



#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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#### PRAYER FOCUS

**Christ, be our  
light!  
Shine in our  
hearts  
Shine through  
the darkness.**

Bernadette Farrell

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 U M M E R 2 0 1 9

## Dear Friends,

When Leandra and I moved to the Northern Hemisphere I finally fully understood the saying, "make hay while the sun shines." We realised how spoilt we had been in South Africa in terms of the amount of sunshine we enjoyed.

It was wonderful to see how people in Europe suddenly changed into brightly coloured clothing and relished every second of sunshine. I still smile when I travel into Edinburgh on a bus on a sunny day and see so many people sitting in Princes Street Gardens.

Something I truly appreciate in summertime in Scotland is the amount of daylight we get to enjoy. That's not something we enjoyed in South Africa. There we would spend our weekends in the sea, normally surfing, but the very latest we enjoyed sunlight until was about 8:30pm.

As a late night owl I love the long days of sunlight. It's still novel, even though I've lived in Scotland for over twelve years now.

Everything flourishes in light. Light brings life.

In the same way, we are able to flourish in the light of God's love, in Jesus Christ, the light of the world. How do we flourish? Yes, by the grace of God, but also by having faith, trusting in the presence of God.

What does this trust look like? It's like the hand of a child "automatically" reaching out for the safety of a parent's hand without a second thought.

Flourishing and trust are about other things too, like following the way of Jesus and seeking to live in the way of God's kingdom. It's about pondering life in the light of Christ's spirit and ingesting the fruits that we call the "fruits of the Spirit."

I recently read a passage in an excellent book by Richard Rohr called *The Universal Christ* that filled me with a shot of hope. It's that scientists have discovered that what looks like darkness to the human eye is actually filled with tiny particles called "neutrinos." They are slivers of light that pass through the entire universe.

*The light shines in  
the darkness, and  
the darkness has  
not overcome it.*

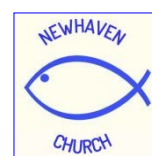
*John 1:5*

This means that there is no such thing as total darkness anywhere, even though the human eye thinks there is. John's gospel, to quote Rohr, was more accurate than we realised when it described Christ as a light "that darkness cannot overcome." Our hope is in Him.

I hope your summer is filled with much sunshine, is filled with much light. I hope your lives too experience the same.

Much love,

**Peter**



**Your way of  
acting should  
be different  
from the  
world's way;  
the love of  
Christ  
must come  
before all else.  
You are not to  
act in anger  
or nurse a  
grudge.  
Rid your heart  
of all deceit.**

### **Meditation**

[from Bible Alive  
(quotation from *The  
Rule of St Benedict*)]

**Lord Jesus,  
pour out your  
Holy Spirit anew  
and afresh  
that I may be a  
living witness of  
your love and  
light.**

## General Assembly 2019

I was privileged to be commissioned to represent the congregation at this year's General Assembly. In many ways it was a very significant Assembly as some radical decisions were made. The Assembly was tasked with considering the Special Commission on the structures of the Church and the Radical Action Plan for the way forward for the Church. It was designed to help the Church work out how it should be in the light of the current situation of far fewer members and ministers and yet still trying to do everything as it has. How does the Church help people to follow Jesus with things as they are now rather than the situation 30 years ago? The Special Commission dealt with the internal structures and set up new Assembly Trustees whose role it is to give direction and scrutiny to what the Church does. The Church councils will be reduced to 2 (there are 5 at the moment) and it is intended that Crossreach will become a semi-independent entity. The Radical Action Plan dealt with presbyteries and the aim to reduce the number to about 12. Presbyteries will provide local leadership and decide what is appropriate

in different locations. There was much talk about new church structures and new ways of doing church. A particularly interesting report was that of the Panel on Review and Reform. It gave examples of churches where they had tried new things. All should be on the main Church of Scotland website. Also of interest is the Joint Emerging Church Group report. What is encouraging is that we at Newhaven are already doing some of the things mentioned in the reports. Let us be open to new ways of doing things.

Church is going to be different. God is the same. Let us pray that we will be open to change and allow the Holy Spirit to move in the church and that these radical plans may be implemented. As Colin Sinclair, the moderator, reminded us each day in his devotional time, Jesus said "Follow me". We are not called to maintain existing church structures and practices but to be disciples and enable others to know the good news. Some things will work well, others will not. We will fail as well as succeed. However Jesus tells us not to bury our talent in the ground for fear of losing it but to take risks to gain more.

**John Hodge**



A group from Newhaven enjoyed a fun afternoon at this year's *Heart and Soul* event in Princes Street Gardens.

They also met the new Moderator, Rev Colin Sinclair and his wife Ruth!

**Heart & Soul**





## Why I come to church?

Over 40 people attended the congregation meeting on 13 May which began with the question "Why do I go to church?" Peter started us off with his reasons: he wanted to be with his brothers and sisters and with others; church is a refuge and a sacred place - a thin place where heaven and earth come close to each other. He also reminded us that part of the vision was the need not only to look after others but also ourselves.

Sitting in small groups of seven or eight we then considered the high points of our church life. There were many, ranging from specific events like the Easter service and Back to School with God, to more general things



like meeting with friends, Peter's leading of worship, the singing and the praise band and even the running club.



Colin MacNeill then spoke about how in his year out from the Kirk Session he had been struck by how Christ was the centre of creation and that everything was held together in Christ. He said that the gospel is community. He also noted how the centre of the Newhaven community had moved. Where was the church in it? He drew our attention to the *Heart of Newhaven* project to use the Victoria Primary School building as a community hub when it ceases to be a school. He represented faith groups on the steering committee.

We then discussed community in groups. Some lamented the loss of the old geographical sense of community. Others saw new communities where folk shared things in common. It was not necessarily a place. Some saw the sharing of food as important. Many said that they found in the church a sharing of love and a place where different ages met together.

There were many positives and one came away with a feeling of confidence that we were going in the right direction. However there were areas where we are challenged and in particular mention was made of the poor attendance at the prayer and bible study meetings. We were also challenged to turn up on time on Sunday so that visitors, having been impressed by a lively church web site, did not see an empty building when arriving at 10.25!

**John Hodge**

## Heart of Newhaven



We are delighted to announce that we are sponsoring a number of free guided walks of Newhaven led by professional tour guide Mary Kemp Clarke.

Founded in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, the village has grown around the harbour and has a fascinating history – you can learn all about it on the walks which will last around one and a half hours and start and end at the harbour.

The walks will take place on  
**June 6th and 28th and August 7th and 9th.**

It is mainly flat terrain with some cobbles.

Meet Mary at the harbour at 2 p.m.

To book in advance, send an email with **Newhaven Walk** in the title line to [admin@heartofnewhaven.co.uk](mailto:admin@heartofnewhaven.co.uk)

Find out more about the community initiative for the old school building on the website: [heartofnewhaven.co.uk](http://heartofnewhaven.co.uk)



Please join us for  
the launch of  
**Newhaven  
Community Mural.**

**The Community  
Garden, Main St.  
Newhaven**

**2pm Friday the 14th  
of June**

**Made and designed  
by local residents and  
school-children**

**Newhaven Heritage  
& Heart of Newhaven**

## Introducing our new Treasurer

To those who don't know me can I introduce myself!! My name is Alister Greig. In April, I took over from Shona as Treasurer. As someone who has held the office a few times before, having been involved in church finance for about thirty years, I already know how challenging it can be. Shona has put her heart and soul (if I can borrow a Church of Scotland expression) into this. The work she has done in modernising our approach is fantastic, so we are indebted to her for what she has done and continues to do. Moving ahead I'd like to carry on that good work. If you also feel you can help in any way – whether it's counting the offering at the end of the service, or helping with the paperwork, please talk to either myself or our Session Clerk, John Hodge. More hands ..... as the saying goes!!



Gift Aid – if you are a taxpayer and haven't signed a gift aid form already, this is a good way of allowing the church to claim back on tax. Do speak to me and I can let you know more.

If you do want to know more, or even just want to chat to me about what you can do for the church financially – either at home, or abroad – please do contact me, either after church on a Sunday, or by email. I'd love to hear from you.

**Alister Greig**  
[nctreasurer@btinternet.com](mailto:nctreasurer@btinternet.com)

## Newhaven Connections Café News

Regular customers will have noticed a variety of developments at the Café over the spring months.

Sales of free range **Smashin' Eggs**, delivered fresh from the farm every Tuesday, are going from strength to

strength and regularly sell out by the end of the week. Our Faith Mission bookstall, which provided an opportunity to buy Easter cards, books and gifts without travelling to the other side of town, proved very popular. And, as the sun has started to put in a more regular appearance, we've

created a mini 'sitooterie' with an outside table. Mainly intended as a visual feature to attract new customers to walk up the pathway and investigate the Café, you're also welcome to enjoy your cuppa out there if you wish...no table service though - please pay for and collect your order at the Café counter. It would be lovely to further enhance the pathway with a colourful planter – anyone with green fingers and some spare pots and/or plants please speak to Sandra or Andrea.

At the end of April we were delighted to become members of **The Chatty Café Scheme**. This national scheme encourages customers to sit at a designated Chatter & Natter Table if they are happy to chat to other

customers. Look for the purple Chatter & Natter sign and give it a try. Stay for a 5 minute coffee or as long as you like. It's available to everyone and is a great way to help combat social isolation, build community, meet new people or maybe even strike up a conversation with a visitor from the other side of the world. Journalist and broadcaster Kaye Adams even got in on the act, chatting to Sandra about the Scheme live on her BBC Radio Scotland show and putting Newhaven Connections on the map!



Turning to food news, we're working on ideas to introduce some seasonal menu items for summer. We hope you'll look forward to trying healthy salads, fresh fruit smoothies and naughty-but-nice ice-cream sundaes. From next month we will taking another step to reduce the amount of plastic used in the Café by providing jugs of fresh milk for all hot drinks, replacing the current UHT milk portions. In early July we're planning a USA-themed week featuring a great range of American menu specials. And in August, we'll be taking part in the Trinity Community Gala in Lomond Park on 25<sup>th</sup>. We're excited to have this opportunity to showcase our yummy cakes and bakes to the wider community while raising some money for Bethany Christian Trust. Please do come along and support this local event.

Finally, an important reminder for your diary: the Café will be CLOSED for one day only on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July as the whole church building will be in use for the Abbey Summer School international conference. Apologies for any inconvenience.

**Sandra Lindsay,**  
**Café Manager**





## The Church is aye looking for people!

It used to be said that the Church is always looking for money. Well, people are almost in as short supply. At Newhaven we are always looking for volunteers. Have you thought about getting more involved in the life of the church? There are various opportunities and often it is only by becoming more involved that you reap the benefits of increased fellowship, love and a sense of belonging.

We have various areas where folk can help. Our regular activities such as Toddlers, the Café and the Youth activities and the BB's are always looking for further help. They would all welcome folk coming to see what is involved without having to commit in advance. They are very much community activities and as well as providing a chance to serve also are a way of building new friendships.



We also need help in the administration. We have not had a prayer secretary for almost two years. This is an opportunity to co-ordinate our prayer efforts and perhaps develop it in new ways. We also need representatives to liaise with Christian Aid and also with other churches for the World Day of Prayer. These bring rewards in learning from others and widening our horizons.

A combination of the administration and also working in community are our working groups. We need new blood and new ideas on them. Are you interested in Finance, Fabric, Mission & Outreach, Worship or Pastoral Care? Why not think about bringing your ideas to the group and help shape the way forward.

If you are interested please contact Sandra Lindsay for the Café, Christine Hodge for the Toddlers or Chas Livingstone for the BBs. If you would like to discuss any of the other positions or Working Groups please see me.

**John Hodge, Session Clerk**

## Easter Service in Starbank Park

After a gap of many years, the Outreach group obtained the approval of the Kirk Session for an outdoor service. We obtained the permission of the Council to use Starbank Park and with the assistance of the Friends of Starbank Park arrangements were made. However the great unknown was the weather and so contingency plans were made. In the end it could not have been better.

As we moved round the park we heard from the man let down through the roof, experienced something of the last supper, the betrayal and crucifixion and then the triumphant news that He is risen! The music group adapted to outdoors and crafts and activities were available for the younger ones. It was a wonderful time and thanks are due to the organising trio of Peter, Cassie and Christine.

What is more amazing is that each of them was unwell in the weeks immediately preceding the service. *In our weakness is His power made perfect* (2 Cor. 12:9). God is indeed good.



One person wrote in: "We all found it a most uplifting service and were more than grateful to God for blessing us all with good fellowship – and good weather! The way that everybody – both young and old – took part was the very essence of what Easter represents. We will always remember today."

Grateful thanks are due to all who took part including those outwith the church like the Friends of Starbank Park.



# Leith Churches Holiday Club

Newhaven Church will once again be involved in the delivery of the Leith Churches Holiday Club from 1-5 July hosted at Leith Baptist Church. We will be working through the travel-themed holiday club *Backpackers*, which takes us through Holy Week together.

My usual contribution to *Harbour Lights* at this time of year would inform everyone that there were still a few weeks to register; however, we are blessed this year with a full-to-the-brim holiday club from simply reaching out to previous attendees and connections! We have 43 returnees, including younger siblings able to come for the first time, and about 22 new children. We are also incredibly fortunate to have 20 adults and 14 teens from 9 churches on our team this year. It is a blessing to be gifted the position of leading such a talented team and we look forward to continuing to build on the community formed year in and year out and through the four family activity times we incorporated into this school year.

For those hoping to be involved, there are still plenty of ways to make a difference. One way you can impact the club is to pray. There are copies of the prayer news on the information shelf at Newhaven Church, but you can also receive one by email by contacting me at [Cassie.Abousamak@gmail.com](mailto:Cassie.Abousamak@gmail.com)

We will have sessions for crafting, cutting and organising to help prepare -

please look for these in the intimations soon. For those with the gift of making sweet treats, each day of holiday club includes a soup lunch for families at no additional cost. We like to provide home baking, if possible. If you would be happy to make muffins, small cakes, or traybakes, please do let me know at the email address above.

Thank you on behalf of the team for your support.

**Cassie**



## BACKPACKERS

**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](mailto:enquiries@n-c.org.uk)  
Website: [www.n-c.org.uk](http://www.n-c.org.uk)  
Charity No. SC019117

## Newhaven Church Roll

### Admission by Transference

James Grant

### Admission by Resolution

Pat Abraham

Barbara Bell

Judith Crabb

Raymond Mills

Charlotte Rankine-McPhie

### Deaths

18th April -

Jimmy McGibbon

22nd April -

Marion (Maisie) Fraser

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Oliver Gillies and Ewan Greig of the 20th Leith who have been awarded The Queen's Badge, the highest award that can be gained by a member of The Boys' Brigade. Both Oliver and Ewan have been members of the 20th Leith since they joined as Anchor Boys, aged 6!

Ewan is pictured here with Charles Livingstone, Company Captain.

## 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 Autumn issue, covering September, October and November - copy deadline Sunday 11th August.

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

[editor@n-c.org.uk](mailto:editor@n-c.org.uk)