



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Christmas Greetings
- Operation Christmas Child
- Thank you!
- Dates to Note
- Thoughts for 2013
- Updates

PRAYER FOCUS

*"God calls us to
love until it
hurts."*

*Mother Teresa
of Calcutta*

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

CHRISTMAS 2012

Christmas Greetings

Dear Friends,

We hope and pray that your Christmas may be one filled with peace and joy.

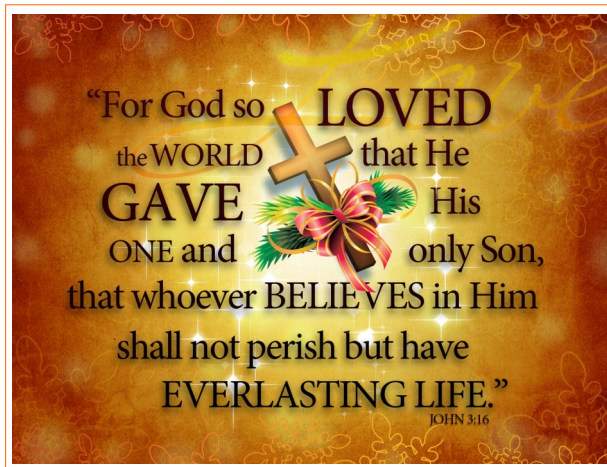
Christmas is always a time of hope as we remember the birth of Jesus and all that He brought to the world, and the world, it seems, is desperately in need of hope, especially as we remember and think of those living in places of conflict.

May we pray for these places at this time and may we seek with all our hearts and minds and souls to be the people who live out the way that Jesus has shown us - for it is the only way that hope becomes real and peace is achieved.

May God be with you and your families and may you have a blessed Christmas.

All our love

Peter and Leandra



The Power of a Simple Gift

Thank you to everyone whose generosity helped send off 198 Christmas Shoeboxes this year to children in Belarus.

A dedicated group of children and volunteers worked together on Shoebox Saturday to wrap, pack and stack the Christmas Shoeboxes and their enthusiasm ensured that every box was ready to start its journey to reach a special child who is living in difficult circumstances. None of this would be possible without the support of friends here in Newhaven Church and beyond.



To everyone who played a part in Operation Christmas Child this year "Thank You" for your love and support.

Louisa McKenzie

*The decrees of the
Lord are firm,
and all of them are
righteous.
They are more
precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than
honey,
than honey from the
honeycomb.*

Psalm 19: 9b-10

Meditation

[adapted from *Alive & Active*, SBS magazine]

**Do we take the Bible
for granted?**

**The Bible
is a life-changing gift
from God, leading us
to Jesus Christ, the
living Word and our
Saviour.**

**Give thanks for the
Amity Printing
Company, through
which the growing
number of Christians
in China are
receiving the
precious gift of a
Bible (one hundred
million so far!)
Amen**

Lighten Up

Back on Sunday the 24th of June, we baked cupcakes to sell to the congregation to raise funds for Mary's Meals. Mary's Meals is a charity set up by Magnus and Fergus MacFarlane-Barrow from Scotland. Their vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education.

We were delighted to raise £142.50 from the cake sale, we were so encouraged by this sum of money that we decided to do more. We took a look at their website and saw the success of Martha Payne's school dinner blog and Mary's Meals Change Challenge – a simple idea collecting change in a small bottle. We realised even just collecting very small amounts of change, can raise enough money to feed a child for a whole year.

We got practical, got labels from the website and started collecting bottles, which we then labeled and gave out to the congregation asking them to take on the change challenge over the summer holidays. Your generosity filled 29 bottles, can you imagine how long that took to count? Did you know money was so smelly and dirty? Finally, after many hours of counting you gave us £260.80 – it was awesome to discover that only 1p and 2p coins could add up to so much money.

Thanks to all of you we raised enough money to feed 400 children a meal a day for a year. Thank you very much for donating so much, if you would like to find out more visit www.marysmeals.org.uk



Thank you!

The Great Pentlands Push

A big Thank You from the Newhaven Lights Team for all the prayer support and sponsorship that we received.

We had a wonderful trek across the Pentlands with blue skies and magnificent views (a welcome change from the driving wind and rain that we had been training in!) We have been delighted to see the team total rise to £1,343.

This will go to help the rebuilding of St Columba Hospice. So thank you again for supporting us in this worthwhile cause.



Lynn, Louisa and Shona

Footprints Nativity

Footprints will be having their Christmas Service at 3pm on **Sunday 9th December** in Inverleith-St Serf's Church Hall. Please invite all your friends, relatives and neighbours. It is a real chance to share the Christmas Story. Once again we will be taking an offering and will split it between Bethany Night Shelter and Rachel House Children's Hospice.



Christmas Carol Singing

We are once again carol singing at ASDA and encouraging shoppers to give a tin for those in need. This will be on **Thursday 20th December** beginning at 6.30 and hopefully ending at the church for mincepies thereafter. The collected tins will go to help the City Mission foodbank like it did last year. We will also hand out leaflets about our Christmas services.

Christmas Extravaganza!

Saturday 22nd December 10-12:30pm for children in P1-7

Come and have fun,

find out why we celebrate Christmas???

Drama, challenges, games, crafts, party food, competitions

Although this event is FREE, you must register,

places filled on application -

email Christine Hodge at hodge451@btinternet.com

The Haven

The Haven will be open as usual on 19th December but will then be closed until 9th January.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

to all who come to The Haven
and many thanks to our faithful volunteers
who make The Haven possible
each week.

Gifts for Life

Check out some of the many charities which offer alternative gifts for family and friends this Christmas - and help poverty and disadvantage worldwide and nearer home -

- ♦ www.presentaid.org (Christian Aid)
- ♦ www.savethechildren.org.uk/Wishlist
- ♦ www.unicef.org.uk/Alternative-Gifts
- ♦ www.farmafricapresents.org.uk
- ♦ www.justgiving.com/CareShelterAppeal-12 (Bethany Christian Trust)
- ♦ www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/giftsforlife
- ♦ www.tlmtrading.com (The Leprosy Mission - Gifts for Life)
- ♦ www.giftofsight.co.uk (Sightsavers)

Thoughts for 2013

Hunger

In 2013, the UK will chair the G8, a forum for the governments of eight of the world's largest economies.

The awful truth of hunger is that there is already enough food for everyone. Equal distribution is hampered by inflated food prices, climate change, multi-national corporations growing crops for fuel and profit rather than food, and the exploitation of poor communities worldwide.

2013 offers us a unique opportunity to call on governments to use their power to tackle hunger and injustice - see www.tearfund.org/campaign

Faith

We believe in our hearts and so are justified; and we confess with our lips and so are saved (Romans 10: 10). We come to faith because of God's grace in our lives, working within us to transform us. The journey of faith lasts a lifetime, with love at its heart, and all Christians need to be reminded of faith, what they believe and how they show it.

The Catholic Church has embarked upon a Year of Faith which encourages people to make a renewed profession of faith, to become re-invigorated and be able to confess their faith with a new confidence.

Make 2013 a year for all Christians to grow in faith, fellowship, conviction, and love.

Church Website

"If you have access to the internet, how often do you look at the church's website?"

Members of the Communications Group asked this question, along with a number of other questions to members of our congregation, and the answer unsurprisingly (and unfortunately) was 'not very often'/'not any more'.

The feedback told us that our current church website was starting to look dated and did not include up-to-date information. Members of the congregation valued up-to-date information, the church calendar, being able to listen to church sermons online, reading about news and events, finding out what services the church provides, and being able to do this all in a simple and easy way. Some people wanted the church website to be more interactive and better linked-in to social media so they can comment on articles and stories, and some also 'like', 'tweet' and 'blog' so that their friends can see what is going on. And a number of people asked that the website reflect the warmth of the church so that people in the wider community can quickly understand what we're all about.

With a long list of requirements, we decided that it would be best to start from scratch and create a new website. We strongly agree that the website should be up-to-date, accessible and interactive to all users. And we're glad to say that the new website is nearing completion and is nearly ready for launch. If you would like further information, or would like to be involved in helping to maintain the website in the future, please speak to Chris Myers or email him at chrisandjenm@me.com



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

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Newhaven Church Roll

Baptisms -

28th October - Heather Rose,
daughter of Barry and Emma
Masson

Dedications -

14th October - Joel,
son of Jacob and Lillian Okpere
18th November - Thomas,
son of Camilla and Calvin

Deaths -

24th August -
Mrs Margaret (Peggy) Peden

20th November -
Mr Charles Wilson

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

Education Group - Apologies!

The Education Working Group apologise for not organising the annual Growth Group get together in September as intended. However this has not been forgotten and we plan to organise an evening early in 2013. Should any of the groups have any thoughts on what format they would like on the evening, please speak to someone from Education Working Group?

Working Group members – Peter Bluett, Lynn MacNeill and Jeanette Meek

Come and join us!

Every Sunday at 10.30am

2nd and last Sundays of each month at 7pm

Christmas Eve - Mon 24th Dec. Christmas Day - Tues 25th Dec.

4pm Family Service

11.15pm Mince pies

11.30pm Watchnight Service

10.30am Family Service

(A short informal service
for all ages)

The next *Harbour Lights* will be the Easter issue, covering March to May [copy deadline Sunday 10th February]. Please contact the Editor, Elaine Greig, at editor@n-c.org.uk should you wish to contribute to the next issue.