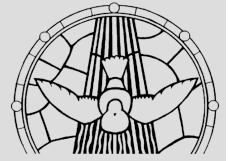




Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland March 2025 Journal



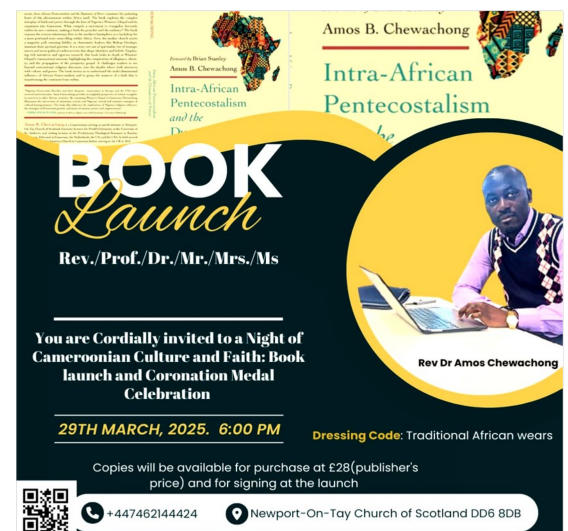
MINISTER'S MESSAGE

A Celebration of Ministry, Scholarship, and a Global Calling

Life is full of unexpected turns, and sometimes the road God leads us on is far beyond anything we could have imagined. On Saturday 29th March 2025, I will have the great joy of launching my new book "Intra-African Pentecostalism and the Dynamics of Power: The Nigerian Winners' Chapel in Cameroon". The event will take place at Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland beginning at 6pm. But this evening will be more than just a book launch - it will be a time of deep reflection, thanksgiving, and celebration. The occasion will mark another significant milestone in my journey: the recognition of my Coronation Medal, awarded in January 2024 in honour of my role in officiating at the Honours of Scotland at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, in July 2023. This dual celebration will bring together friends, colleagues, and fellow believers, including Cameroonians from England and across Europe, joining hands with the Newportonians in what promises to be an unforgettable evening of joy, gratitude, and fellowship. The celebrations will culminate in a special worship service on Sunday 30th March where we will gather to give thanks for the incredible ways God continues to move in our lives.

Looking back over the past twenty-two years, I am overwhelmed by how God's providence has unfolded in my life. If someone had told me when I first stepped into ministry as an assistant pastor in a small, remote town in Cameroon that one day I would be serving in Scotland, writing books, and contributing to global theological conversations, I would have laughed in disbelief. At the time, such a future seemed impossible. The Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, though a faithful and committed denomination, faces significant limitations in theological training and resources. Pastors earn modest salaries, often averaging £100 per month, making the prospect of further studies abroad almost unimaginable. Even if I had been allowed to study overseas through the providence of God, the thought of becoming an author, of weaving theological research into a structured academic work, seemed an intimidating challenge far beyond my abilities. But as Scripture reminds us: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

The turning point in my journey came in 2006, when I was selected to participate in an exchange programme in the Netherlands, Romania, and Hungary, engaging in Hebrew studies and contextual theology with some European colleagues and scholars. This experience opened my eyes to the vastness of global Christianity and deepened my understanding of how faith is expressed across different cultures. Arriving in Scotland in 2012 to pursue my Masters and PhD at the University of Edinburgh, I encountered some of the most influential voices in World Christianity, particularly Professor Brian Stanley and Professor Afe Adogame. Their mentorship shaped my theological outlook, helping me understand that faith is not static or isolated, but dynamic, interconnected, and ever-expanding. During my studies, I was also privileged to undertake further theological engagements at Princeton Theological Seminary (USA, 2014) and Yale Divinity School (USA, 2015). Each of these experiences reinforced my belief that the global church is one body, united in Christ, regardless of national or denominational differences. As Paul writes: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).



Continued overleaf...

OUR CHURCH'S VISION STATEMENT

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

Minister's Letter continued...

Today, as I serve within the Church of Scotland and assist in the ministry of my home church in the Diaspora, I realise that God has called me beyond borders. I bring with me not only my personal faith and pastoral experience from Cameroon but also a rich cross-cultural perspective shaped by years of ministry and theological inquiry across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and North America. The famous words of John Wesley "The world is my parish" now resonate deeply with me. I understand that ministry is not confined to one geographical location but is about faithful service wherever God calls us. That is why this upcoming book launch and celebration at Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland holds such deep meaning for me. It is a moment of gratitude, a testimony to God's faithfulness, and an opportunity to reflect on the journey that has led me here and the chapters still to come.



As we prepare for this special event, I warmly invite everyone — members of Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland, friends from near and far, and all those with a heart for mission and theological dialogue. This will be more than a celebration of a book or an award. It will be a time of fellowship, worship, and reflection as we come together to thank God for His unfailing guidance and seek His wisdom for the journey ahead. As the Psalmist proclaims: "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy" (Psalm 126:3).

Copies of my book will be available for purchase and signing at the Publishers' price of £28.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 29th and 30th March 2025!

Every Blessing,

Rev Dr Amos Chewachong (PhD)

Monthly Prayer Request

Ephesians 5:18-20

"Instead be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with, psalms, hymns and songs of the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

We continue to pray for a Pastoral Care Team.

We give thanks for Alpha Youth and the growing number of young people attending, for all those helping and especially for Chris.

We also give thanks for Hannah's return to church. This leads naturally to pray for our wonderful choir; few in numbers but sounding like twice the number. We give thanks for all who lead us in worship.

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!

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manna matters



We have had a great response to our appeal for volunteers. We welcome Ameillia, Catherine, Elaine and Daisy to the manna team. It is wonderful for manna to have a new group of recruits who I hope and pray will enjoy volunteering with us.

New recruits means training sessions. We started with our elementary food hygiene course. Fourteen attended including two of our new volunteers and I am delighted to say everyone passed.

We also have coffee training in early March from the Brodies coffee company trainer.

I am about to take a week's holiday with Gordon as we celebrate another wedding anniversary - only 39 years!! We are heading to Edinburgh to see Mary Poppins Then later that week we will be helping our eldest granddaughter Rachel celebrate her 11th birthday.

Just a reminder we have a 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.

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

Thank You!

Margaret and Richard McNicol would like say, thank you for the lovely bunch of flowers we received from the Church, and thank you to Amanda Gray for the delivery of the flowers.



We were surprised but delighted to receive a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the church. Thank you to all who are involved.

Chris and Katie Cameron

Evening Service

Our next Evening Service will be a Communion Service on Sunday 23rd March.

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

EVENING SERVICE



Don't miss out!



Catch up with the Sunday 11am service at: **www.notchurch.co.uk**



Steven Stewart

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info@stewartfunerals.co.uk

www.stevenstewartfunerals.co.uk

Parish Register

Death

28th Jan

Mr Stewart Steen

Dundee

formerly Newport-on-Tay Dist 30

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

Joint Service

As mentioned in the last Journal, we are planning to have more joint services with our cluster neighbours - Balmerino & Wormit and Creich, Flisk & Kilmany.

The next Joint Service will be held on Sunday 16th March at 10:15am in Balmerino Church. This is a great opportunity to worship in another beautiful local church and share worship and fellowship with others. There is limited parking at the Church so please car share where possible.

This service will take the place of our 11am service that day.



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 March we will be supporting the Tay Bridgehead Foodbank.

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.



Next Edition

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

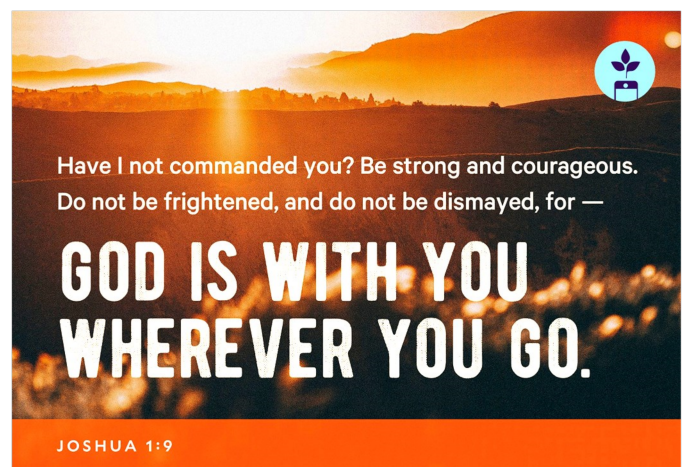
newportcos@btinternet.com
or have it in the hands of Claire Owen

by **Sunday 23rd March 2025.**

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

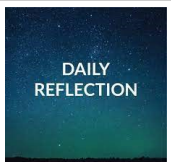
POST
OFFICE

POST
OFFICE



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/).



Please remember to get in touch with any Journal questions, comments, suggestions or items for future editions.

Claire, 1 Blyth Street,
Newport-on-Tay, Fife, DD6 8DB
email: newportcos@btinternet.com



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The Guild Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland

Guild Projects 2025—2027

As part of the National Guild strategy for the next three years, 'Let us build a house', there are four new 'Guild Projects', which run from 2025 - 2027.

Each month we plan to give a bit of information about these projects. Last month we highlighted **Bibles for Bairns**, partnering with the Scottish Bible Society.

This month we highlight **'Build My Church'**.

'Build My Church' is a project inspired by the work of the tiny Scottish Charity 'Bear Necessities for Bulgaria'.

Thirteen years ago Bear Necessities began supporting the children of a small, primarily gypsy village in rural Bulgaria to attend school. Currently Bear Necessities operate a soup kitchen and medical clinic, and provide winter boots to all school aged children in the village, as well as a few other key projects. They have been doing so with the support of Rumen Ganushev, a local minister.

This project 'Build My Church' will work with Rumen to plant a church at the centre of the large residential district of the city of Sliven. We want that church to have a truly holistic approach, meaning it will offer services for teaching and worship and prayer, but in time the vision is for the church to also provide free access to health care, food for the hungry, and training and support for the leadership of other churches in the district.

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.

Everyone is welcome. Many people who come are regulars who appreciate 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

5th Mar	- Alison Heywood	26th Mar	- Elizabeth Thomson
12th Mar	- Mairi Shiels	2nd Apr	- Sheila Johnston
19th Mar	- Neil Merrylees	9th Apr	- Frances Durward



Photo courtesy of Mairi Shiels

~ Fundraising for Ukraine

Sunflower greeting cards remain on sale through manna. All the money we raise is transferred to the Newport and Zolotarevo Twinning Association (NAZTA) to support our friends 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

Sunday Club Update

Teaching in February and March

On 2nd February we had Godly Play, looking at John the Baptist. 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 completed our series on Esther, marked by the different feasts in the story, in February, including one Sunday in Wormit for the joint service. We will start a new series "Jesus on Mission" in March.

Sunday 16th February was a Funday Sunday. We are very grateful to all members of the church family who regularly help with Funday Sundays. 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. If you would be willing to help support Funday Sundays during the summer holidays, please let Fiona Hutchinson know (email: fionah2208@gmail.com).

Update on Sunday Club Sponsorship through World Vision

As you know, we have committed to sponsoring a child through World Vision. Subair is 8 years old and lives in Mozambique. The children 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 year, and our next sale will be on Sunday 23rd March.

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

We are finally ready to re-launch Messy Church in March. It will run between 10:30am - 12:30pm with lunch included and it will be on Saturday 29th March. We look forward to seeing our families there!

A Tale of Two Kings Holiday Club

We are also delighted to share with you our Holiday Club! The theme this year is 'A Tale of Two Kings'. It will be a medieval theme, with us training to be knights and looking at two kings in particular. Our Holiday Club is on from Monday 14th April to Friday 18th April 10am - 12:15pm each morning, for any children in Primary School.

Throughout the week, while learning more about the two mysterious kings from the Bible, we will be making catapults one day, shields another, playing games, completing messy challenges and so much more! If you are interested, please speak to Chris or register by scanning the QR Code!



Alpha Youth

We are currently running Alpha Youth where we are so delighted to welcome our young people every week. We start with a meal, play an icebreaker game, then watch the episode for the week. We are looking forward to our Day Away happening on Saturday 15th March. We will be heading to Davidson's Mains Parish Church, Edinburgh, which will be our base where we will be playing games and watching two Alpha Youth episodes. We will also have a big activity outing in Edinburgh and a chippy tea! I also would like to thank Alison & Bob Heywood, Colin & Sarah McCowan and Graham & Jane Johnston for providing a meal so far. All were incredible and our young people loved them!

Thank you for your continuing support and prayer for all the activities and outreach we are doing in the church and community.

Chris Cameron

Children and Youth Worker

PUZZLES

EASTER WORDSEARCH

N D B M A L G O D R C I H O L Y T E S R
B C P B A X E H B J J N M W A D S D E
G I J E A S T E R S U N D A Y U M A V L
P E Y I M I R A C L E A M Y E E Z C D I
Q N T W O R S H I P L Z N V R C P R F G
Q J R A Q T E O Y I H X O S C W L I T I
S K Y P R N M C W N O Q I U H Z G F W O
G D B W R O J I R Y G T T S R C J I S U
N Q I R L A C Z P O R H C E I W S C R S
I G B P F D Y E Z A S B E J S N D E I N
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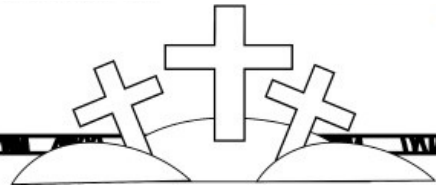
WORD LIST

ANGEL	EASTER SUNDAY	HOLY	RELIGIOUS
BIBLE	FAITH	JESUS	RESURRECTION
BLESSINGS	FORGIVENESS	LAMB	RISEN
CELEBRATE	GLORY	MIRACLE	SACRIFICE
CHRIST	GOD	PALM	SAVIOR
CHURCH	GOOD FRIDAY	PASSION	TRADITION
CROSS	GOSPEL	PRAYER	WORSHIP
DECORATE	HEAVEN		

Unscramble Lent

Unscramble each set of letters to make words associated with Lent.

1. PaSnd mylau _____
2. dMahyuTad nrysu _____
3. vPossrea _____
4. entL _____
5. yHkeelo W _____
6. ldaSt uoHyar _____
7. F oroidGady _____
8. W yydnepeaSS _____
9. osF yDtayr _____
10. yWssAdene had _____
11. daytSransEeu _____



Editorial

What is Lent? Lent is a period of fasting, moderation and self-denial. Lent comes from the Old English word "lengthen" which simply means "spring" - when the days lengthen and new life springs forth. It is a time in which we anticipate the victory of the light and life of Christ over the darkness of sin and death.

Whilst there are many things we can put into practice such as abstaining from certain habits or fasting, the most important component of Lent is prayer. So this Lent why not add something into your life? Maybe it might be spending more time in prayer, silence or meditation, reading the Bible or maybe it might be helping others through your time or talents. Use this Lent as an opportunity that as the days grow longer and brighter we may grow closer to God and his redeeming grace. Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' death and resurrection. This Lent, seek the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.

Let this Lenten season be filled with hope. With everything going on in the world, may God remind us of His precious promises to carry us through, to strengthen us and to show us that he is the God of hope, that all things are possible with Him.

Whatever this Lent looks like for you I wish you every blessing on your journey.

Claire

LENT 
Pray Fast Give

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

1 Peter 5 : 6-7



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

Calendar of Worship

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 : N Merrylees

Sunday 9th March 2025 at 11am First Sunday in Lent

Service led by Rev Dr J Connolly

Beadle : S Johnston **Reader** : K Cruickshanks

Welcome : A Barona

Flowers : M Heron **Delivery** : M Rowley

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

Crèche : C Johnston

Sunday Club : S Kent, F Hutchinson

Young Persons' Elder : E Owen

Sunday 16th March 2025 at 10:15am Joint Cluster Service at Balmerino

Service led by Mr J Macmillan

Flowers : L Robertson **Delivery** : J Campbell

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

Crèche : F Harris

Sunday Club : A Gray, S McCowan

Young Persons' Elder : M Shiels

Sunday 23rd March 2025 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : J Johnston **Reader** : E Owen

Welcome : L Robertson

Flowers : C Barr **Delivery** : S McCowan

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

Crèche : D Miller

Sunday Club : J Wylie, E Wisher

Young Persons' Elder : C Johnston

Sunday 23rd March 2025 at 6:30pm

Communion Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Sunday 30th March 2025 at 11am Mothers Day

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : C Johnston **Reader** : J Campbell

Welcome : K Cameron

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

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

Crèche : J Taylor

Sunday Club : S Kent, A Gray

Young Persons' Elder : D Miller

Sunday 6th April 2025 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : C McCowan **Reader** : F Ritchie

Welcome : D Miller

Flowers : J Mitchell **Delivery** : M Shiels

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

Crèche : C Johnston

Sunday Club : Funday Sunday

Young Persons' Elder : S Johnston

Contact Numbers

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