep you posted on our group deliberations.

Each month it is planned to pray for a particular group within our Church. This will be seen in the monthly Church Journal. Please hold them in your own prayer time.

In the meantime there are two prayer boxes for any prayers you may have. One is in the church, to the right of the pulpit on a small table, and the other is in manna. Please be assured that confidentiality will be respected within the group.

Alternatively, please speak to someone from the prayer group who will be happy to pray with you.

Let us come together as a church family, seeking God's blessings on our lives.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Alison Heywood | Jane Campbell |
| Nancy Pong | Katie Cameron |
| Diane Miller | Chris Cameron |
| Neil Merrylees | Ann Barona |
| Catherine Johnston | |

Philippians 4 v 6 and 7 (NIV version)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Prisoner's Week 2024

This year Prisoner's Week runs from 17th to 23rd November.

The purpose of Prisoners Week is to remind those in the community, especially in the churches, to care about/pray for those in prison, their families and the victims of crime.

There is a national launch service on the afternoon of Sunday 17th November at Letham St Mark's Church in Perth. The event runs from 3pm - 5pm and the main part of that is a service from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. The half hour before and after features a "marketplace" at which various organisations - including Prison Fellowship - will have stalls. There will also be tea, coffee and sandwiches after the service.

The service is open to everyone so if you happen to be in Perth you might want to look in.

Even if (as is likely!) you cannot go to the service, there's more information about Prisoners Week Scotland at: <https://www.prisonersweek.org.uk/> For example, the text of the Prisoners Week prayer is there.

Please contact me if you have any questions or want more information.

Neil Merrylees

Steven Stewart

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Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Sunday, 10th November 2024, our service will start at the earlier time of **10:50am** to allow for the 2 minute silence at 11am. We also welcome St Mary's Episcopal Church to join us.

All are welcome to join us in the Church and/or at the War Memorial for a service there at approx. 12.05pm.



Christmas Greetings

If you would like a festive message to the Church family included in the next edition of the Journal, please email newportcos@btinternet.com by Sunday 17th November 2024 or speak to Claire Owen.



Christmas Gifts

As has become our practice in recent years, we are again collecting new and unopened gifts which will be gifted to children less fortunate this Christmas in the North East Fife area.

Gifts donated up to 8th December will be donated to the Toy Drive. Any gifts received after this will be donated to Tay FM's Mission Christmas Appeal.

If you are able to buy an extra gift for a child/young person up to the age of 18 then these can be brought to the church and put in one of the donation boxes at the doors. Gifts should be unwrapped. If you are unable to buy a gift but would still like to contribute, then money can be given to Claire Owen or put in an envelope marked on the outside with 'Christmas Gift' and placed in the offering plate.

Suggested Gift Ideas :-

0-3 YEARS - Teddies, Musical Toys, My First Toys, Rattles, Books, Play Mats

3-5 YEARS - Cars, Dolls, Jigsaws, Dress Up Items, Playdoh, Colouring Books and Pencils

5-7 YEARS - Lego, Art and Craft Sets, Skipping Ropes, Make Your Own Photo Frame, Snow Globe, Jewellery Set, Action Figures, Board Games

7-9 YEARS - Footballs, Board Games, Remote Control Toys, Stationery Sets

9-12 YEARS - Board Games, Make Up Sets, Nail Varnish

12-18 YEARS - Toiletries, Electrical items (Straighteners, Mini-speakers), Aftershave and Perfumes, Jewellery, Puzzles, Make-up, Books, Lunch Boxes, Duvet Sets



For more information please contact Claire Owen.

Christmas Light Night

Christmas Light Night in Newport is on Thursday 21st November. Various events are planned around the village and the church will be open for quiet reflection. Please check weekly intimations and Church website www.notchurch.co.uk for more details when they are available. There will be a mini craft fayre in the Agnes Duncan Room from 4pm - 8pm.



Daily Reflections

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/).

DAILY REFLECTION

Please remember to get in touch with any Journal questions, comments or suggestions.

Claire, 3 Blyth Street,
Newport-on-Tay, Fife, DD6 8DB
email: newportcos@btinternet.com

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manna matters

The cafe has been a bit quiet over the October holidays. Before Covid this was the normal pattern and it is good that things are returning to a more normal way of life for us all. Generally we are busier over Autumn and Winter as people gather for a cosy coffee and a chat over some lovely home baking.

We have a selection of Christmas cards from The Leprosy Mission on sale now too, alongside cards from Crafty Cat (Catherine Johnston), Gina Wright and Julie West. The gift shop is full of lovely gifts to suit all budgets - candles, melts, woolly gloves and scarves to keep out the cold. There is a variety of soaps and shampoos too and the lovely rainbow crockery will brighten up any kitchen (this is a favourite of mine). We have wooden stools for children, jute bags and bamboo socks. Something for everyone!

We have welcomed Mike as a new work placement. This will be of benefit to him and also to manna, as he will gain the work experience and manna will benefit from an extra pair of hands. Mike is our sixth work placement in recent years and we look forward to working together.

Prayer Box. If you would like a prayer for you or someone you know, we have a box in manna near the main window of the cafe for you to place your request in.

Thank you all for your continued support.

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



Sunday Club Update

Teaching in October and November

We've had 2 Funday Sundays over half-term in October. We are very grateful to all members of the church family who regularly help with Funday Sundays. If you would be willing to help support this year's Funday Sundays, particularly those during the Christmas and Easter holidays, please let Fiona Hutchinson know (email: fionah2208@gmail.com).

This is an opportunity to share an activity with the children, with some ideas being board games, origami or other craft activities, baking, a sport or a scavenger hunt. It's really positive for the children to have the opportunity to meet different adults in the church family.

We are starting a new series "God on Mission" for the remainder of October and into November. The first session focuses on God's promise for all nations through Abraham, with later sessions looking at a blessing for all nations (Psalm 67), a message for all nations (Acts 13) and a King for all nations (Revelation 7).

The last Sunday in October was 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. We'll also mark Remembrance with Sunday Club on 10th November.

Update on Sunday Club Sponsorship through World Vision

As you know, we have committed to sponsoring a child through World Vision. We are currently sponsoring Subair who is 8 years old and lives in Mozambique. The children will keep up-to-date with his progress through frequent reports received from World Vision.

Fundraising

We continue to fundraise through the regular weekly offerings of the children and donations from members of the congregation and other friends. We will also be holding regular bake sales this school year.

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



Youth Update

Messy Church

In October we looked at discovering who God is. We created a crocodile out of a clothes peg, some pipe cleaners and googly eyes. To help us remember as God is all powerful, we had a race with paper fish, to help illustrate the Holy Spirit and much more! See pictures below for some of the activities.



Our next Messy Church is happening on Saturday 30th November from 11am - 1pm and we are discovering and celebrating what Christmas is really all about!

Spark

We have had a couple of weeks off due to the October holidays, but we have now finished our series on Revelation, where we looked at the seven churches mentioned in the letters, what good and bad things they did and how we can grow more in our faith by learning from their mistakes and their qualities.



Ignite

Our big event this past month was Among Us in real life. We took over the church and our young people were either crewmates or imposters. The imposters had to sabotage and take out the crewmates to win and the crewmates had to complete tasks and vote out the imposters to win. We asked each young person to be a different colour and wear a hat. The most creative hat won a prize and the winner was William! Well done! In November we are going to Magnitude Worship in Perth, having a prayer station night and we will also be celebrating Thanksgiving. In the New Year we will be running Youth Alpha.

Discipleship Group

This group aims to provide our young people space to grow in their faith. We are currently working our way through the book of Romans and finding out more about the justice of God and the grace of God that goes hand in hand, thanks to Jesus dying on the cross.

We usually meet in manna every fortnight on a Friday afternoon. We are so grateful to those who donated money to this group. This allows our young people to have a free hot drink and cake of their choice during their time with us. Thank you!

Funday Sunday

I was leading one of the Funday Sundays during the October break. We planted the remaining daffodil bulbs that were left after our Harvest Service in September (see picture on the right). We are hoping that in Spring 2025 we will see some beautiful flowers grow in our Church Garden!

Chris Cameron

Children and Youth Worker



*Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41 : 10*

Photos courtesy of
Chris Cameron

Calendar of Worship

Sunday 3rd November 2024 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : C Owen **Reader** : E Owen

Welcome : K Cruickshanks

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

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

Crèche : D Miller

Sunday Club : J Wylie, E Wisher

Young Persons' Elder : C McCowan

Sunday 10th November 2024 at 10:50am Remembrance Sunday

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : F Ritchie **Reader** : C Wilman

Welcome : M Imlay

Flowers : L Mulford **Delivery** : P Laurence

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

Crèche : J Taylor

Sunday Club : E Wisher, F Hutchinson

Young Persons' Elder : D Miller

Sunday 17th November 2024 at 11am

Service led by Rev A Shuttleworth

Beadle : E Owen **Reader** : J Campbell

Welcome : F Harris

Flowers : M Shiels **Delivery** : E Owen

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

Crèche : C Johnston

Sunday Club : S Kent, S McCowan

Young Persons' Elder : A Barona

Sunday 24th November 2024 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : P Owen **Reader** : W Berry

Welcome : J Johnston

Flowers : J Campbell **Delivery** : M Rowley

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

Crèche : F Harris

Sunday Club : J Wylie, F Hutchinson

Young Persons' Elder : C Owen

Sunday 24th November 2024 at 6:30pm

Communion Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Sunday 1st December 2024 at 11am First Sunday in Advent

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : F Robertson **Reader** : A Wilman

Welcome : M Shiels

Flowers : M Cuthbertson **Delivery** : M Shiels

Coffee : J Campbell, L Hundal, F Hutchinson + K Campbell

Crèche : J Johnston

Sunday Club : Nativity Practice - All Teachers

Young Persons' Elder : M Wright

Next Edition

If you would like anything included in our Winter edition of the Church Journal (covering December and January) please email

newportcos@btinternet.com

or have it in the hands of Claire Owen

by **Sunday 17th November 2024.**

Contact Numbers

Minister : Rev Dr Amos Chewachong
17 East Station Place, Newport-on-Tay, DD6 8EG
Telephone: (01382) 542893
email: ACHewachong@churchofscotland.org.uk

Organist : Hannah Chan
Telephone: 07476 372 311
email: notcos.organist@gmail.com

Church Office : 3 Blyth Street,
Newport-on-Tay, DD6 8DB
email: newportcos@btinternet.com

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

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

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

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

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