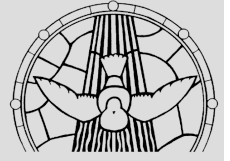




Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland February 2025 Journal



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Hope Amidst Change

As the dawn of a new year unfolds, the world remains at a crossroads, marked by profound shifts that evoke hope and apprehension. In the Middle East, a historic peace deal between Palestine and Israel offers a fragile but meaningful glimmer of reconciliation in a region scarred by decades of conflict. Across the Atlantic, the re-election of Donald Trump as President of the United States has rekindled debates about governance, democracy, and national unity. Meanwhile, Syria stands on the precipice of a new chapter, as the regime of President Bashar al-Assad comes to an end, leaving a nation to reckon with its painful past and uncertain future. Closer to home, the United Kingdom faces social and economic challenges, shaping the realities of communities navigating a rapidly evolving landscape. These global transformations, though disparate, speak to a shared human experience – the longing for stability, the search for meaning, and the need for hope amidst uncertainty. The tumult of change often amplifies this yearning, echoing the timeless cry of the disciples on the road to Emmaus: *“Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over”* (Luke 24:29). In their confusion and despair, they sought the companionship of the risen Christ, unaware of the hope already walking alongside them.

This encounter on the road to Emmaus reflects a universal truth: humanity’s deep desire for a lasting presence that transcends the fleeting nature of worldly events. The peace deal in the Middle East, however fragile it may be, serves as a reminder that even the most entrenched divisions can begin to heal. The political shifts in the United States and Syria emphasise the importance of just governance and compassionate leadership. In the UK, the challenges of economic change and social reform necessitate resilience, innovation, and a renewed commitment to caring for the vulnerable. Yet, amid these trials, Christians are reminded that true hope is not found in human institutions or earthly resolutions but in the steadfast and unchanging nature of God. The Psalmist captures this eternal truth: *“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations”* (Psalm 145:13). God’s constancy serves as a foundation upon which we can build lives of faith, love, and hope, even as the world around us trembles with change. This assurance is not a denial of the challenges we face but a source of strength to meet them with courage and grace.

The timeless hymn *Abide with Me* by Pastor Henry Lyte presents a powerful meditation on this truth. Serving in a small, struggling parish in Devonshire, England, Lyte embodied a faith that chose to “wear out rather than rust out.” Written as he approached the end of his life, while battling tuberculosis and asthma, the hymn was inspired by the disciples’ plea to Jesus on the road to Emmaus: *“Abide with us,”* they urged, *“for it is toward evening”* (Luke 24:29). Lyte, sensing the nearness of his own “evening”, expressed a faith that clung to God’s abiding presence even in the shadow of death. Shortly after penning the hymn, he preached his final sermon, crawling to the pulpit in frailty yet unwavering in conviction. His words continue to resonate: *“In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.”*

In a world marked by change and uncertainty, this hymn reminds us that God remains steadfast in all circumstances. Just as Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, igniting their hearts with hope, He continues to walk with us today. His promises endure, offering strength to persevere, compassion to extend His love, and courage to stand firm in faith.

As we embark on this new year, let us embrace the hope that arises from the changelessness of God. May we, as Christians, become beacons of this hope, illuminating a world in need. In doing so, we echo the disciples’ joyous reflection: *“Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road?”* (Luke 24:32). In life’s evenings and uncertainties, may we find solace and strength in the One who abides with us always.

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.

Thank You!

We were delighted to receive a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the church following our Golden Wedding Anniversary celebrations and trip to Arctic Norway to see the Northern Lights. Many thanks to all involved.

Linda & Francis Robertson



I was both surprised and delighted, to receive the lovely bouquet of flowers, delivered by Mairi, recently. Many thanks.

Dianne Clark

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers I received for my birthday back in December. I appreciated it very much.



Muriel McCabe

Thank you for the lovely flowers I received. Much appreciated.

Jenny Latto

Thank you very much for my lovely flowers I received following my recent stay in hospital. They really cheered me up.

Diane Frost



Just to say thank you to the Church for the beautiful plant I received at Christmas. It was a lovely surprise so thank you all. Much appreciated.

Margaret Warner

Evening Service

Our next Evening Service will be a Communion Service on Sunday 16th February.

It will be led by our minister in the Church at 6:30pm and all are welcome.

EVENING SERVICE

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LOGS AND FIREWOOD ETC.

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A Mystery!

Over the last few weeks it has become apparent that we are mysteriously losing tea towels from the church kitchen. No one seems to know why this is happening.

I would like to ask all who kindly take home towels to wash, to check if they have any waiting to be returned. I am also aware that some of us wash for both the kitchen and for manna and I would ask that we ensure the dry towels do not become muddled. Easily done, as I well know! Many thanks for your help with this problem.

Margaret Imlay

Monthly Prayer Request

Colossians 4:2 NKJV

*"Continue earnestly in prayer,
being vigilant in it with thanksgiving."*

It has come to our attention and concern, the need for a Pastoral Care Team. We would therefore request, as a church family, to pray for those gifted in this area.

Our second prayer request is for Bible Alive and Alpha Youth. Let us give thanks to God, for the many groups/workers that keep our church at Newport working so wonderfully. Every blessing



Newport Church Prayer Group

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!

The Pop-Up Post Office is running on both Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 - 11:30am in the Kirk House Complex.

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mannna matters



Happy New Year to you all. We are open again and happy to be back to a normal routine. Mike, our work placement, has now finished and we had a recruitment day on 13th January when we had three people who came along to find out more about volunteering. A few others have spoken to me at church too which is very encouraging. We are grateful to our volunteers for all they do to support manna.

We currently have a book sale on with many titles greatly reduced from their RRP - some adults books, some childrens, some funny and light-hearted and others more serious.

mannna will have been open for 19 years this March and I have been manager for 17 years past November. manna celebrates a big milestone of twenty years next year. Current conditions for businesses are hard at the moment and we need your prayers for manna at this time. We are not immune to the cost of living crisis. However we have faith that all will work out for good. Thursdays have seen an increase in groups coming in; knitters, keep fit and yoga all between 10am-12noon. We love to see people gathering together and enjoying all manna has to offer. Saturday morning on the other hand can be a bit quieter.

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.

God bless.

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

mannna (01382) 542781

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

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

Thank You

I would like to say thank you for your patience and support while I've been away and to everyone who kept the music going in my absence, in particular the organists: Eleanor Owen, Lewis Thomson and Bryan Weir.



I'm looking forward to seeing you when I'm back!

Hannah Chan

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Book Launch

As mentioned in the Winter Journal, our minister has published his first book entitled "Intra-African Pentecostalism and the Dynamics of Power. Amos is planning an African Evening to launch his book and this will be held on Saturday 29th March in the Church hall. More information in the next Journal.

Steven Stewart

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Parish Register

Death

8th Jan Mr Alan Bruce
Montrose
formerly Newport-on-Tay Dist 98

*"Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4*

Community Chest



We are continuing to collect foodstuff for our Community Chest Appeal 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 February 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 for your support.



Christmas 2024

Advent 2024 was no different in our church than in previous years. Services were well attended and many thanks to everyone involved in special services including Lessons & Carols, Nativity and Watchnight. Our decoration teams set the buildings up beautifully with flower arrangements and trees (have YOU ever wondered how the star gets to the top of the Church tree?!) Again a huge thanks to Tayfield Estate for the trees.

As has become tradition, we had a gift collection for both Toy Drive and Tay FM's Mission Christmas Appeal. 140 gifts along with some monetary donations were handed over and both organisations were appreciative of the donations. Many thanks to everyone who helped make Christmas a little brighter for some local youngsters.

Claire Owen



Joint Service

On Sunday 26th January, we held our first Joint Service with Creich, Flisk & Kilmany and Balmerino & Wormit. This service was held in Wormit Church and included Communion. It was lovely to join together and share worship and fellowship together with our cluster neighbours. There are future joint services planned which will see us worship in other Churches (as well as our own) but more details will be given nearer the time in the Journal and Order of Service.

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, suggestions or items for future editions.

Claire, 1 Blyth Street,
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email: newportcos@btinternet.com



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The Guild Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland

Guild Projects 2024–2027

As mentioned previously, the National Guild strategy for the next three years is: 'Let us build a house'. As part of this there are four new 'Guild Projects', which run from 2025 - 2027. Each month we plan to give a bit of information about these projects.

The first one is: **Bibles for Bairns**, partnering with the Scottish Bible Society who say:

'Fewer than half of 0-2-year-olds are read to every day. We want to change that.

Reading to young children helps them to feel safe & loved. It builds self-esteem, grows their vocabulary, and fires their imagination. Reading the Bible can help bring a family together and closer to God.

Our vision is to offer every baby born in Scotland a free Share a Story toddler Bible on their first birthday. Every birthday after that, until age five, we will send a Bible related gift. On their fifth birthday each child will receive an early reader Bible to take them through their primary school years. The Bible gifts are wrapped by volunteers each month and an individual birthday card is written to every child. Before each package is posted we pray over them, knowing that God cares for these children and their families.

This programme costs just £50 per family for the five years and means that from a child's earliest memories and through their school years, the greatest stories from the Bible will play a part in shaping their lives. Our aim is to register up to 1000 babies per year with the cumulative cost per year reaching £50k.'

Scottish Bible Society / Guild Information

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 seems to have been higher recently – for example there were 14 people present (including guests and helpers) on Wednesday 15th January. Many people who come are regulars who appreciate the refreshments (tea/coffee and biscuits, usually with 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

5th Feb - Elizabeth Thomson	26th Feb - Margaret Wright
12th Feb - Carolyn Barr	5th Mar - Alison Heywood
19th Feb - Eleanor Owen	12th Mar - Mairi Shiels



~ 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

Youth Update

What a busy winter period we have had for our young people. Since our last update way back at the start of December, we have had so much go on and we are excited to share what we have been up to.

Discipleship

We have finished our series on Romans, and now we are exploring a new bible study together which is called Everyday Theology by Mary Wiley. This will help us dive into the basis of our faith on a deeper level and help us understand more what it really means to live out our faith as a Christian.

Spark

We are starting a small mini-series on Ephesians over the next month or so. We are looking forward to learning more about the early church of Ephesus and what Paul wrote to said Church.

Ignite

Just before Christmas we had our Christmas night out where we went to Nando's for a meal and then went to the cinema to watch the new live action Mufasa film. We had 12 young people who came and had a fantastic night celebrating Christmas together. We started the New Year with a Bang, when we discussed what Church looks like. We explored the Early Church in Acts, and we discussed what they would like in an ideal church. We also began to explore what a Church service would look like (without giving too much away).

Alpha Youth

As you are reading this update, we have launched Alpha Youth! During our Launch Night we will have had some delicious Domino's pizza and explored our first episode entitled 'Welcome to the Conversation'. Our young people have been brave and have invited their friends to this event, and we are excited to explore this series together!

Messy Church

Unfortunately, due to Storm Eowyn, we had to cancel Messy Church in January. Our next one is Saturday 22nd February 10.30am – 12.30pm. We are looking forward to welcoming our families once again for this event!

School Curriculum Events

We were delighted to work alongside SU Scotland to deliver Bubblegum N Fluff to our P5 Class in Newport Primary School. We are so grateful to deliver this curriculum event, where we can teach and inform what Christians believe.

A Tale of Two Kings Holiday Club

We are also delighted to announce this year we are partnering with SU Scotland for our Holiday Club and that our theme for this year's Holiday Club is 'A Tale of Two Kings' with a medieval theme to match! The Kings we are looking at are King David, who despite his amazing feats still did things wrong, and as such wasn't the perfect King that Israel was needing. On Day 5 we will be cracking out the Christmas decorations early and exploring who the Perfect King is, which is Jesus!

Throughout the week we are together, we will be doing games, crafts, messy games, bible discovery and more. I even think one day we are making a catapult or two (without giving too much away...).

Our Dates for Holiday Club are Monday 14th April to Friday 18th April 2025 starting at 10am.

Registration and advertising will be coming soon.

We are looking for anyone who is free to join our team; there are plenty of roles including Knights (Group Leaders and Helpers), Court Jesters (Messy Games Leaders), Royal Registrars (Registration Leaders), Bards (Music Leaders), and Court Entertainers (Drama).

We are also looking for anyone who may be creative, to help us transform our church hall into a Castle Courtyard or making props for our Drama.

If you are interested in helping for one day, the whole week or anywhere in between, or with creating items for our holiday club please speak to me.

Chris Cameron

Children and Youth Worker



Here is a picture of Chris publicising the Holiday Club at a Church Service in January courtesy of Catherine Johnston.

Calendar of Worship

Sunday 2nd February 2025 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : F Harris **Reader** : A Heywood

Welcome : J Johnston

Flowers : N Pong **Delivery** : M Imlay

Coffee : A Barona, K Cruickshanks, Elaine Thomson + D Macleod

Crèche : C Johnston

Sunday Club : Godly Play

Young Persons' Elder : D Macleod

Sunday 9th February 2025 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : G Johnston **Reader** : C Owen

Welcome : M Imlay

Flowers : M Robertson **Delivery** : E Thomson

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

Crèche : F Harris

Sunday Club : S Kent, E Wisher

Young Persons' Elder : J Johnston

Sunday 16th February 2025 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : M Imlay **Reader** : K Campbell

Welcome : M Shiels

Flowers : J Johnstone **Delivery** : G Smith

Coffee : P Laurence, S Myles, Elizabeth Thomson + W Imlay

Crèche : J Taylor

Sunday Club : Funday Sunday

Young Persons' Elder : N Merrylees

Sunday 16th February 2025 at 6:30pm

Communion Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Next Edition

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

newportcos@btinternet.com

or have it in the hands of Claire Owen

by **Sunday 16th February 2025.**

Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number - SC006758

Sunday 23rd February 2025 at 11am

Service led by Miss C Owen

Beadle : A Heywood **Reader** : S Johnston

Welcome : F Robertson

Flowers : A Waugh **Delivery** : A Barona

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

Crèche : D Miller

Sunday Club : A Gray, S McCowan

Young Persons' Elder : M Imlay

Sunday 2nd March 2025 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : W Imlay **Reader** : G Johnston

Welcome : K Cruickshanks

Flowers : E Thomson **Delivery** : E Owen

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

Crèche : J Johnston

Sunday Club : J Wylie, E Wisher

Young Persons' Elder : A Heywood

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