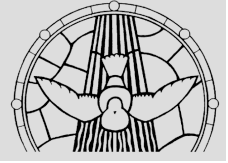




Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland April 2025 Journal



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

This Is the Way: A Gospel That Walks Across Borders

On the weekend of March 29–30, the sanctuary of Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland became more than just a place of worship — it became a sacred intersection. The launch of *"Intra-African Pentecostalism and the Dynamics of Power"*, the honouring of a Coronation Medal, and a joint service with Scottish and Cameroonian Presbyterians came together not merely as events on a calendar but as a convergence of callings, cultures, and divine grace.

To some, it may have sounded like a whimsical headline: *"A Cameroonian-born minister pastoring a kirk in Fife."* But what unfolded was no anecdote — it was a parable. A living, breathing signpost of a Gospel that refuses to be confined by geography, ethnicity, or history. In a world fragmented by borders and barriers, the Church bore witness to something eternal: a Kingdom without walls.

And as we step into the sacred rhythm of Easter — the season of resurrection, restoration, and reorientation — we are invited to remember that the Gospel still calls out across all our divides:

"This is the way. Walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21).

The prophet Isaiah wrote in a time of national anxiety. God's people, desperate for protection, looked to Egypt — to politics, military alliances, and the illusion of control. Today, the pattern repeats. From the paralysis of Western democracies to the unresolved trauma of the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, nations still reach for power before prayer, for strategy before surrender.

And yet, into this swirl of misplaced trust, Isaiah speaks a surprising word: *"The Lord longs to be gracious to you... Blessed are all who wait for Him"* (Isaiah 30:18). God is not distant. He is not armed with wrath. He is waiting with mercy. And then comes the promise: *"Whether you turn to the right or the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying: 'This is the way. Walk in it'"* (v.21).

At Easter, we hear that voice most clearly in Christ. In John 6, Jesus declares, *"I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me shall not hunger."* This Bread is not exclusive. It is not reserved for the elite, the insiders, or the doctrinally pristine. It is for whoever — for the hungry, the searching, the wandering, the weary.

And that, dear friends, is what we experienced that weekend — not just a celebration of a book or a medal, but of a *borderless Gospel*. A Cameroonian pastor in a Scottish pulpit is not a footnote of migration — it is a manifestation of divine imagination. This is the Church as she was meant to be: multicultural, multilingual, multi-storied — yet unified in Christ.

In a time of global instability — the war in Gaza and Ukraine, climate anxiety, refugee displacement, and deepening economic hardship — we need more than human solutions. We need holy imagination. We need a Church that does not build higher walls but longer tables. A Church that remembers. There are no passports at Christ's Table. No checkpoints. Just grace.

So, this Easter, let us walk this way:

- With courage in the face of fear.
- With mercy, amid injustice.
- With hope, even when the night is long.

Because the Bread has been broken.
The Voice is speaking.
This is the way. Walk in it.
And by God's grace — we will.

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...

But even the most faithful hearts know what it feels like to fear the future.

In 1969, in the shadow of civil unrest, assassinations, and the Vietnam War, Bill and Gloria Gaither were expecting their third child. The world around them felt unstable — politically, socially, and spiritually. They feared for the future their baby would inherit.

But it was in that place of fear that faith rose.

One day, as they looked into the face of their newborn son, a quiet assurance stirred in their hearts. Life was still worth living — not because the world had changed, but because Christ lives. From that assurance came the hymn we now sing with generations of believers:

*"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow;
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know, I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives."*

This is our Easter anthem. This is the reason we walk on.

Not because we are strong, but because *He is risen*.
Not because the world is easy, but because *the way is grace*.
And because He lives — so shall we.

Every Blessing,

Rev Dr Amos Chewachong (PhD)

Holy Communion

We will be holding our bi-annual Service of Holy Communion a week earlier than usual on **Sunday 20th April 2025** (Easter Sunday).

This service will also include our Holiday Club closing service.

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



Monthly Prayer Request

This month we would ask you to pray for the future of our cluster (Newport-on-Tay, Balmerino & Wormit, and Creich, Flisk & Kilmany).

We give thanks for the combined services that have taken place so far and the opportunities to begin to get to know and care for each other. We pray for open hearts, a spirit of unity and a determination to combine our strengths for God's purposes in this area.

Thank you.

Newport Church Prayer Group

Ann Barona, Nancy Pong, Neil Merrylees, Diane Miller, Jane Campbell, Catherine Johnston, Chris & Katie Cameron and Alison Heywood



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



I love this time of year. The beautiful spring flowers, the longer days and warmer weather. Spring reminds me too of Christ's death on the cross and rising again, like the spring bulbs dead in the ground then coming back to life. We have so much to be grateful for. So many blessings all around us. As we approach Easter it's a good time to reflect on all we have and give thanks to God.

manna has been doing well with a steady flow of regular customers. Our rota too has been doing well with our new volunteers filling the gaps. Our gift shop has been going well. We have a lovely selection of Easter cards, various books, socks and scented candles. If you have need of cards or gifts why not try manna and see what we have in store.

I would encourage you to remember manna if you are getting together with friends or family for a catch up over coffee. Equally if you're just wanting to stop by on your own you will always find a warm welcome and something tasty to enjoy with your coffee.

Our bakers continue to provide us with the most wonderful selection of home made treats. We are so blessed and grateful for all they do for manna.

We are also working on our social media with help from Olha and her fellow students at Dundee & Angus College. We now have a manna Instagram page as well as a Facebook page. The students also had a bake sale raising funds for manna and have designed some wonderful posters to promote manna - all as part of their college course.

We wish you every blessing this Easter.

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!

Many thanks for the lovely flowers we received recently. They were very much appreciated.

Avril and Iain Waugh

Thank you to my friends at Newport Church for the lovely bunch of flowers I received on my birthday.

Moira Clark



We would like to thank the Church for the lovely bouquet delivered to us by Sarah McCowan on the occasion of our 55th (Emerald) Wedding Anniversary. It was a lovely surprise and much appreciated. Blessings to all.

Pam & Jim Laurence

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers received from the Church recently for our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Kindest regards,

Jean and Bob Redpath

Steven Stewart

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Evening Service

Our next Evening Service will be a Communion Service on Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday.

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

EVENING SERVICE

Safeguarding Training

Our Church is running an Introductory Safeguarding Training session on Tuesday 29th April at 7pm in the Agnes Duncan Room, Kirk House Complex, Newport-on-Tay. It usually lasts for approximately 2 hours.

Sheila Boyd from Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service will lead the session. This training is mandatory for all volunteers and workers in e.g. junior church or pastoral care groups, coordinators and panel members (part 1 of training), ministers/OLMs (as part one of the Ministers' Pathway). Manna volunteers are also welcome to attend. This invitation also extends to other neighbouring congregations. To book please contact me, lesley.gray@talk21.com or 07779 506 994. Thank you!

If you cannot attend this, please contact me for a list of available online courses (both Introductory and Trustee Training).

Lesley Gray
Safeguarding Co-ordinator

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 April we will be supporting St Salvador's.

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.



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

Postal address on inside back page

email: newportcos@btinternet.com



facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/newportontaychurchofscotland>

Visit our website - www.notchurch.co.uk



Parish Register

Funeral

12th Mar Mrs Margaret Froude
Cupar
formerly Newport-on-Tay

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

Changes of Address

Mrs Marjorie Martin
From : Newport-on-Tay Dist 17
To : Scone Dist 98

Miss Catherine Johnston
Newport-on-Tay From : Dist 3
To : Dist 4

Mr Graham Johnston &
Mrs Jane Johnston
Newport-on-Tay From : Dist 3
To : Dist 17

*"My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."
Isaiah 32:18*

*'Finally, be strong in the Lord
and in his mighty power.' Ephesians 6:10*

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/).



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The Guild Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland

Guild Projects 2025–2027

As we mentioned in the last couple of Journals, the National Guild strategy for the next three years is 'Let us build a house'. There are four new 'Guild Projects', which run from 2025 - 2027.

Each month we have been giving information about each of these projects. In the February Journal we highlighted **Bibles for Bairns**, partnering with the Scottish Bible Society. In March it was '**Build My Church**'. This month we highlight '**Operation Hope**'.

Operation Hope is a project of Release International – the Voice of Persecuted Christians.

Egypt is home to the largest Christian minority in the Middle East with around 10-12% of the population professing faith in Jesus. However, as a minority they face varying levels of discrimination and suffer poverty and lack of education, especially in the more rural areas of Upper Egypt. In local disputes with their neighbours, Christians are often blamed regardless of fault and in some cases have been forced to leave their homes.

Working with a local partner, Release International's Operation Hope project serves Christian communities in Upper Egypt helping those who are facing extreme poverty and marginalisation. Families are provided with basic living needs such as beds, toilet facilities, kitchen appliances, food, and funds to help with the construction of their homes. The project also helps families establish micro-businesses so they can begin to support themselves, and it provides psychological and spiritual care through regular visits and discipleship programmes.

The Operation Hope project aims to support 2,000 people in around 100 villages in Upper Egypt each year. Through the Guild's generous support multiple practical needs will be met; poverty will be alleviated; the impact of persecution and marginalisation will be reduced; Christian families will be assured of their value and given opportunities to build a future; and ultimately the wider Christian community in Upper Egypt will be established, strengthened, and enabled to flourish.

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>

Wednesdays@One Concerts return

We are planning on having another series of concerts over the summer months. They are still being arranged, and we hope to have more details in the next Journal.

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 get in touch with Margaret Wright: Tel (01382) 543007.

Wednesday Afternoon Club Rota

9th Apr - Frances Durward
16th Apr - Pam Laurence

23rd Apr - Carolyn Barr
30th Apr - Eleanor Owen

7th May - Margaret Wright



~ 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.

This is a perilous time for many affected by conflict around the world. 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 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 March and April

We started a new series "Jesus on Mission" in March. We began with "Living on Mission", exploring what it means to be salt and light in today's world. Other sessions covered "Praying on Mission" and "Speaking on Mission", culminating with "Going on Mission", where we looked at Jesus' final instructions to his followers at the end of Matthew's gospel, to go out and make disciples of all nations. We finished March with a special focus on Mothering Sunday.



Normal Sunday Club activities will be replaced by Funday Sundays at the beginning of April. 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 this year's Funday Sundays, please let Fiona Hutchinson know (email: fionah2208@gmail.com).

We'll then look forward to being part of the service at the end of the Holiday Club on Easter Sunday. The last Sunday of the month 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. Subair lives in Mozambique and celebrated his 9th birthday on 10th March. The children keep up-to-date with his progress through frequent reports received from World Vision. For further information about World Vision and its work, do have a look at their website: www.worldvision.org.uk

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. At our latest sale on 23rd March we raised a total of £183.90! Many thanks to all who baked and gave a donation for our wares.



Emma Wisher

On behalf of the Sunday Club Team

Christian Aid

This is a special year for Christian Aid as it is celebrating its 80th birthday. The organisation grew from the terrible refugee crisis of the Second World War when churches were asked to support European refugees. During this year a number of special church services will be held to mark the occasion, including one in St Giles Cathedral on 17th May. All are most welcome to attend this service.

Christian Aid Week

This runs from Sunday 11th May to Saturday 17th May.

As usual there will be the well known red envelopes in the pews for donations - don't forget Gift Aid! Many people now like to give digitally. If you wish to do this then google "Christian Aid Week 2025". You will then be directed to ways to donate and can link your donation to our church, if you wish. You can give our name or our Christian Aid Identification Number which is OR223065.

This year the focus is on Guatemala where more than half the population is engaged in agriculture but hunger is a huge problem. Guatemala is one of the 10 countries rated as most vulnerable to climate emergencies.

Penny Bucket

From November '24 - February '25 £80 was donated to the bucket! At the beginning of March, I sent this amount to Christian Aid in response to their appeal for Sudan where famine and civil war are building a frightening crisis. They responded with many thanks as there is such need in the area and every amount counts.

This thanks is due to all you anonymous folk who quietly pop a few "pennies" in the bucket. All your gifts together are going to help desperate people in many parts of the world. Thank you and to every one, please pop in a few coins if you can. I'm happy to count if you are willing to give!

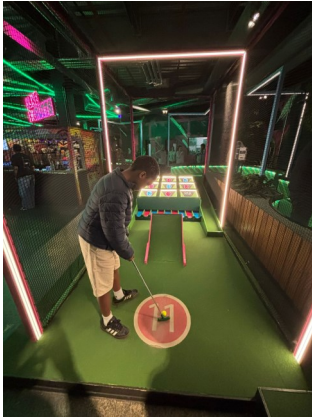
Margaret Imlay



Youth Update

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are doing well. It has been a pretty busy month with a few things going on. First we will start with Alpha Youth. By the time you are reading this, we have completed Alpha Youth. We had our day away in Edinburgh in March, where we watched two episodes on the Holy Spirit, one on the morning and one in the evening. In the afternoon we went to Lane7 in St James' Quarter, Edinburgh where we played mini golf and bowling together. Quite a number of our group managed to get some strikes and a few even got some hole in ones! For our evening meal we had a chippy tea from Corbie's and we spent some time worshipping God and playing some team games. In total we had 15 young people come for the day away but we had 18 turning up throughout our series! A huge thank you to everyone who donated money, provided our young people a meal, or prayed for us.



We also had our first Messy Church of the year in March where we looked at the healing of a man who was paralysed for 38 years, and he desperately tried to get into the pool of Bethesda when it started to bubble, but never quite made it on time to be healed. Jesus saw him and had mercy for him. We built the colonnades from Lego and Duplo, had an obstacle course while carrying a big teddy bear, made bubble tea and smoothies and had a family board game area where we had to try and try again. Keep an eye on our Facebook page where we will announce our next Messy Church date!



Our Holiday Club will run from Monday 14th – Friday 18th April between 10am – 12:15pm every day. It is called 'A Tale of Two Kings' where we are having a medieval theme, and we will be looking at two kings: King David and King Jesus. We will be having lots of fun with medieval themed games and activities, like jousting, making hand catapults, knocking over Goliath and more. We will also be having crafts like Flag Making, Stone Painting, Blotting Paint Craft, as well as the classic Messy Challenges! Best part it is completely free! Sign up today for lots of fun by scanning the QR Code on the poster or following this link <https://form.jotform.com/250402798865366>

Chris Cameron
Children and Youth Worker

Photos courtesy of Chris Cameron

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Hall Hire : Jane Johnston
Telephone: 07541 188 411
email: j.johnston58@btinternet.com

Calendar of Worship

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

Sunday 13th April 2025 at 11am Palm Sunday

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : N Merrylees **Reader** : R Caird

Welcome : C Johnston

Flowers : Elaine Thomson **Delivery** : A Waugh

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

Crèche : J Johnston

Sunday Club : Funday Sunday

Young Persons' Elder : L Gray

Sunday 13th April 2025 at 6:30pm

Communion Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Thursday 17th April 2025 at 7:10pm Maundy Thursday Service including Communion

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong



Friday 18th April 2025 at 7pm Ecumenical Good Friday Service in St Fillan's Roman Catholic Church



Sunday 20th April 2025 at 11am Easter Sunday Holiday Club Closing Service Service of Holy Communion

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : D Macleod **Reader** : K Cruickshanks

Welcome : J Johnston

Flowers : Easter Flowers **Delivery** : P Laurence

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

Crèche : F Harris

Sunday Club : Holiday Club

Young Persons' Elder : A Barona



Sunday 27th April 2025 at 11am

Service led by Mr P Owen

Beadle : D Miller **Reader** : J Cuthbertson

Welcome : M Imlay

Flowers : P Broadbent **Delivery** : M Cuthbertson

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

Crèche : J Taylor

Sunday Club : Godly Play

Young Persons' Elder : L Robertson

Sunday 4th May 2025 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : C Owen **Reader** : L Robertson

Welcome : F Harris

Flowers : J McKendrick **Delivery** : C Barr

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

Crèche : D Miller

Sunday Club : S Kent, F Hutchinson

Young Persons' Elder : M Wright

Next Edition

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

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

by **Sunday 20th April 2025.**