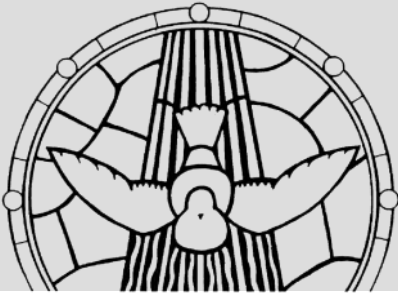


Newport-on-Tay

Church of Scotland Journal

October 2021



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Psalm 65:5

'You answer us with awesome and Righteous Deeds'



The 11th of September 2021 marked the twentieth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States of America. Almost 3,000 people died at the hands of 19 Islamic Terrorists. Fathers, mothers, sons and daughters, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Families were changed forever, and there are still people suffering from post-traumatic stress issues related to the deadliest terrorist attack in American history. What happened on September 11, 2001 signifies how hatred that is cloaked in religious fervour and that causes someone to fly a plane into a building full of people is evil at its core. Harper Lee, the American novelist best known for her 1960 novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* was perceptive when she commented that 'Sometimes

the Bible in the hand of one man is worse than a whisky bottle in the hand of (another)... There are just some kind of men who - who're so busy worrying about the next world they've never learned to live in this one, and you can look down the street and see the results'. Lee was right, not just in the context of the use of the Bible but more so in the context of contemporary challenges from increasing Islamic Jihadist tendencies around the world. There is evidence to suggest that the streets of Great Britain are relatively unsafe, partly because of young people who are wreaking havoc and taking the lives of innocent people in the name of 'religion'. In January this year, the BBC published an article entitled, 'Reading Stabbings: Man motivated by 'religious jihad'. It relates the story of a young man who stabbed three people to death in a Reading park and believed he was carrying out 'an act of religious jihad'. Khairi Saadallah, 26, stabbed to death James Furlong, 36, David Wails, 49, and Joseph Ritchie-Bennett, 39, during the attack in Forbury Gardens in June 2020. 'In less than a minute, shouting the words 'Allahu Akbar' (God is the greatest) the killer carried out a lethal attack with a knife, killing all three men before they had a chance to respond and try to defend themselves'.

This is one example of religiously motivated killings in the United Kingdom and elsewhere around the world and the questions concerning that, are self-evident: How do we move past the conflicting emotions surrounding an event like the September 11, 2001, killings that fundamentally changed our world? How do we reconcile our questions about why God would allow things like that to happen at all in our world? And why does God allow evil to befall us, even us, his chosen people who have pledged allegiance to him? Those are questions of *Theodicy*-a vindication of the justice of God in the world of evil and I am not sure I have the answers. However, in suggesting a general answer, my attention is drawn to Psalm 65:5, 'You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas'. The hope here is in the words, 'You answer us'. David reminds us that we can look to God for answers to our unanswerable questions and think of the good times we have had before the bad ones, or the good times we have despite the bad ones! This is partly because, when the Israelites heard of David's words, they thought of the awesome deeds God performed in bringing them out of bondage in Egypt and into freedom. They knew from experience that they could look to God to act on their behalf.

Dear friends, there are still mounting problems in our world! The pandemic has not gone away completely. There are climate change problems that are threatening the security of the earth. And our own individual and family problems continue to create anxiety within us. However, the hope which David proclaims in Psalm 65 is also available for us today. Like David, when we come before the Lord in prayer, bringing our petitions and requests, our hearts fill with hope because we know our God answers us. God's Word can give us healing for our hearts, perspective for our thoughts, and hope for the future. And despite the challenges we all face, we are called upon to be thankful to God. 'Give thanks to the Lord for he is good! for his steadfast love endures forever' (Psalm 107:1).

(continued overleaf)

This journal has been produced and delivered in accordance with the strict Church of Scotland published guidance on the distribution of church-related material

Minister's Letter continued ...

This Sunday, 3rd October, Christians of Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland will bring their Harvest Thanksgiving to God to recognise his amazing grace upon their lives and community despite the problems we all face. We are launching an appeal towards two projects: World Vision and the National Giving Day of the Church of Scotland that is designed to help individual congregations recover from the difficult financial circumstances of the last 18 months. Envelopes will be made available in church for those who wish to make donations to these projects as part of their Harvest Thanksgiving to God. But people are also called upon to make their contributions in alternative ways as can be advised by the Finance Convener of the church.

As we get into the Autumn months with their characteristic coldness, I pray that God would give us grace to commit our difficulties into his hands and for the healing of our world as we pray again, 'You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds...'

Every Blessing,

Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Worship / Covid Update

The Head Gamekeeper, a Drummond by name, addressed us all (his team of beaters) ahead of a full day's grouse shoot on the Laird's Estate in Central Perthshire. Having given us all the necessary instructions, he concluded with his Clan's motto 'Gang Warily' (go carefully), a profound and cautionary bidding ahead of our engagement with such rugged and unforgiving mountainous terrain.

'Gang Warily' - this is precisely what we as a Kirk Session have chosen to do following the Scottish Government's continued easing of lockdown restrictions. Although we are now in the 'Beyond Level 0' categorisation - which permits the removal of most of the legally binding restrictions, we have chosen to remain within the earlier 'Level 0' measures with 1m physical distancing enforced within our church building and a one-way system of access and egress.

We have also opened up our hall for hospitality after the service, provided certain procedures are followed (e.g., table service only) and other mitigation measures are in place (e.g., limit of 6 only to be seated at a table). In terms of the NHS Test & Protect, the only legal requirement is to register all those who enjoy our hospitality, however for the next few weeks and until we see a downward trend in overall infections, we will continue to register attendance in the church as well.

Whilst we retain our 'in church' zonal seating arrangements ('Couples' on Left-Hand Side pews, 'Individuals' in the Centre pews and 'Families' on the Right-Hand Side pews - as you enter from the back of the church) and have reduced the number of Stewards on duty - can I ask you all to please move towards your appropriate zone and fill from the front. Individual worshippers - can I also ask you to fill from the front and to occupy the central seat in each available pew first. If people sit at both ends, this restricts access to and the occupation of the middle seat thereby reducing our overall safe capacity and possibly refusing entry to would-be worshippers.

Can I also remind people that one of our essential mitigation measures is to have the church doors open throughout the service to maximize the ventilation / circulation of air - which in these colder autumn days could be felt by some as a chilly draught - so you may wish to apply an extra layer of clothing to fend off any discomfort felt.

So, as the virus remains ever-present and variants proliferate, let us echo the Drummond Clan motto and 'Gang Warily' and prayerfully into every aspect of our church worship and shared hospitality.

Francis B Robertson, Session Clerk

D. & S. SMITH

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mannā matters



Each season has its own beauty and autumn is no exception. The colours of the changing seasons are a reminder of the beautiful creation we are blessed to live in, here in Newport. Stunning sunrises and sunsets too.

The gift shop has new stock arriving weekly. Christmas cards are selling well for September. We have a nice selection of stocking fillers, children's necklaces, children's bracelets, adult socks, children's hats and matching gloves, lovely shampoos, conditioners and body washes in various scents. It's worth a browse. For everyday use we have shampoo bars and conditioning bars saving on plastic packaging.

Our hours remain Tuesday to Saturday 10am-4pm. We have our outdoor seating too. Our door is open for ventilation purposes which with this lovely weather hasn't been a problem so far this year. Our bakers continue to provide a wonderful selection of home baking for you to enjoy. Home made soup and freshly made sandwiches too.

So there are many reasons to pop in and see us at manna.

Diane & the manna team

mannā is open Tuesday – Saturday 10am-4pm

mannā (01382) 542781
 Diane Miller (01382) 541141 & dianemillermanna@gmail.com
 Morag Rowley (01382) 541157 & moragrowley.4@gmail.com

Editorial

Hello October! And hello autumn - my favourite season of the year! I love watching the leaves on the trees change and I marvel at the wonders that God has given us to enjoy. When the leaves fall off the trees it almost feels like the end of an era. But we know that's not the case and that there are better things ahead. The leaves are just making way for new ones to grow in the spring.

Since doing my walking challenge I more aware of nature. I am still walking every day (but not to the same extent) and I am looking forward to walking through autumn, kicking a big pile of leaves and enjoying seeing all the different colours that represent autumn.

In Genesis 1 we read that on the third day God created the trees and plants to grow on the land. However, reading between the lines God didn't just create the trees to grow, bloom and then die, they were to bear fruit and seed so that they could grow and bloom again and again. God also made this process interesting through the changing colours etc in the different seasons. He never ceases to amaze me with his forward planning and the ideas He has for things well into the future. It is very comforting to know that even when we can't see the path ahead, there is no need to worry. He's got it all set out and will guide us.

I know that despite all the changes in the past 18 months, the one constant thing that I'm glad was there, is there and always will be there, is God. He will never let us down and leave us. I hope you enjoy this season of change as much as I do!

Every Blessing, **Claire**

PUZZLE

Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Luke 14:15-30

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

ALLEYS	GREAT
ANGRY	GUESTS
BANQUET	HATE
BLESSED	HEARD
BLIND	HOUSE
BRING	INVITED
BROTHERS	JESUS
CERTAIN	JUST
CHILDREN	KINGDOM
COST	LAME
COUNTRY	LANES
CRIPPLED	MASTER
CROSS	MONEY
CROWDS	ORDERED
DISCIPLE	OWNER
EAT	OXEN
ESTIMATE	POOR
EXCUSES	READY
FATHER	ROADS
FEAST	SISTERS
FIELD	STREETS
FINISH	TABLE
FOLLOW	TASTE
GOD	TOWER

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Psalm 30




Harvest Thanksgiving Appeal

For many years now, it has been our custom to show our thanks to God at harvest-time, though we sadly had to abandon any communal act of thanks last year due to the Covid restrictions. Fortunately, as things are steadily easing, we feel able to reach out once again.

On recent occasions, our young ones have led us in a collection of items for the Tay Bridgehead Foodbank and this will conclude at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 3rd October.

Once again, we are also to hold a financial appeal and this time we will have two beneficiaries :-

 **World Vision** - to support their invaluable work with young people, which was highlighted by our Session Clerk, Francis Robertson (who is an Ambassador for the charity), during a recent Service. Inspired by their Christian faith, World Vision's focus is on helping the most vulnerable children, in the most difficult places, overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. They believe it takes a whole community to create happy and fulfilling childhoods - and so they work together with communities, to empower them to do just that. They operate in almost 100 countries, focusing on the most vulnerable, to transform children's lives. Further details can be found at www.worldvision.org.uk

Our own Church here in Newport. The Church of Scotland has recognised the difficulties faced by congregations over the past 18 months or more. Not only have worshippers missed out on the heart-warming times spent together in worship, in prayer, or in fellowship, but also a significant amount of income has been lost, with only a small portion of that likely to appear once life moves towards something called "The New Normal". As a result, the General Assembly approved the 'Church of Scotland National Giving Day', to be held during the harvest season; this supports specific giving to individual congregations at this time to assist them as they recover from the difficult financial circumstances of the past 18 months.



For both these worthy causes, please give what you can to help, whether locally or many miles away. Harvest appeal envelopes are in the pews each week from now until our Communion Service at the end of October. Please return your donations in these envelopes by simply putting them into the offering plate. Alternatively, you can give electronically direct to our bank account; if you do not have a note of our bank account, please contact me (see the back page of this Journal or on the Church's website - www.notchurch.org.uk) and I shall give you the relevant information.



The donations will be split between these two causes, but if you wish to contribute to one specifically, please indicate this either with a note inside the envelope or on the outside of it. Donations of all amounts are most welcome, and remember that even small contributions can be significant. Everything we do counts with God; this is about doing your part in keeping the world's young people, and our church, alive.

Finally, please remember Matthew 25, verse 40, in which Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me".

Philip W Owen
Finance Convener

Bible Alive

Following recent training, Chris Cameron and Jane Campbell are looking for some props to help them bring the 'Bible Alive' to school children. They are looking for the following items. There will be a box as you enter the church to put any donations in. For more information please speak to either Chris or Jane.

- ◆ Pop Up Tent
- ◆ Plastic Plates
- ◆ Fleece Blanket
- ◆ Pillow
- ◆ Torch
- ◆ Baby Doll
- ◆ Moses Basket
- ◆ Plastic Swords x 2
- ◆ Cleaning Supplies (Spray Bottle and Duster)
- ◆ Cloak and Piece of Cloth (David in cave with Saul)
- ◆ 2 Jars (For Elijah Widow, fill with flour and oil later)
- ◆ Golden Syrup Tin
- ◆ Robes and Jackets
- ◆ Goblet
- ◆ Empty Perfume Bottles
- ◆ Red Rope or Cord



Communion

We are celebrating our service of Holy Communion on Sunday 31st October 2021. If you are wondering how we can safely undertake a Communion Service within the prevailing Covid-19 restrictions, in particular reducing the risk of any potential cross-contamination through the sharing of the elements, then here is a helpful guide.

Access and Seating

We will be adhering to the social distancing and hygiene measures currently practiced within the Church building.

The Elements

We will be using individual, sealed, disposable Communion Cups each containing a wafer of bread and grape juice which will be provided along with a small tissue and disposable plastic bag. As you enter the building, please uplift these items from the table at the back of the Church.

Following direction from our Minister - the topmost plastic seal will be withdrawn to reveal the bread wafer.



Then, following direction from our Minister – the foil seal will be withdrawn to reveal the grape juice.



Once the elements have been taken, the cup, tissue, foil, etc., will be placed in the accompanying disposable plastic bag. As you exit the building at the end of the service, you should put the bag in one of the bins at the front of the Church.

We look forward to sharing in the 'Body and Blood of Christ' with you on at the end of October. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The children will take part in a Godly Play session in the Kirk House Complex during this service.

Francis B Robertson
Session Clerk

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone for all the messages, cards and phone calls received after my stay in hospital and also for the beautiful flowers we received recently from the church.

Recovery will be quite a long time yet, however these kindnesses have helped to brighten my recuperation.

God Bless and thank you.

Brian Griffiths



Youth Update

Hi everyone,

We have had an incredible month as a youth group. We have had both our Youth Groups start back, being allowed to use our youth room again after 17 months or so since we last used it and had an amazing trip to Wild Shore in Dundee.

At the start of the month, we had our second event of the year with a trip to Wild Shore, Dundee, to do the Aquatic Obstacle Course. We had eleven young people and leaders go on the course and fun was had by all! I am still amazed at all the obstacles our youth group stuck together and played King of the Hill on a small pontoon for most of our time on the water. It was funny to watch and brought joy to my heart that our young people, after being so long apart from each other, stuck together and played games. Another funny moment of the event was Thomas jumping off the big obstacle, the splash from his landing went about 20ft in the air, everybody watching was equally impressed as they found it funny!

Youth Seekers and Youth Café have started back up this month as well. We have given an overview of the Bible and taught our young people how to use their Youth Bible as effectively as possible! We also had a games night which included a Piñata as a wee surprise. It was filled with sweets as well as bible verses for our young people to take home.

Over the next month, things are changing slightly as we have started to see a rise in infection rates in Scotland particularly amongst young people. Therefore, we took a decision as a leadership team to run one youth group every Sunday and only use our Youth Room. Although we are disappointed to take this step, we do feel it is for the best for everyone attending our Youth Groups. The table below will detail our plans for the next month. If any changes do occur from said timetable, we will email any information out to parents.

Date	Group	Time	Location	Topic
26/09/2021	Youth Café	6.30pm – 8pm	Youth Room	Creation and Fall
03/10/2021	Youth Café	6.30pm – 8pm	Youth Room	Movie Night
10/10/2021	Youth Seekers	11am – 12:15pm	Youth Room	Noah and the Ark
17/10/2021	Youth Café	6.30pm – 8pm	Youth Room	Abraham and Isaac
24/10/2021	Youth Seekers	11am – 12:15pm	Youth Room	Jacob Wrestles with God
31/10/2021	Youth Café	6.30pm – 8pm	Youth Room	Joseph

I would like to ask for your prayers this month. Particularly praying for protection over our Young People as they are the most likely group to catch Covid-19 now. Pray for our young people as they receive the vaccine over the coming days and weeks. Pray that the rollout would be smooth and our young people will not feel side effects from the vaccine, and if they do that the side effects would be mild.

Blessings

Chris Cameron



Sunday Club Update

Welcome Back

We have now welcomed back the children into the church building after a long time away and they are getting used to seeing each other face to face.

We are thrilled that we have been joined by some families who are new to the area and the church. You are most welcome and we hope to get to know you better in the weeks and months ahead. Also if you have been attending the services in person or online you will have noticed that you have been able to see the children on the overhead screen during the children's talk in the service. This is part of the development of IT in the church.

Over time we hope that any children who cannot attend Sunday Club in person will be able to join virtually. However, we are not there yet!

Teaching

During the first few weeks of this term we focussed on the theme of Harvest and preparation for the all-age Harvest service on the 3rd October.

The children also took part in the Harvest foodbank collection in the lead up to the Harvest service and we would like to thank everyone who also contributed.

Update on Sunday Club Sponsorship of Rimberto from Bolivia

As you will know, we have committed to sponsoring through World Vision, Rimberto, a young boy from Bolivia. The children keep up-to-date with Rimberto's progress through frequent reports received from World Vision. This allows them to better understand the lives of children growing up in very different circumstances and to pray for Rimberto and his family and community in a relevant and intercessional way.

Fundraising

We continue to fundraise through the regular weekly offerings of the children and other donations from members of the congregation and other friends.

General Information

For further information about World Vision and its work, do have a look at their website: www.worldvision.org.uk

Neil Merrylees
Sunday Club Coordinator



Next Edition

Our next Journal will be the November edition.

If you would like anything included in that edition, please email newportcos@btinternet.com by Sunday 24th October 2021.

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Calendar of Worship

Sunday 3rd October 2021 at 11am Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Service led by the Young People

Reader : Young People

Flowers : Harvest Flowers

Coffee : P Broadbent, J McKendrick, L Robertson
+ D MacLeod

Sunday 10th October 2021 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Reader : N Pong

Flowers : J Maclean

Coffee : A Gray, M Imlay, M Shiels + P Owen

Sunday 17th October 2021 at 11am

Service led by Mr Francis Robertson

Reader : W Berry

Flowers : M McNicol

Coffee : J Campbell, M Imlay, E Thomson +
K Campbell

Sunday 24th October 2021 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Reader : E Owen

Flowers : M Clark

Coffee : A Heywood, A Waugh, M Wright +
C McCowan

Sunday 31st October 2021 at 11am Holy Communion

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Reader : K Cruickshanks

Flowers : M Imlay

Coffee : J Johnston, P Laurence, Y Simpson +
F Ritchie

Sunday 7th November 2021 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Reader : F Ritchie

Flowers : J MacCallum

Coffee : M Cuthbertson, F Durward, W Whyte +
J Cuthbertson

Contact Numbers

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Youth Worker : Chris Cameron
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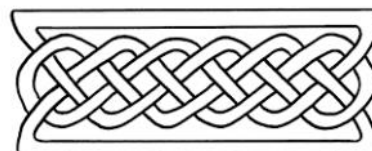
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Parish Register

Changes of Address

Mrs F Durward
Newport-on-Tay
From:- Dist 1
To:- Dist 33

Mr and Mrs E McCabe
Newport-on-Tay
From:- Dist 22
To:- Dist 19

Mr and Mrs J Murray
From:- Newport-on-Tay - Dist 4
To:- St Andrews - Dist 98

Jill Fyffe
From:- Newport-on-Tay - Dist 8
To:- Dundee - Dist 30