



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

# Annual Report

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF NEWHAVEN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

2012

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ Vision and Strategy
- ◆ Working Group Reports
- ◆ Fabric
- ◆ Sunday School
- ◆ Chatterboxes
- ◆ Growth Groups
- ◆ Café
- ◆ Toddlers
- ◆ The Guild
- ◆ The Haven
- ◆ Footprints
- ◆ Boys' Brigade
- ◆ Operation Christmas Child



## A Word from the Minister

Dear Friends

A few weeks after Christmas I was told by someone that they really felt a sense of being a family this Christmas, in terms of being the Body of Christ at Newhaven. I was glad to hear the comment and could reply that I felt the same way. The services were great to be a part of and they were great to be a part of for two reasons: they sought to glorify God and people were enthusiastic to be a part of what was happening. In a sense it didn't matter if everything went according to plan because the taking part and being together with a common purpose is what mattered. I never fail to give thanks for the enthusiasm people show for wanting to get involved in all that happens in the church and because of the participation and the enthusiasm shown we are able to witness the love of Christ and the bonds that tie us together in relationship grow stronger as we learn to live with each other, as we learn to relate.

In 1 Corinthians 12 from verse 12 the apostle Paul tells the people at Corinth that they are one body but they have many members, that each part of that body is different and performs a different function or task. His lesson to them is a lesson to us. We are not the same. We don't all think alike, we don't look alike, we all have different abilities, and have different worldviews, but the wonder in it all is that we all have a place, and what unites us, apart from the obvious fact that we are all human beings, is Christ. Jesus blesses us with a love that is able to touch each and



every one of us and he blesses us with a common purpose, to love God and to love one another, and it's in this that we are able to exist, it's in this that we are able to live and move and have our being, and more and more as I witness us as a congregation these things are evident. I have lost count of the number of times people/strangers have made remarks about the warmth they feel in this

place and that warmth is only generated by us, God's people. Importantly, such warmth and love and acceptance doesn't just fall out of the sky, it often takes much discipline and hard work because we as human beings are inclined to think of Self but I

want to encourage you to always seek to be the light of Christ to others, to be gracious in your dealings with each other and with people who visit our church, whether they are there for a meeting or simply to enjoy the cafe. These are simple things but they matter. They are the building blocks of good relationships.

Gordon MacDonald once said, "**The world can do almost anything as well as or better than the church. You need not be a Christian to build houses, feed the hungry, or heal the sick. There is only one thing the world cannot do. It cannot offer grace.**" Yancey, P; p15; 1997.

I believe MacDonald is right. We have been given great treasures, we have been touched by amazing grace, and we live in a world that is greatly lacking in grace for all sorts of

reasons, and we are able to inject grace back into society in the way we live and in the way we love, and it might well begin at home but the place where we learn as followers of the Way is at church and being church. Friends, never underestimate the importance of these seemingly simple things. Paul reminds that only three things remain - faith, hope and love - and that love trumps everything. So continue to love one another through thick and through thin. All the activities, all the groups that meet in the name of Newhaven Church must be built on this foundation not only because it is right and good but also because people flourish and bloom when they are nurtured by love, when we truly let the fruits of God's Spirit penetrate our emotions and let them mould us and shape us.

I want to say thank you, not only as the minister of this church, but as a brother in Christ and a fellow Christian, to all the people who give so much of their time and energy to serve God in this place. Were I to compile a list my report would be very, very long. Thank you for your participation, thank you for your enthusiasm, thank you for your desire to want to build good things in this place. Thank you that even when you are overstretched and tired you still go the extra mile. Your love and your care does not go unnoticed. Indeed thank you to the congregation who week after week make worship a blessing and a good place to be.

I am looking forward to the rest of the year. If you read the Session Clerk's report you will notice that there are a number of ideas etc, in the pipeline. Please support these endeavours and remember them in your prayers, and don't forget to seek to be a part of one of the many areas of ministry in our church.

Let me finish with a quote:

***"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."*** Romans 12:14-18.

This quote from scripture sums up what we must be about. It encapsulates that which Jesus taught and is vital for our life as part of the Body of Christ.

May God bless us.

**With much love, Peter**



## Roll Keeper's Report

### Statistical Return as at 31st December 2012

Opening Roll:	219		
Added by Profession:	0	Removed by Death:	6
Added by Resolution:	2	Removed by Certificate:	0
Added by Certificate:	0	Removed by Resolution:	37
Closing Roll:	178		

**Elaine Greig**

# Session Report

When we travel with our heads down, we become engrossed in the short yards ahead, rather than the long miles to the horizon. Keeping your eyes focussed on what's immediately ahead or immediately behind is good for avoiding obstacles but it means that we can fail to appreciate the distance we've travelled, or the general direction of our journey, or indeed its wider purpose.

Every so often, therefore, it's a good thing to stop, take stock of where we are, and gaze out towards our horizons. So for the Kirk Session of Newhaven Church 2012 was a time when, in and amongst the usual activities of our Church that you read of elsewhere in this Annual Report, we took time together to reflect upon where God has led Newhaven Church in the last few years; and where we think He's leading us for the next few years.

To do this we held two conferences, one in January and one in October. The January conference saw us travel to Pitlochry for an overnight stay in the Atholl Centre which is a Christian run residential centre. It was a very valuable time of fellowship, prayer and discussion with Peter Bluett leading the teaching by having us consider on the one hand the vision of the Old Testament prophets, and then on the other hand the vision of Jesus. It allowed the Elders, conscious of their roles as leaders in this Church, some time to rest in the presence of God, rather than rushing headlong off without Him.

In October we spent a Saturday at Duddingston Kirk when we followed a more directed programme that challenged us to look at a number of topics. These included how the ideas of "community" have changed over recent decades, how the role of the church within the community has changed, specifically what has Newhaven Church's role been in its community, what are its strengths and weaknesses? what should we be setting as our goals for the future (our **Vision**) and how do we think we might achieve them (our **Strategy**)?

Both conferences were characterised with an awareness of God's grace, His revelation to us, encouragement to each other, much laughter and a general sense of togetherness.

Since the October conference we have tried to draw out the observations that we made. We have gone on to form a Vision and Strategy in more detail and it is these observations, Vision and Strategy which we present to the Congregation here.

## Observations

Some broad observations were made, and which influenced our conclusions about what Newhaven's role should be in our community.

§ **Different and changing communities** – in previous generations people took their sense of community from the area in which they lived, and the parish church was defined by, and directed to, the geographic parish, and those who lived within it.

For many people now, however, the importance of the geographic community of where they live and those who live around them is much less than the sense of community they get from the other circles in which they find themselves. Communities that centre upon the workplace, or shared interests (eg following a particular team, or hobby) or even the pub are no less able to give a sense of togetherness and mutual support than the traditional "local community". As the sense of "community" diminishes in our neighbourhoods, we recognised that areas of strong community feeling do exist in these other communities. If the church is to be the manifestation of Christ in the community (salt and light), then the church should recognise where "community" exists nowadays and get itself into such "communities".

§ **Newhaven Church has many strengths** – a sense of togetherness; our Cafe; the preaching and centrality of the Word; unity of the Session; our style of music and worship; our Guild; our outreach through Haven, Toddlers, BBs; Growth Groups; children's groups, and many others. There are of course weaknesses, but as we considered these points and the journey of Newhaven Church in recent years and even decades, we saw how God has been right at the heart of the story of Newhaven Church through that time. We acknowledged that, even when it didn't seem so at the time, God's hand was at work: sometimes what we considered our strengths were taken away and what we considered setbacks became blessings.

§ **The challenge of volunteers** – we are frustrated with the shortage of volunteers for key mission activities such as the Cafe and Toddlers. As we considered these midweek daytime activities we concluded that our congregation is not lacking people who are willing to get involved, but for these key activities many people simply can't get involved because of daytime commitments such as work and family care. This can be summarised as: of those who are available in our congregation not enough are able, and of those who are able not enough are available. Acknowledging this brings with it a realisation that, possibly, we should consider outreach activities that **can** harness the willingness, availability and ability of those in our congregation. This pointed us back to the "communities" we all find ourselves in, and expands our mission horizon. It also gave strength to the conviction that now is the right time to consider employing a Youth Worker to help with the provision of mid-week activities for our young people.

§ **Mission Statement – Serving Christ, each other and the community** – as a short and focussed phrase, we considered that our current "mission statement" continued to encapsulate all that we are called to be.

## Vision

We see our Vision as two fold.

§ **To enable the people of God to be the people of God** - teaching, nurturing and encouraging those in the Congregation, both as individuals and as a group

§ **To be the manifestation of Christ in our community – a new Newhaven Lighthouse** - the Congregation (whether in their individual lives or in Church activities) being salt and light in the world.

Both elements are important and are, of course, intertwined. We cannot expect to be salt and light outside in our communities if we are not being taught, nurtured, nourished, challenged, encouraged and supported from within the church.

## Strategy

§ **To enable the people of God to be the people of God**

- In the teaching from the pulpit to expose the depths of the Bible and to encourage the Congregation to engage with it in such depth, that in doing so they may more closely engage in their relationship with God, through the love of Jesus Christ.

- Continue to support and encourage Growth Groups and encourage more people to join such groups (including Wednesday evening Bible study) or form new groups

- Encourage individual and corporate prayer

§ **To be the manifestation of Christ in our communities**

- Continue to support existing outreach activities (Cafe, Haven, Toddlers, BBs)

## New outreach activities:

- Primary school children – harness and build upon Holiday Clubs, Light Party, Christmas Extravaganza

- Teens – to ensure that our current and future generations of teenagers continue on their journey with God. Combined Lighten up/Footprints activities, link up with other churches.

- Youth worker – the Kirk Session feels very strongly that the time is right for Newhaven Church to seek to appoint a Youth Worker to help with our outreach strategy for children and teenagers.

- Working men and women – recognising that we actually have quite a number of folk in their 30s, 40s and 50s who are in full time work or family care and for whom a midweek evening meet-up in a social environment might be a good setting for fellowship and nurturing. This needn't be every week, say once a month, and ideally would meet in a local pub or restaurant.

- Inbetweeners – recognising that we have a number of folk who have retired but still very active and for whom a midweek afternoon of activity (eg table tennis) might be a good setting for fellowship and nurturing.

## Newhaven Connections Café

The Café started life as a vision over ten years ago. Six years ago it became a reality and since then has become a very important part of the life of Newhaven Church and its service to our community. At the time of developing the vision for the Café it was seen as an important feature

that it should essentially be self funding, through a combination of its own takings and grants from outside bodies. For the first few years we had outside grants which helped to cover the cost of salaries. Those outside grants have not continued and in the last couple of years it has become apparent that takings are not sufficient to cover the costs of supplies and salaries. The Café Committee that oversees the running of the Café is taking steps to minimise any shortfall (such as increasing prices) and the contribution of the volunteers who help to staff the Café is hugely appreciated in helping it to continue as a service to our community.

There are two things, however, that we want to bring fully to the attention of the Congregation. First, the need for volunteers continues to be acute and any help that can be offered, whether from members of our Congregation or outside it, will be considered seriously and gratefully. Second, we would like the Congregation to appreciate that those who support the work of Newhaven Church financially are indirectly supporting the very important work of Newhaven Connections Café.

## Youth Worker

As our Strategy mentions, the Kirk Session is making plans for the employment of a Youth Worker. It is hoped that such a Youth Worker could be in place by the Autumn of 2013. It is likely that such a position would be part-time, and we would seek to obtain outside funding to help pay the salary. However, there will be an inevitable financial cost to the Congregation and we are exploring specific ways in which the Congregation can provide its support in a way that shows our individual and corporate commitment to spreading the Gospel amongst our young people. This proposal will take Newhaven Church's journey into new lands and as such can be compared to the steps taken those years ago to set up the Café. As the Kirk Session, we believe that this is a vitally important journey for us to take, and we urge the Congregation to support it.

## Annual Stated Meeting

As you can see, these plans ask a lot of the Congregation and its faith. If they are to be anything more than words on a page, our Vision and Strategy need the support of the Congregation. Therefore, there will be the opportunity to discuss the Vision and Strategy at this year's Annual Stated Meeting, to be held on **Monday 18 March 2013**. We hope that this will be an opportunity for the whole Congregation to look back, not just over a period of 12 months, to reflect upon distance and direction travelled and to look forward to a shared vision for serving God together in the future.

## Unless the Lord builds the house...

More important than our own approval, we recognise the truth that "unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain" (*Psalm 127:1*). We can see that, in spite of our failings, weaknesses and pride, God has indeed built the congregation of Newhaven Church. And if we look even further back, we see the cross and the empty tomb, and are reminded that it is Jesus, not us, who is alive and at work in our lives and in our communities. As we look to the future, we can be assured that He will continue with that work, as long as we fix our eyes upon Him, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Colin MacNeill



# Church Working Groups

## Appointments & Welfare

The Appointments and Welfare Group sees its role as to try to ensure that the other Working Groups are properly staffed, motivated and supported in their tasks.

The main way to achieve this in recent years has been to hold Working Group Get-togethers. We held one of these on a Saturday early in September 2012, once everyone was back from the summer break and getting

geared up for the start of the church year. It was a good time of fellowship and allowed all the different people from the Working Groups to spend some time together, sharing their experiences, frustrations, hopes and dreams and reminding us all that we are part of the one body of Christ.

Colin MacNeill



## Mission and Outreach Group (MOG)

*To enable the people of God to be the people of God.*

That is not just an inward looking view. It is crucial for mission. Mission is for everyone. Nowadays the most people will learn of our faith is what they see in us. We are called to be the body of Christ. That is a really challenging thought. Jesus has commissioned us to be his presence on this earth and that involves each of us in our communities. It is not just for those who like that sort of thing but for all who claim to be Christians.

Let us look and see what we have done.

The group have laid on various events. These are opportunities but not the only ones. There are many folk being effective lights in their communities in different ways. If that is what God has called you to do, that is what is right for you.

**Good Friday Prayer vigil** was held again last year and appreciated by those who took part and also members of the community who submitted prayer requests. Perhaps the time has come for a change here. We still think that the prayer ministry is something which the church is uniquely qualified to offer. We need to see how to make it more available.

An **Alpha** course was run in the church from September to December. We were encouraged that there were those for whom it made a real difference and are keen to deepen their understanding the faith. There is a danger that it can be seen as a project of a few individuals. We need to get a nucleus of people to pray, invite guests to the course and partake. Alpha has been used world wide as a means of many coming to know Jesus. Please pray as to whether

God wants to use you to invite someone to come (i.e. come with me – not just to go) to a course.

**Inflatables.** This fun day which was held in March will be repeated this year. This is an opportunity for church and non church groups to mix and have fun together. It is useful for building up relations with others. One also meets the parents and links made have led to the same children coming to the Christmas Extravaganza.

**Christmas Extravaganza.** Once again many responded to the call and in the last Saturday before Christmas gave up a Saturday morning to host a fast moving fun event with a clear Christmas message for about 80 children both from the church and non church families.

**Carol singing.** Carol singing took place at ASDA as before (except that it was indoors this time) and a trolley full of food was collected for the Edinburgh City Mission. Some people went back in to buy goods to donate. We were also invited by the Starbank Inn to sing for them which was a great success. Surely they were both cases of the church being the people of God in the community and acting as salt and light.

**Christmas Banner.** A banner with the Christmas services was purchased. Invitation cards were also printed. Quite a few were left. It would be good if there could be more people willing to distribute them to the houses in our parish. It does work. On Christmas Eve there were new folk who came because they got an invitation through their door. What is even better is a personal invite "Come with me".

John Hodge



## Worship Group

The Worship Group met three times in 2012 and continues to seek to provide a programme of worship activities which, first and foremost, glorify God but which also reflect the make up of our Congregation. The Group is Peter Bluett, Christine Hodge, Chas Livingstone, Colin MacNeill and Jen Robertson.

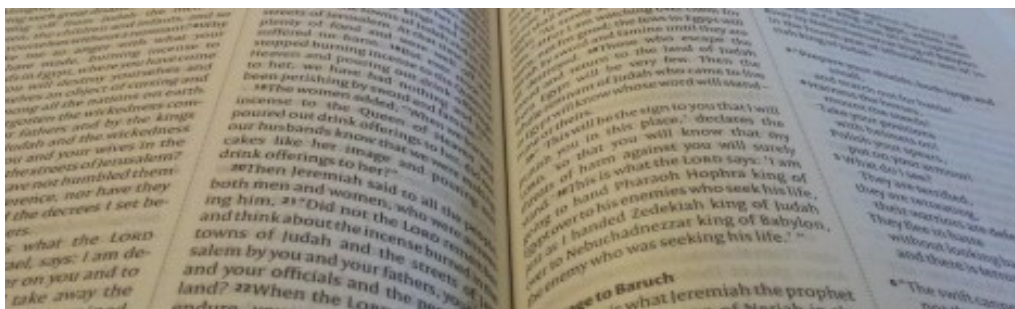
Much of the Worship Group's time is taken up with planning the All Age Services held on the first Sunday of every month. Through the year we have looked at Jesus' "I am" statements in these services, as well as the work of Tearfund (at Harvest) and Operation Christmas Child. We are very pleased with the way in which these services have become real celebrations of our togetherness as a Congregation; times that we can worship, learn and have fellowship together. Many grown ups in the Congregation comment that the teaching in these services, even when aimed at the very young, can strike chords in the heart and we believe that this is simply one aspect of the truth of Jesus' statement that unless we become like little children, we will never enter the Kingdom of God. We are very grateful to the many folk who've taken part in these services, both during the services and also in preparing and serving brunches afterwards.

The Remembrance Sunday service was a time for reflection, thanksgiving and prayer for all situations of conflict in the world today.

A highlight of the Christmas Sunday service was the Congregation and Children's Choir and we are very grateful to all who took part in that and, especially, Deirdre Martin and Jen Robertson for leading it. The contribution of the choir made it a very special service of worship indeed.

We are grateful to all people who have been involved in our worship services throughout 2012: those who play in the Praise Band and work the sound system, those who welcome people at the door and take up the collection, those who count the collection, those who set out and then put away the chairs, those who set up and then serve tea and coffee, those who bring people to the service and those who lock up the Church after everyone has gone home. There are many, many involved and it is a privilege to serve with you.

Colin MacNeill



## Education Group

The members of this group are Peter Bluett, Lynn MacNeill and Jeanette Meek.

Unfortunately the Education Group are small in number and because of other commitments time has not always allowed us to meet as we ought, however as part of the Education Group's remit a meeting was convened with the children's leaders to discuss specific issues with regards to **"Children's Ministry"**. Though much was discussed the two significant changes have been

1. The introduction of a middle group named **"N-Lighten"** for ages P5-P7 led by Brian Souness and Richard Whyte.
2. A time of **"Worship"** when all the children meet together for a short time to sing and pray before going to their individual classes.

I am sure you will learn much more from the groups' individual reports.

### Prayer Support

In unison with the Mission and Outreach group the Education Group felt it important to support our children's work in prayer therefore in March each growth group was allocated a children's group within the church

to support in prayer each time they meet.

At the end of June Peter presented the children with their books. This marks the start of Summer Sunday School which ran from 8<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> September. It is again with thanks to Christine Hodge, Kate Aitchison and their team of helpers for taking this on allowing the regular teachers to have a well earned break.

### Adult Education

We continue to have four growth groups who meet fortnightly to study God's word; you will read about these groups in more detail in the Growth Group Report.

Unfortunately we did not manage to have the annual growth group get together this year however there is always 2013.

The Education Group would like to take this opportunity to thank all who are involved in loving, caring and teaching the children Sunday by Sunday. Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to our children, we are truly blessed.

Jeanette Meek

## Pastoral Care Group

The work of the Pastoral Care Group has continued throughout 2012 with regular meetings of the group and with the pastoral visitors. We regularly review the success of the visits which have been carried out and also the needs of those people that we visit. Sadly a few of those that we have visited passed away this year and we hope that our visits were some comfort. We hope and pray that we are satisfying the pastoral care needs of the congregation and fulfilling the terms of reference that were laid down by the Session at our beginning.

In the report for 2011 we highlighted our desire to improve the communications between the session the congregation and the Pastoral Care Group. We believe that communications have improved over the past year and would advise that for each of the people we visit we have now identified the elder responsible for that person. We hope that this will eventually lead to improved co-ordination of visits by the elders and the care visitors and improved communications with session in the future.

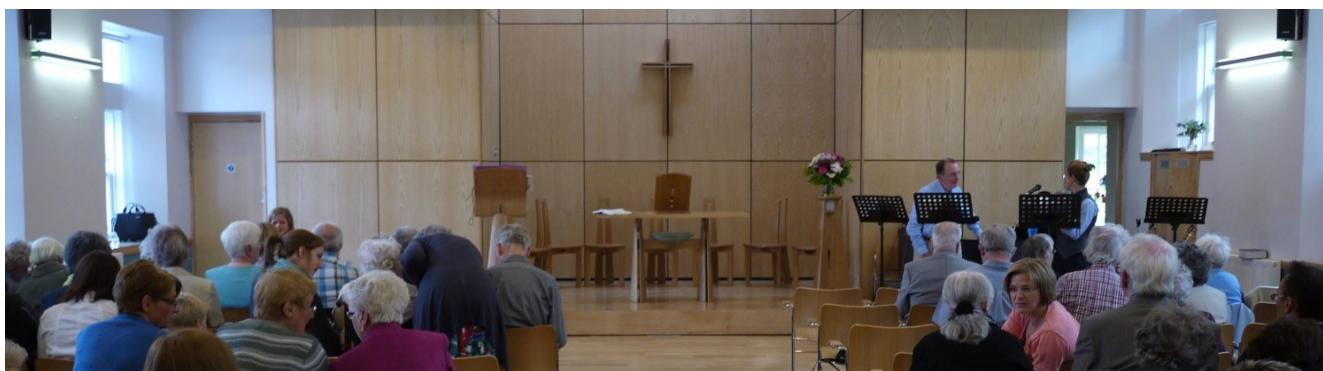
In September 2012 we were pleased to welcome Audrey Gardiner to the Pastoral Care Group. Audrey has a wealth of experience in pastoral care and has made a significant contribution to the work of the group.

The distribution of gifts at Christmas went well this year and we received a number of letters of appreciation from the recipients.

In January we prepared the text for the new church website which has now been uploaded to the site. This gives details of the Pastoral Care Group's objectives and indicates the range of service which we offer to the congregation. The members of the group are named on the website and to further raise the profile of the Pastoral Care team we plan to display photographs of the team on the church notice board.

Please keep speaking to the members of the Pastoral Care Group, all of your enquiries will be dealt with sympathetically and in complete confidence.

**Peter, Heather, Edna, Audrey and Marcus**



## Communication Group

2012 was a busy and productive year for the communication group.

Much of the time was spent on defining our needs for a new website and welcome pack for Church. Chris Myers has been able to take our existing website URL and rebuild the website using a much more user friendly package from Wordpress. So we keep our website alive and up-to-date, each organisation is able to keep their own area updated - and the tools available via Wordpress mean this can even be done while at church via your mobile or laptop! Chris will run a training course soon so please come along. The address is still the same ([www.n-c.org.uk](http://www.n-c.org.uk)) or simply Google "Newhaven Church Edinburgh". If you haven't already done so, please have a look and let us know your thoughts by leaving a comment!

The welcome packs give details of all activities and the relevant people to contact in church. These are in the church foyer for distribution. Supply is only ever a dozen at a time in order to save costs as we like to keep it updated, so again please put any suggestions in the wooden box or speak to a member of the Comms Group.

The group said goodbye to Audrey Gardiner in September when she resigned to take up a post on the Pastoral Care Group. We have missed Audrey as she has been a great visionary in our group but we know that she will continue to contribute her ideas.

Please continue to pray for the communication of our church and should you have any comments please speak to any member. They are: Shona Adam, Susan Edwards, Elaine Greig and Chris Myers.

**Shona Adam**

# Fabric Report

Despite a poor Summer we have managed to keep abreast of all the necessary works of fabric such as:

- Ridge Roof tiles at Manse replaced as a result of January storm.
- Redecoration of Manse bedroom resulting from previous water ingress.
- Central Heating System serviced and timings checked.
- Hot Water pressurization unit serviced.
- Scrubbing machine repaired.
- Adjustments carried out to Notice Board regarding Sunday School.
- Three broken blinds in main hall repaired.

- Alarm and smoke detector system serviced (one smoke detector replaced).
- New plug fitted to Food preparation sink.
- The Alarm system was reset on two occasions.
- Door handles were tightened on two occasions.
- Tie Bolts on roof tested.
- Protection was provided to walls in toilets and kitchen.

One again I would like to thank the Minister, the Session, the Church Caretaker and the Fabric Work Group for all their support during this last year.

**Bill Oliver**

# Sunday School Reports

## Lighten Up

It has been a challenging year for this group. The leaders, Louisa Mckenzie and Shona Adam, faithfully prepare lesson plans for each coming term in the hope and with anticipation of a group to share it with. The group is aimed for children from S1 to S4. Currently, numbers are small and frequently there is only one or two coming along on a Sunday morning.

This leaves an awkward situation, both from a children's point of view - with no certainty of being able to meet with people of their own age. Also from a leaders' point as they question whether they are getting it right, what kind of material to prepare and why they are not connecting with more children.

The education committee are meeting later this month to review all the various questionnaires which groups submit at the end of each year with feedback from the leaders.

We hope and pray that the current difficulties will be resolved, according to God's plan and purpose for these leaders and young people in our congregation. Please pray for wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit for this over the coming months.

**Lynn MacNeill**

(On behalf of The Lighten Up Team)

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## N-Lighten

N-Lighten is a fairly new group for P5-P7 children which began life in May 2012 as part of a reorganisation of The Lighthouse in order to ease the pressure of numbers there as highlighted in last year's Annual Report by Lynn.

Back then, both Richard Whyte and myself agreed to lead this group which at the present time has a role of 7 children in it. Although not all the children are there every week due to clashes with other activities, Sunday mornings have seen some lively icebreakers and discussions as Richard and I attempt to increase their depth of knowledge in matters of faith and Biblical teaching and also look to the relevance these things play in their everyday lives and situations.

Since the start of the new Session back last September, we have been focusing on the Parables of Jesus and now Images of God. Our hope in this is that the children will learn to have a greater understanding and trust of the God we, as adults, ask them to put their faith in and build their lives on.

Please remember N-lighten in your prayers.

**Brian Souness**

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## Lighthouse

Since writing last year's report there have been some changes made to the structure of the Sunday morning Childrens' Groups. This has been an answer to prayer and has alleviated a number of issues. Firstly a new group was established for Primary 5-7. Secondly, all groups meet together each Sunday for a joint time of worship before going on to their various classes. A variety of lively worship songs have been led by either Colin MacNeill or Christine Hodge and have allowed all ages to praise God together and interact. It is also an opportunity to welcome any visiting children and find the right class for them.



Our staffing levels have been great, with the welcome addition of Lynsey Orbegozo who has been sharing the teaching since the Summer. Iain Logan also supports within the group.

Those who attend Lighthouse are aged from Primary 1-4 and we have 12 children on our register. We started the year learning from Luke's Gospel, travelling through Luke Street, a Scripture Union resource with a short dvd introduction that the children really enjoyed. Each week we followed Jesus into different houses where he went to teach and heal.

This took us all the way up to the Summer break. Lighthouse continued throughout July and August, staffed by Kate Aitchison and Christine Hodge, supported by a reserve list of helpers.

The final half of the year has been spent exploring the Parables (some familiar and some less well known to the children) and being detectives trying to uncover the important messages that Jesus wants to share with us.

As ever, this has been done through bible stories, crafts, games and prayer. Each week we had hand painted pictures from Moyra Logan which were put up on display in the Lighthouse room to help remind the children of the stories.

We are heading into the New Year with an exciting programme where we are going to be thinking with the children about the Beatitudes (or Bee attitudes in case you wonder why our message board has so many stripy insects on it). We are using an age appropriate resource called 'The Big Book of Questions & Answers' to assist us in keeping this important teaching pitched at the right level.

Lynn MacNeill

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## Little Lights

Again 2012 has been another year of learning and fun.

In the summer 2 children graduated to Lighthouse, Hope Orbegozo and Rachel Robertson were both excited about moving on. This left us with 7 children aged between 1 and 3 years and 3 children aged 4, a total of 10 children.

We try to make the programme as varied as possible in order that the children are kept interested and have fun;

however as the majority of children are under 4 our lessons and crafts have had to be simplified for such a young group.

Our lessons this year have been **Creation; Jesus Loves Children, the Kind Traveller, the Lost Sheep, the**

**Lost Coin, Buried Treasure, the Hole in the Roof and God's Armour** and much more. The material we use is taken from Tiddlywinks by Scripture Union and other suitable resources sought by the team co-ordinators.



The activities/crafts have at times been challenging especially with children so young, however always interesting, inventive and enjoyed. The children have

made treasure chests, silver coins, helping hand cards, soldiers in God's Army and sometimes we just use a simple activity sheet.

In April a short time of **"Children's Worship"** was introduced, all the children join together when they go out from the main service. This has been a great success; we have learned some new and old songs and this time has been enjoyed by all involved.

The Sunday before Christmas the children were presented with their Christmas gifts, you can imagine this was accepted with great excitement.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a big thank you to all who help with the children. Without this committed, faithful and loving team of people it would be impossible to provide the support needed in caring and teaching the children God's word.

I would also like to thank the congregation for your continued encouragement, support and prayers.

Please do feel free to come and visit us any Sunday to see what goes on in Little Lights or you may like to join our team we are always looking for new blood, then please see myself, Jacqui Bain, Janis Merry or Sarah Livingstone who will only be to glad to tell you what is involved.

Jeanette Meek

# Chatterboxes

This is a Scripture Union group we have in Trinity Primary for P5-7. It meets on a Friday after school at 12:30pm for 45 minutes. It is great fun and we are always running out of time. We have 9 children who attend very regularly, 7 from a church background and 2 with no background.

We have games, crafts, snack and of course it is all centred round a bible passage. We have looked at parables last term and now are looking at various stories in the New Testament and looking at W.W.J.D., what

would Jesus do, and learning how He would want us to react to different situations.

Some of our Chatterbox children came to the Extravaganza at Christmas and we hope to see them at the Inflatable Day too.

It has been good this session to have Jamie Brunton Bruce helping as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. She will be a good contact for our P7 member when she goes into Secondary in the summer.

Christine Hodge, Lynn MacNeill

# Growth Groups

There are four Growth Groups meeting together fortnightly to explore God's Word and share in a time of fellowship. Two groups meet on a Tuesday evening, one group on a Thursday evening and one group on a Tuesday morning.

There are between 6 and 9 members in each of the groups. There is space in each of these to accommodate more people and groups have extended a warm invitation to anyone who would like join them. Can you resist their invitations and comments such as 'please come along', 'the more the merrier', 'we would be glad of a couple more' and 'a few more would be good for our group'?

If you would like to take up their invitation, don't hesitate in speaking to Lynn MacNeill or Jeanette Meek who can help to answer any questions and have more details about the groups.

Feedback from the Growth Groups is positive again, with Old Testament studies on Nehemiah and Psalm 23 and the New Testament books of Ephesians, Philippians and Hebrews. In addition, there have been group studies looking at the Prodigal Son and Women in the Bible. The group time offers an opportunity for people to gather, to explore the bible, to participate in discussions, to pray and to enjoy a cup of tea afterwards in a welcoming place

**Lynn MacNeill**



# Toddlers Group

About 25-32 mums/dads/carers with their babies and toddlers meet weekly in the big hall. We have a waiting list of 12 mums which is hard, as many are very keen to come along.

This year we have increased the number of adults we take weekly as they don't necessarily come every week, due to doctors appointments, illness, holidays etc, so we have 40 parents and 52 babies and toddlers on our weekly register. At the end of Summer 2012 Jacqui Bain decided to give up the main running of the group after many years service and we would like to record our thanks to her for all she did. Thankfully she hasn't given up entirely and due to lack of one person taking over we now have a 4 teams of 2-3 people every week running the group, with one of us in charge of administration. The group has run well like this although it would be good if each team consisted of 3 members (only 2 do). We could also do with a reserve list for help on occasion.

Toddlers are an extremely popular group with an excellent reputation locally for being very friendly, having a lovely large, clean, bright hall with great toys that are clean and well maintained.

Parents and carers now help to tidy up each week and quite a few use the café to meet together or meet with friends for lunch after the group. It's great to see mutual support in action.

A typical day will have free play, sometimes a craft and then snack for both parents and children, ending with a massive tidy-up and into the little lights hall for singing.

Our thanks to all the volunteers that help and to those who lead the singing. Anyone who would be willing to give up 3 hours once a month to give us a hand please see Lynn Macneill, Audrey Gardiner, Jacqui Bain, or Christine Hodge .

**Christine Hodge**

# Connections Café

Now we are SIX!!

The café continues to grow and serve our local community. Customers, staff and volunteers also enjoy being in the café which has been described as a real haven in a busy world. Though the cafe can get very busy too!

Over the past year we have said goodbye to some volunteers and hello to some new faces. Our volunteers are our most valuable asset and the café could not run without them, so a very big thank you to ALL our volunteers, old and new.



Please keep the café and all who come through its doors in your prayers and if you haven't been in a while (or you've never been at all!) then please pop in to see us.

**Fiona Wakeling**

# The Guild

2012 opened with the return of a popular speaker to the Guild, Mr Charles Hutton MBE, who guided us with humour and pictures through a history of Edinburgh Castle. He uncovered many less well-known secrets of intrigue and dastardly deeds within its ancient walls.

Charlie is a hard act to follow but our next guest speaker from Hearts and Minds was as different as to be every bit as interesting. "Clowndoctors" had been heard of by many Guild members, but everyone was surprised at just how misguided our ideas were! We learned that they are not "dressed up real doctors" but rather professional performers, many of whom are familiar faces on TV. Clowndoctors use many techniques including improvisation, music, puppetry and storytelling to try to normalise healthcare environments. They see beyond the illness and make connection with the individual child. It is the only organisation delivering work of this kind in Scotland and is also now taking this particular therapy to the elderly in hospitals and care homes under the name of Elderflowers ([www.heartsandminds.org.uk](http://www.heartsandminds.org.uk))

Continuing with the "children" theme, our next visitor was Kieran Hudson, an ex Newhaven Church B.B. who was moved during volunteer work in Kenya to establish the Kipawa Trust. This is a small, local based charity which feeds and improves the welfare of 400 slum children who attend Mukuya School near Thika, 2 hours north of Nairobi ([www.kipawa.org.uk](http://www.kipawa.org.uk))

Peter, our minister, joined with us in March for a Bible Study which expanded our understanding of the year's Guild theme during 2012 from Micah on walking humbly with our God. We look forward to Peter's visit each year and appreciated his particular insight into this oft quoted Bible verse and how it can impact our lives.

As the spring evenings lengthened, we took advantage of the longer light and enjoyed an "evening supper" under the shadow of the two bridges at South Queensferry. Following a day away in May for lunch in the Abbots' House in the grounds of Dunfermline Abbey we enjoyed our summer break until resuming in September when we broke with tradition and altered our fortnightly meeting time from Tuesday evenings to Monday afternoons (who ever said The Guild is stuck in its ways?) This has been widely welcomed by many of our members and will be reviewed at our next AGM.

September saw the start of a new 3 year strategy in The Guild Organisation – "Whose we are and Whom we

serve" - which also heralded in a new range of Guild Projects to support. Newhaven Guild is raising money this year for The Julius Project, a charity set up by Scottish Churches Housing Action to befriend and help Scottish people and their families find their way out of homelessness ([www.churches-housing.org](http://www.churches-housing.org)) .

We took an amusing walk down a musical memory lane with Jim Ruxton, a volunteer from Red Dot (Hospital) Radio, who told us with much humour how this exclusive service broadcasts directly to bedsides in Edinburgh hospitals ([www.reddotradio.co.uk](http://www.reddotradio.co.uk)).

In November, to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of The Church of Scotland Guild, we invited our neighbouring Guild from Wardie Church to a Musical Afternoon Tea when we were wonderfully entertained by Kate Aitchison (accordion) and friends Alastair (guitar), Irene and Yvonne (singers). Their mix of traditional and popular music and song kept spirits high and feet tapping on a November day.

Our afternoons drew to a close for the Christmas Holiday with a visit from Marilyn Keilloh from Stepping Stones North Edinburgh whose work with young mothers is giving advice and hope for brighter futures to many very young girls as they raise their children.

As you can see, our Guild continues to find out about what is going on in the world we live in and gets involved in doing what we can to make a difference while ensuring that friendship, caring for each other and praising God is never off our agenda.

We extend a warm invitation to new members. Why not come along to our meetings? You are assured a warm welcome and, of course, tea and cake!

**Louisa McKenzie**



*Whose we are and  
whom we serve*

# The Haven

The Haven Centre continues to meet every Wednesday between 10 & 12 and although our numbers can be as low as 35 some weeks, other weeks we are nearer the 50 mark. There are now 9 gentlemen who regularly attend and 8 of them play dominoes, very competitively, each week. We still have occasional speakers but our ladies mostly chat as The Haven is ideal for them catching up with each other. The art group continues with 3 regular artists and a further 3 who visit as and when they can. We are able to show our art on the cafe walls and we actually sell some of our work which is a great encouragement.

At time of writing we are making plans for a party to celebrate having collected over £3,000 in our "water" bottle since this started in early 2006. In real terms this means that 40 families in various African countries now have clean water by way of BioSand Filters for life. We provided 61 mosquito nets in Kenya and 2 children, in China and India, have had cleft palate surgery. We have also sent to Disaster Response appeals. This past year we gave help to send the Shoe Boxes on their journey to Belarus, Bethany's Night Shelter, Mary's Meals Back Pack Project in Malawi and The Great Pentlands Push raising funds for St Columba's Hospice to name only a few. It is always amazing to record how much has been done from a small bottle and many people giving small change.

Sadly we have lost some of our friends this year - Chrissie, Charlie, Betsy & Jessie - but we have great memories of them to remind us of all the time they were with us.

The Friday Fancy Footwork partnership between The Haven and North East Edinburgh Ageing Well continues to thrive. There is a new teacher but, as she had an accident, actually on her way to take the class, so far she has only taken 1 class this term but 2 volunteers have stepped in so that this very popular class can continue. One of their other activities is walking and those groups often finish their walks at our cafe and their photography group have had an exhibition in the cafe thus the partnership spreads beyond The Haven.

As always thanks are due to our faithful committee, Retta our Treasurer, Louisa, Elizabeth, Mary and Heather and without our dedicated volunteers, Pauline, Mary, Jean, Marina, Margaret, Don, Evelyn and Vera, some of whom have served The Haven from the very beginning, there would be no Haven. Many thanks to you all. God has richly blessed the work of The Haven and we pray for His continued leading in all we do.

**Eileen Tait**

# Footprints

Firstly we would like to extend our thanks to the Kirk Session for allowing us to use the halls Sunday by Sunday and for all the support and interest we receive from the Church.

Footprints have once again had a happy year. We have 16 juniors, aged between P3 and P7 with slightly over half boys and 8 in Secondary 1-6, of whom just over half attend very regularly.

Our big excitement, since August is to have a "male" leader. We haven't had one for a number of years and as we have a lot of boys, a male role model is important. We welcome James Clark who is originally from Edinburgh but studied Law at Aberdeen University. He comes with a wealth of experience from SU camps and missions, and we very much appreciate his contribution.

We meet weekly on Sunday afternoons from 2:45-4pm, with games crafts and a bible story/study/discussion and plenty of interactive teaching. Juniors especially enjoy singing and this is always done with enormous enthusiasm. At the moment the juniors are busy making puppets for the story of Jonah. Half of our juniors attend a church,

but very few of our seniors do, so we are grateful to God for the opportunities to reach these children and young people.

Our weekends away will take place in the summer term and are always the highlight of the year and are so important for building up relationships with the young people. Crail for P4-6 and Teen Ranch for P7 and over.

This year we are going to Teen Ranch (16-18<sup>th</sup> August) at the same time as Wardie church teenagers with the express desire to get to know our local neighbours and have fellowship with their leaders and teenagers alike. We would like to extend a welcome to any church teenagers who will be in Secondary by August which is when we are going, to join us.



**Christine Hodge**



# The Boys' Brigade

This year has been the start of a new era for the 20th Leith! The Anchorboys and Junior sections have been doing very well for the past few years, with healthy numbers and strong word of mouth from parents, but the Company section had been going through a period of transition. Many of the boys who had made up the bulk of the Company had either left after turning 18 or had drifted away from the BBs, and towards the end of last year there were only 3 or 4 boys attending the Company section on Fridays. However, the 'youth programme' we set up in 2007 when we relaunched the Anchorboys paid dividends this year, with 5 boys in P7 & S1 coming through the ranks to join the Company section. Since the start of the year 3 more boys in that age group have joined, and the Company is now back on a much more solid footing.

The Anchorboy and Junior sections remain healthy, with around 12 and 17 boys respectively. They continue to

offer a mix of games, crafts and teaching to boys from P1 -6.

The biggest highlight this year has been judo lessons provided by the Edinburgh Judo Club, which the Junior and Company sections both participated in and the boys really enjoyed. Another highlight was taking groups of Junior and Company section boys to the Scotland games against New Zealand and South Africa at Murrayfield - the boys enjoyed the experience despite the results! The Company section has also been to 2 Scotland football games, Laser Quest and tenpin bowling, and further trips are planned to go-karting and the Scotland v Wales game.

As always the success of the BBs is chiefly down to the staff who put so much effort into it, and the parents and church members who support it, so thanks go to all of them.

**Charles Livingstone**



## Operation Christmas Child

### 7 minutes to cover a shoebox!

This is the record for expert shoebox "coverers". But don't worry, not all of us are as fast (yet!). On our "Shoebox Saturday" last November our Church became a hive of activity as our volunteer force, age range from primary school to Bus Pass holders, joined in the fun and race against the clock to fill the empty shoeboxes as quickly as they were covered. Finally we stacked up 198 Christmas Shoeboxes, ready for blessing at our next morning service before their journey to Belarus. This was 2 boxes short of our total last year. If only we had saved a few more empty shoeboxes! Please make a note now...every time new shoes are bought, we want your empty shoebox! And no need to hang on to them till next November – we are already collecting them now!

Let's make sure our next Operation Christmas Child campaign in 2013 pushes past our last total. Every bar of soap we sent, every toy you gave meant that one more child received a gift. Each hat you donated means one less child going cold. Make this a challenge for us all, to do what we possibly can. Never underestimate "the Power of a Simple Gift". Your shoeboxes bring love and put smiles on the faces of children who already have shown resilience against all odds.

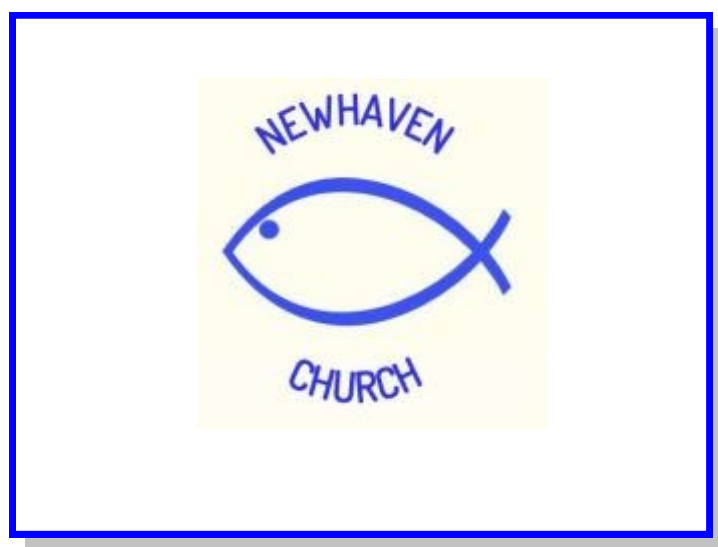
Thank you to everyone who played a part in our 2012 Operation Christmas Child campaign and look out for our next one!

Total Shoeboxes sent to Belarus by lorry from our Tranent Warehouse in 2012 was 9447.

As a result of your effort in this campaign, the 100 millionth Shoebox was delivered since Operation Christmas Child started back in 1990. Well done!

**Louisa McKenzie**





[www.n-c.org.uk](http://www.n-c.org.uk)