



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Heart and Soul 2012
- Lent Focus
- India
- Toilet Twinning
- Mary's Meals
- Dates to Note
- Alpha
- News and Updates

PRAYER FOCUS

**Father,
glorify your
name.**

John 12: 28

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

Harbour Lights

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEWHAVEN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

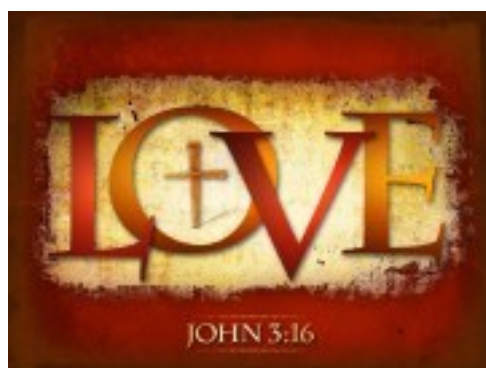
E A S T E R 2 0 1 2

Light in the Darkness

Dear Friends,

"Let us not lose heart in doing good." Gal 6:9a

Over the last few months I have conducted many funerals, mostly parish funerals, and it has been a privilege to be able to conduct them for families mourning their loved ones. It has also been emotionally taxing. What has struck me though, in all of this, is the power of simple gestures, and what it means to people to have someone to talk with, someone to listen. I have often heard people saying things like, "I have no idea what to say to so and so," but I have realized that that doesn't matter. People simply need to know that they are being thought about. Jesus was an expert at comforting people yet he brought comfort through simple means, a touch or a word. So I'd encourage you to



never underestimate what these things can do. Words and acts of kindness, a simple touch, or a hug can bring much needed relief to those who are struggling with issues in their lives, and each one of us is capable of such things.

Much love,

Peter (Rev. Peter Bluett)

Heart and Soul 2012

Following the success of Roll Away the Stone 2011, this year's large scale event celebrating the life of the Church is "Heart and Soul 2012". The event will take place on May 20th (General Assembly Sunday) in Princes Street Gardens (West) from 1.00pm until 6.00pm.

Using even more space in the Gardens than last year - and just about doubling everything that you can see, do, listen to, and take part in - the event is free to enter

and guaranteed to appeal to all. Put the date in your diary. For up-to-date information on what's happening, see www.heartandsoul2012.org.uk



Lent Focus

22 February - 7 April 2012

It isn't too late to take part in one of the many daily actions during Lent—and help poor communities at the same time!

Christian Aid Count Your Blessings 2012. Make Lent Count – literally!

From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, record your responses to a variety of questions,



themes and facts and save money every day for Christian Aid and support some of the poorest communities in the world. Last year, more than £300,000 for Christian Aid's work to end poverty.

Visit www.christianaid.org.uk/lent to download copies. Children's resource also available.

The Carbon Fast. Our day-to-day lives may not be impacted severely by the changing climate – yet. But what about people who struggle to feed their families or find a home that won't get washed away, or who can't work because the fields have been destroyed by droughts and storms? And here in the UK, as many people struggle with heating bills, we can see how even predictable weather can push us to the edge.

It's our job to bring hope. What cost do our energy-intensive lifestyles have...on us?...on poor communities?...on God's creation? *The Carbon Fast* - daily actions and prayers for Lent - responds to this challenge, remembering how God has called us to respect and look after his good creation and to protect poor people who we know are suffering the most. www.tearfund.org.uk/carbonfast

We have so much to learn from our brothers and sisters in Christ, whether they live next door or hundreds of miles away.

Pray that we'll learn from each other, praying as one and growing stronger in the body of Christ.

Meditation

[from *Tearfund Prayer Diary*]

Lord, make me a person of hope – and someone who shares that hope with my community and poor people across the world.

Thank you for the true hope you brought into the world through Jesus, his life, death and resurrection to glory.

Amen

India

My time in Puri proved to be interesting and challenging. It offered a valuable insight into development work and the difficulties faced across the world by people living in poverty. The children I worked with faced a huge number of disadvantages due to the circumstances they were born into; this was only heightened by their disability. The work I was involved in aimed to maximise the capabilities of the children with disabilities through rehabilitation but more importantly aimed to provide education for the families and community surrounding the children with disabilities to overcome the attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers that exist.

A lot of the difficulties faced with inclusion are similar to the ones we are familiar with here in the UK. They were however significantly exacerbated by the poverty surrounding them. Often money that was being spent on the children's medication



meant the family couldn't afford food, or the time taken to participate in the rehabilitation program with the child meant less time could be spent working by the parents to provide for the family. Generous donations from the congregation at Newhaven Church to VSO means that volunteers can continue to work in communities similar to the one I experienced in Puri to help develop local organisations to tackle these complex and challenging problems.

Emma Gardiner

Toilet Twinning

It Stinks!

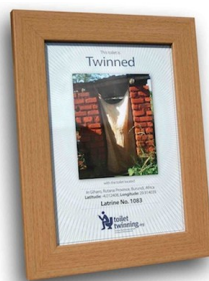
2.6 billion people – that's 40% of the world's population – don't have somewhere safe, clean and hygienic to go to the loo. For people in poor communities, a hole in the ground is quite literally a life saver – three children under the age of 5 die every minute because of poor sanitation and dirty water.

UK-based charities Cord and Tearfund have linked up to bring you Toilet Twinning, a unique way to help transform lives across the world. For £60, you can twin your toilet at home, work or school with a latrine in the remote Giharo Commune of Rutana Province, Burundi, a camp for Internally Displaced People in the DRC or a village in Cambodia.

Tearfund and Cord will use the money raised to help provide access to better sanitation, clean water and hygiene education – helping people enjoy better health, go to school and work, and ultimately, begin to flush away poverty.

When you twin your toilet you'll receive a framed certificate of your toilet's twin, containing a photo, the latrine's location and its GPS coordinates so you can look it up on Google Maps. The Greigs' toilet is twinned with a latrine in Burundi - it is a real talking point with visitors and makes the family feel part of the global community.

For further information, speak to Christine Hodge or Elaine Greig. Plans are afoot to twin the church toilets but in the meantime, why not help flush away poverty by twinning the one in your home - and make a wee difference!! www.toilettwinning.org



Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals Backpack Project : Mary's Meals gives donated backpacks filled with basic educational items to children receiving Mary's Meals in Malawi, Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, and Haiti. We can help children living in poverty by donating any of the following items...exercise books, pens, pencils erasers, rulers, sharpeners, toothpaste, toothbrushes. soap, spoons, small towel, flipflops/sandals, tee shirts, shorts, skirt/ dress. Every little item will help. See the collection box in the cafe vestibule area for details or speak to Louisa McKenzie or Jacqui Bain.

For more information on Mary's Meals, why not come along to the talk on 25th March - see "Dates to Note"

Dates to Note

Just a selection of the many initiatives to get involved with and pray for this Spring:

2 March - World day of Prayer: Informed Prayer – Prayerful Action. The 2012 theme is Malaysia – "Let Justice Prevail". For more information, see www.wdpscotland.org.uk and www.scottishbiblesociety.org

8 March - International Women's Day

18th March – Mothering Sunday - Celebrate mothers around the world with an uplifting resource which highlights how Christian Aid partners like Life With Dignity (LWD) are changing the lives of mothers in Cambodia – www.christianaid.org.uk

22 March - World Water Day

23 March - Bethany Annual Big Sleepout to raise vital funds for Bethany - spend a night under the stars to help homeless people - see www.bethanychristiantrust.com for more details

25 March - Lent talk by a representative from the charity Mary's Meals. 7pm in Inverleith St Serf's Church, organised by Churches Together in Trinity and Goldenacre. (check time) - www.marysmeals.org.uk

26th April - Hope and a Future: Thanks & Praise Event for Bethany, 7pm, St Paul's and St George's Church, York Place. Celebrate the work of the Winter Care Shelter, the Care Van and give thanks for God's great blessings.

29th April - Retiral offering for the Fucellas

27 May - Coinciding with the day of Pentecost is the Global Day of Prayer - for details see www.globaldayofprayer.com

1-3 June - World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk. This global event brings together more than 2 million people across 89 countries. It is an opportunity for us to come together to intercede for the children of the world. Visit www.viva.org for more details.

2 June - Sportive - 111 mile Cycling Challenge to raise money for Bethany.

Alpha Course

As you may remember the church ran a successful *Alpha* course in the autumn of 2010. We are now thinking about another one. However if it is to be for the parish, we need to work out how to invite folk. A leaflet drop or posters are useful but of limited effect. The only really effective way is personal invitation.

If we are to run a course for the parish we will need folk to invite their friends and neighbours. What we want to do is to build up a group of those who are committed to pray and look to God to give them the opportunity to invite friends. The first stage is to ask God to show us who we should be inviting. Are we prepared to commit to pray for that? The next stage is to ask God to

give us the opportunity to raise the issue of *Alpha* at the right moment. It will be a great thrill to see God working in the lives of those round about us.

If you are willing to join a group that will commit to praying for the opportunity to invite others and for God to lead them to those for whom *Alpha* is intended, please let John Hodge or Alastair Sutherland know. The level of response will show whether we are ready to run another *Alpha* course.

The Mission and Outreach Group

*Equipping the people of God
to be the people of God.*

Please Note!

The **Annual Stated Meeting**
of the Congregation
will take place on
Monday 19th March
at 7pm.

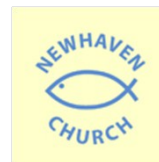
*Why not make an evening of it
by joining us at 6pm
for a potluck supper!!*

Café Update

Urgent – help needed!

Help is desperately needed in the café. A variety of volunteer jobs are available - including waiters/waitresses - and at a variety of times!! We are very flexible!!

It is really enjoyable working in the café, you get to know the clients and are part of a team serving God in this outreach. Please, if you haven't thought of it before, think now this could be for you. More details from Christine Hodge.



**Committed to Serving Christ,
each other, and the Community**

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Newhaven Church Roll

Death:

18th December -
Mr David Rourke

23rd December -
Mr John Brown

The Church Roll is more than just a list of members - it is a means of identifying those who have professed their faith in Christ and who are part of his Church at Newhaven.

It is also a vital means of communication.

For this reason, it is important that the Church Roll is kept as accurate as possible.

Please notify the Roll-Keeper, or your Elder, of any changes/updates relating to yourself or other members.

Come and join us!

Easter Services:

6th April
Good Friday Service with
Communion - 7pm

8th April
Easter Sunday Service
10.30am

Every Sunday at 10.30am
2nd and last Sundays of each month at 7pm

The next Harbour Lights will be the summer issue, covering June to August [copy deadline Sunday 13th May]. Please contact the Editor, Elaine Greig, at editor@n-c.org.uk should you wish to contribute to the next issue.