



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ♦ Easter Services
- ♦ News and Updates
- ♦ The Heart of Newhaven
- ♦ Café News
- ♦ Kirk Session
- ♦ Finance Update
- ♦ Leith Churches Holiday Club
- ♦ History Group
- ♦ Stop Press!!!!



PRAYER FOCUS

*My strength is
made perfect
in weakness*

2 Cor. 12:9

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

S P R I N G 2 0 1 9

Dear Friends,

I was recently reading through some quotes from Viktor Frankl, a Holocaust survivor and author of *Man's Search for Meaning*, when I came across a quote I found profoundly moving. It read, "We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: to choose one's attitude in any given circumstances, to choose one's own way."

I spent some time thinking about what I had read and the rays of light that shone from the men Frankl described and it reminded me of two things. It reminded me of Jesus; that Jesus chose this attitude even though it led to the Cross, and it reminded me why I am a Christian, or, as I prefer, a follower of Christ. You see, I believe by following Christ we are transformed as human beings. I believe in Christ we get to see life through a different lens. I believe in Christ we are blessed with the strength to do the kinds of things that Frankl witnessed in the concentration camps - the presence of compassion and kindness and selflessness.

Some might argue that we don't need Jesus to help us be compassionate and kind and

selfless and I will not argue with them but as for me I know I need the presence of Christ in my heart in order to be the kind of person I believe God wants me to be. A long time ago when I was a youngster and thought about what lay ahead, my journey of life, I realised that I wanted to live a good life, a life that gave instead of just taking. I knew I could not endure on my own; that my actions would simply not be selfless, and in Jesus I saw one from whom I could draw strength. Jesus set an example for me that I desired to follow with all of my heart. He

**When we are no longer able to
change a situation - we are
challenged to change ourselves.**

Viktor E. Frankl

changed my life. He allowed me to look outwards. He allowed me see others through different eyes; that if I ever was in a precarious place where I had choices to make, where I had to choose an attitude, it would be the attitude that Jesus displayed, that Jesus has shown me and taught throughout my life as one of his followers - to give my bread away like those men in the concentration camps.

With much love,

Peter

Easter Services

**Good Friday,
19th April**

7pm -

Good Friday service
with Communion



Easter Sunday, 21st April

10.30am - All Age Easter celebration.

We are hoping to have our Easter service in
Starbank Park, weather permitting.

Hot Cross buns and hot drinks afterwards.

News

May the light of
Christ fill you

May the peace
of Christ
comfort you

May the power
of Christ
heal you

Meditation

[Nigel Harris,
Tearfund CEO]

May the grace of
Christ be with
you

And may the love
of Christ
transform you.

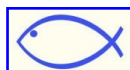
Amen.

Ardeonaig weekend September 27-29

This is now fixed at the Abernethy Trust centre at Ardeonaig on Loch Tay. At the moment we have 33 people at least committed to going. The adult cost for



two nights board and lodging is £70. Outdoor activities will be on offer for those keen on them. There will be an additional cost for an instructor. However folk are free to do their own thing. It is likely that we will hire a minibus which can be used for transport there and back and if there is interest in a local tour on Saturday. Accommodation is in rooms of varying sizes and generally we are expected to share. However where there are particular circumstances where it is not appropriate we are able to make special arrangements. I am keen to finalise numbers. The initial deposit is £12 and a further sum will be due shortly. It is not too late to join us. Please speak to John Hodge if you are interested.



Prayer Gems

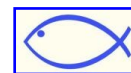
While we are still looking for a prayer secretary, the acting secretary received this request:- "May toddlers be a place where they can feel the fragrance of Christ and Matthau lead to a disease to find out more." It appears that Microsoft had amended the last part from "....and may have a desire to find out more"!!

More seriously, we have a Prayer App for members of the Church in which folk can share requests for prayer. At the end of last year, Linda wrote:- "I've found this chatsite so helpful. Having received love from my church family over many years through prayer and chats and hugs, I know how important it is to know God and

good people to walk beside me. I pray that everyone whose stories/trials we have shared since we started this group know God's peace this year end and onto 2019".

Gillian responded "Totally agree with you Linda. We are very blessed at Newhaven."

We use WhatsApp for this prayer group. If you would like to join us, please give Susan Edwards your mobile number and she can add you. You can text her on 07941 713170 or email her at suzedwards@hotmail.com



Behind the Wall Study Tour

John & Christine Hodge are taking part in the Church's World Mission Council study tour to Israel and Palestine at the end of March. It is led by Very Rev Andrew McLellan and Maureen Jack. The aim is to meet with Israelis and Palestinians and to find out what life is like for them, whichever side of the wall they are on. As you may be aware a big wall (or in some cases a fence) has been erected along the boundary between the Palestinian and Israeli areas. This causes all sorts of issues for those living there. In this case who pays for it is not the problem although there are many other issues arising.



The leaders are keen that we share with our congregations what we are doing. We were there 7 years ago but from what we hear the situation has got worse particularly for the Palestinian population. Our aim is to find out what the situation is and to listen to people on both sides of the wall so that we can understand better what is happening. We hope to be able to share our experiences with you on our return.

..... and Updates

Scripture Union in Belarus

You may remember that Nikolai came and spoke at our monthly Saturday prayer meeting last year. He mentioned that one of their needs was for a dishwasher for the campsite. One member in particular felt moved to help with this appeal and others followed her lead. As a result we were able to send £823 to assist with the purchase of a dishwasher. We have recently received an email:-

“Nikolai messaged me today to say that the two dishwashers that he ordered before New Year were delivered today. These are catering standard dishwashers, for which he also bought some supplies, plus a stainless steel table and bucket and filters.

The equipment came within £75 of his estimate of the cost, with a further £200 for the supplies, so he has spent all the money received for this project (from yourselves, from other supporters in Scotland and from the Slavanka trust).



Thank you for your support and friendship for Nikolai.”

Save the Date!
Newhaven Gala
Saturday 1st June



The Heart of Newhaven

Where is Newhaven's heart? Nearly 100 excited people crowded into Victoria Primary School at the end of January to give a resounding answer: “**We're here!**” and held up red hearts on their hands to show they meant it.

The iconic Victorian building is right in the centre of any broadly drawn geographical map of Newhaven – although some people have forgotten that what is on the other side of Lindsay Road, which they describe as “new” Newhaven, is its oldest part – the sea, without which Newhaven itself would not exist! We are in this together.

I live on that sea in one of the developments built on reclaimed land, now as much part of Newhaven as any other; and next year the children of Victoria Primary School will move across the road to a new site between Asda and the David Lloyd Centre. What will happen next will depend on those who have formed **THE HEART OF NEWHAVEN**, determined to acquire VPS for the use of the whole Community – rather than see it turned into flats. In time it could be the hub of activity:



library, wi-fi centre, workshops for boat-building, sculpture and art, a drop in café for those often lonely in our bustling life – you name it.... Well, that's the point. **Let your imagination suggest uses**, the more the better. Only by our determination will such a dream come true.

THE HEART OF NEWHAVEN needs you! It's no use just hoping but doing nothing. Act! How? Register your name, as if on a great petition but actually much more than that. By signing “We are/I am” here and alive you can lay claim to history in the making. Newhaven Church is already part of the vision but we need every single person to swell our number. Help to turn 100 into 1000, 2000 and more. Register through our website heartofnewhaven.co.uk where you will be inspired by the vision of your neighbours.

Rodney Matthews,
Heart of Newhaven Chairman and
Vision Facilitator

Newhaven Connections Café News

What a great start to the year we've had! Our new Café Assistant Andrea joined us and has settled in brilliantly. So far this year we've celebrated Burns Day, Valentine's Day and the school February break. Each time we've dressed the Café for the event and offered some special items on the menu for a limited time. A "Meal Deal" concept was introduced for Burns Week which offered excellent value for money and was a big hit with customers, with another Deal available just for kids during the February school holiday week.



The Café's 12th birthday in early February was lots of fun, with a week that included live music (thank you Kate and Alister), competitions, and not one but two birthday cakes! We unveiled the Wall of Fame, featuring photos of many of our Café team members and some quotations on what it's like to be a Café volunteer. Have a look...you may be inspired to join us! We were also privileged to welcome some special visitors that week including Laura Thompson (head-teacher of Victoria Primary School), our Community Police Officers, and Deidre Brock, MP, who dropped by to wish us a happy birthday and to find out more about the work we do here. Why not check out her remarks in the Visitors' Book?



Another new innovation is the recent launch of our **Connections Café Gift Vouchers**....the perfect present for anyone who enjoys good food and good company. A handy idea to keep in mind the next time you need to find a wee gift for someone, and are looking for something a little different.

There are lots more events to look out for in coming weeks - including homemade pancakes for **Shrove Tuesday** and a special Afternoon Tea during the weeks before and after **Mothers' Day**. Hopefully you'll feel encouraged to keep supporting the Café with regular visits, regular prayers, and maybe even volunteering.

Looking slightly further ahead, planning is already underway for the **Abbey Summer School** which takes place on 5-8 June this year. Providing refreshments and home-baking, and looking after the conference guests, will be a great opportunity to work together as a church serving our brothers and sisters from around the city and

around the world. But it's also a lot of work, and will need all hands on deck, so please consider whether you can volunteer to help in the kitchen at any time that week and do let me know – you can speak to me at the Café, or email newhavenconnections@hotmail.co.uk Thank you.

**Sandra Lindsay,
Café Manager**

Volunteering – What's not to love?!

I can honestly say that helping in our church Café, "Newhaven Connections", is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding things that I do.

Our Café is so named because it was set up, when we moved into our newly developed buildings 12 years ago, as our way of "connecting" with the wider community, and showing folks that church wasn't something that we "did" for 1 hour on a Sunday but that our faith was a way of life which we wanted to share with others – also living out our church mission statement "Committed to serving Christ, each other and the community".

The Café is staffed by two paid members of staff, a manager and an assistant manager, and a motley crew of volunteers – some who help on a regular basis e.g. a few hours each week/fortnight and some who are more occasional/sporadic.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to help out at the Café since we opened all those years ago and I love it! It is so rewarding to work with and build real friendships with the other staff and with the wonderful customers, who keep coming back as they sense a love and a welcome in this place which is so rare in our modern world.

Pop into the Café one day (Tuesday-Thursday 10-3) and savour for yourself the lovely atmosphere (and of course the lovely food!) and if you have any spare time in your busy life then I can guarantee that you will be richly blessed by volunteering some of it to our wonderful church Café.



Kate Aitchison – a happy volunteer!

News from the Kirk Session

Since the last *Harbour Lights* there have been two meetings. The most important matter at both meetings was considering the vision for the church and what our role was in our wider community. There has been extensive discussion of that and some new ideas are being explored. In particular we are to approach Victoria Primary School and explore ways in which we can help them. We are already involved in the school and look to be more involved including assisting in plans for the Newhaven Gala.

One other development in which the church has already been involved is the Heart of Newhaven project looking to acquire and develop the existing school building when it is vacated and the new school is built. Colin MacNeill has offered his services to the steering group.



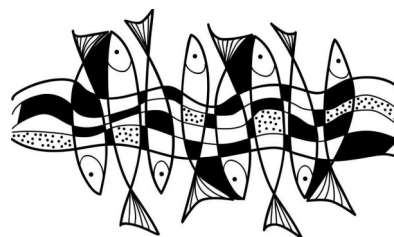
The worship group are also to investigate the possibility of running Messy Church. If you want to be involved in any of these projects please let me know and I will put you in touch with the appropriate people.

Plans are also afoot for an open air Easter day service in Starbank Park (subject to getting permission). This is at an early stage so await further developments. It will of course be weather dependant and who knows what the weather will be like!

We also looked back at the Christmas services which were felt to have gone well. Particularly encouraging was the large number (well over 100) at the 4pm Christmas Eve service. Let me know if you have thoughts about the Christmas arrangements.

John Hodge, Session Clerk

**Annual Stated Meeting
Sunday 17th March
after the Service!**



Finance Update

As we move into a new year many of us start to look ahead at what the year holds for us. In the world of finance we are no different, although minds also look back in that we need to complete the accounts for last year and have them available for you. We are working hard, as I write this. This will be the last set of accounts Shona has to work on, having decided to take a break from calculators, spreadsheets and cheque books!! Can I, on everyone's behalf thank her for all she has done as Treasurer in Newhaven. Behind the scenes she has quietly brought our accounts up to date and modernised our approach in how we operate. I know I'm grateful for the support she has given us all, and me in particular.

Moving ahead, if you are either a Gift Aid donor or have a freewill offering envelope you may have received a letter from me. If you are a Gift Aid donor I need to know if you still pay tax – and if you aren't a Gift Aid donor, but do pay tax, would you consider becoming one!! If you are neither, but would like to know more, please email me, or see me on Sundays, and I can provide more detail. Last year alone we managed to recover £18,667 from HMRC. All of which helps us to keep our finances in good shape and to enhance

God's work not only here in Newhaven, but elsewhere in the world. It would be good if you were able to join the scheme.



I'll leave the financial details on how we performed in 2018 to the Annual Report and Accounts but it's safe to say that, like most of us, we found last year challenging. I have no doubt that, for a variety of reasons, we will find 2019 even more so!! If, however, you are able to review your offering, I can ask no more. Any increase in what we give to God is gratefully received and will be put to good use, you can be sure.

Many thanks to everyone, in God's name,

**Alister Greig
Finance Convener**

bowtow@btinternet.com

Leith Churches Holiday Club

The Leith Churches Holiday Club, led by Cassie Abousamak and Christine Hodge from Newhaven Church, and supported by several churches in Leith, has gone from strength to strength in the past few years. This year's development has been that we have been able to host several activity days across the year at different partnering churches. The next event will be a **Pancake Party**



on **Tuesday 5th March, from 5:30pm-7:00pm** at St Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church. It has been a privilege to be a part of this team and see children learning about Jesus as part of the holiday club community. This summer's club will be from the **1st-5th July!** Please do save the date for any children in your lives to attend and for your prayers. If you or a young person in your life would like to volunteer, email Cassie.Abousamak@gmail.com



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

Newhaven Church of Scotland
7 Craighall Road
Edinburgh EH6 4ND
Phone: 0131 476 5212 (Minister)
Email: enquiries@n-c.org.uk
Website: www.n-c.org.uk
Charity No. SC019117

History Group

Newhaven Community History Group meets in Newhaven Church Hall at 7pm on:-

Tuesday 19th March

*The Edinburgh of Mary Queen of Scots -
Eric Melvin*

Tuesday 16th April

*Lighthouses on the Forth -
Dave Berry*



Meetings are free to members of the History group, non-members £2, followed by tea or coffee and a chance to chat.

All welcome!

!!!!!!!STOP PRESS!!!!!!!

The Café is super-egg-cited to announce that from the beginning of March you will be able to buy fresh free-range eggs!

Egg-cellent news, and just in time for pancake day!

"Smashin' Eggs" is a small business who buy their eggs direct from the farmer's gate, to ensure freshness



and provenance, and deliver them to the Café weekly. Why not give them a try? You'll be supporting a local business, and benefiting the Café too. And the very reasonable price is no yolk - 6 large eggs for just £1.

Go on....go to work (or play) on an egg!

Newhaven Church Roll

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 (Elaine Greig), or your Elder, of any changes/updates relating to yourself or other members.

If you would like more information on what 'membership' means and involves, please speak to the Minister or John Hodge.

Come and join us!

Every Sunday at 10.30am

(All-Age Service on the 1st Sunday of each month;

Communion on last Sunday of each month)

Copy Deadline

The next **Harbour Lights** will be the Summer issue, covering June, July and August - copy deadline Sunday 12th May.

Please speak to the Editor, Elaine Greig, or email her at:-

editor@n-c.org.uk

if you would like anything included in the next issue.