



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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PRAYER FOCUS

*...prayer is a
surge of the
heart*

St Thérèse of Lisieux

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

A U T U M N 2 0 2 0

Dear Friends,

I trust this finds you all well.

Something I've been thinking about quite a lot lately is something that often seems in short supply these days. It's the fruit of the Spirit known as self control. I've been thinking about it mostly because of the stories one reads about or sees on the news at the lack of self control some people have exhibited over the course of the pandemic that we are all a part of, whether we like it or not.

Something else that irritates me more than it probably should and is tied in with the issue of self control is the blame game that happens every time someone doesn't get what they want. It seems we live in a world where we expect a lot from other people but not an awful lot from ourselves. There's a lot of selfishness around.

I read an article just recently about a student from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, who was positive for Covid-19, had the disease, yet still invited twenty of his mates around for a party. When the police arrived to ask him what he thought he was doing, and shouldn't he be quarantining, he told them that he had Covid-19 but it was okay because he was at home.

I somehow doubt whether he was an A grade student because the police had to tell him that just because he was at home didn't mean that he could have mates around for a party. Despite the stupidity involved in this particular story there seems to be an attitude amongst some that because it hasn't or doesn't seem to affect them badly they can carry on with life as normal but what isn't taken into account is the fact that their behaviour impacts on others.

And that's the point. We are called by God, no less, to be self controlled, not simply because God has high standards that he

expects us to live by, but because what we are and what we do has an effect on the people we might call our brothers and sisters.

Am I my brother or my sister's keeper? Yes, I am. Am I called to put aside my ego and my self-centeredness and live responsibly and caringly towards my fellow human beings, even if it puts me out just a little bit? Of course I am.



Why? Because the planet and all its people don't revolve around me and, more importantly, Jesus calls us to hold our fellow human beings in high regard, yes, because they have the image of God within them but also because it allows for a more peaceful, tranquil world.

I think we are going to be living under the often dark cloud of this virus for quite some time but I think we need to let the light of Christ shine through that darkness and one of the ways this happens is through self control and being sensitive to the lives who share this world with us.

"Where is your brother Abel," God asked Cain. "I don't know," Cain replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

May God bless you and keep you.

All my love,

Peter

Where are we now and where do we go?

As you will have heard we have received Presbytery permission for re-opening the church. However as I am also sure you know we will not be able to go back to what it was like prior to lockdown.

The Scottish Government rules demand that we have 2 metre distancing between households at all times and that there is no congregational singing. That means we are very restricted in what we can do. For that reason we do intend to continue for the foreseeable future in having our current on line messages from Peter, Zoom services and meetings, hard copy message and prayers for the week and as long as the weather holds out meetings in the park. We would again thank the residents in Park Road for giving permission for us to use the park for that purpose.

As it is now becoming clear that the current situation will last for some time, we will be reviewing what we are doing and any suggestions will be gratefully received. The two services which we are holding in the church are to help us to try and assess the benefit of these restricted services. Again any feedback would be greatly appreciated.

During the lockdown we have found that some things worked well. The Bible Study and the prayer meetings on Zoom both seemed to be well worthwhile and were accessible to some who might not have chosen to go to the same event in the church. Small groups are important and we would encourage you to link up with others for support. At the moment it is possible to meet up with two other households indoors and this may be a chance to form a small group for mutual support, prayer and possibly bible study.

We are also very much aware that some folk have not linked in with any of the online events. We are anxious to make sure no-one is left out. If there is something else we should be doing to help those folk please do let us know.



We do want to continue to support all our members and those connected with us. On that subject one of the problems at the beginning of lockdown was contacting those who join with us in worship but are not members of the congregation. We have managed to include a good number but I am sure that there are others who have been missed out. If you know of anyone who should

be receiving the weekly update or the hard copy message and is not please get in touch. It may also be that some email addresses may not be currently in use. If you expected to receive an email but did not let me know what email address you would like me to use. It may also be worth considering becoming a member and in that way you will have an elder allocated to you and are less likely to get missed out. Please speak to Peter or me about it if you are interested.

There have been other positives. We are aware that the church community has extended its arms to Northern Ireland, India, North America and no doubt other far flung places. Some folk who might not have come to a service will listen on line. Cassie and Christine have done sterling work with young people and tried all sorts of new things.

It is not going to be easy not meeting as we used to do. However let us be open to what God wants us to do. In our Bible studies in Acts we saw that it was the persecution of the early church that forced it to move out from being a Jerusalem centred body to spreading to Samaria and then to what is now Turkey and eventually Europe. If it had not been for the persecution, they would have stayed with what was comfortable for them. They had plenty of problems but God used the situation to advance the Kingdom. Pray that we may have the eyes to see what He wants us to do now. This is an opportunity and we must be open to what God wants us to do.

John Hodge, Session Clerk

*To better the future
we must disturb the present*

Catherine Booth (Salvation Army)



*... those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

*The Lord himself goes before you
and will be with you;
he will never leave you
nor forsake you.
Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged*

Deuteronomy 31: 8 (NIV)

*May the light of Christ fill you
May the peace of Christ comfort you
May the power of Christ heal you
May the grace of Christ be with you
And may the love of Christ transform you. Amen.*

Nigel Harris (Tearfund)

Two "pilot" worship services

Now that we are allowed to open we have devised what we hope is a fair and safe way to allow folk back to worship and we are planning two "pilot" short worship services on **Sunday 20th and Sunday 27th September**. It will not be like it was before lockdown - we are not allowed to sing and have to maintain 2m safe distancing at all times - but we hope it will be a meaningful time of worship before God.

Booking system

As the capacity of the church is restricted to 20 households (25 persons max) we have to use a booking system. Priority will be given to those who have not engaged with our on line worship. On the 20th we would ask those with surnames beginning with A to L to apply and those with surnames M to Z the following Sunday. If you are unable to come on your allotted Sunday please feel free to apply for the other Sunday. Please apply to me by telephone, email, text or whatever.

Protocol for attending

- Members of the congregation acting as stewards will

be on hand at the church to direct people and to help with distancing and any questions.

- When you arrive your details will be checked against those who have booked – **please do not turn up unless I have confirmed that you have a place booked.**
- You must wear a face covering or mask inside the church, unless you are exempt.
- The stewards will direct you to a seat in the main hall and, at the end of the service, direct you out of the church. (there will be no tea/coffee provided)
- If you are feeling unwell or have any Covid symptoms (high temperature/fever, cough, loss of smell or taste) you **must not attend** even if you have reserved a place. Those who are vulnerable or shielding should think very carefully whether attending is appropriate.
- The children will continue to meet in the Park

John Hodge
Session Clerk

Children's & Youth Ministry

I have been asked to update the congregation on the world of children's and youth ministry aside from the all-age services that many have been able to join in on Zoom.

As I pondered this, I thought the best things to describe our situation as it is just now is that we are building sandcastles. We are exploring and moulding for the time and season that we are in and taking on each step as it comes, knowing at the appointed time the tide will come up and then out again and it will be time for something new.

One beautiful sandcastle is Lighthouse in the Park (pictured here). We meet 2-3 Sundays a month in Park Road Park. We explore a Bible story in pods of 3-4 families each week and are getting more and more creative of thinking about how we can use nature to help us do this. We are following the lectionary with the help of *Together at Home*, which allows us to be flexible and have options to send home to worship at home as well!



We have taken a similar structure with Messy Church. We met in Park Road Park for August and will do the

same for September. It has been lovely being able to worship in this way - games, crafts, scavenger hunts, storytelling.

Youth have been gathering in Victoria Park on Sundays for Bible Study and, as the weather cools off, Psalm Walks - walking and praying through a Psalm. As the seasons change, we will adapt to the situation at hand, but what is most important is that we continue to set time aside, in whatever group sizes allowed, and worship.

Lighthouse in the Park -

10:30am-11:10am; 27th September, 11th October. Please RSVP to Cassie by noon on the Thursday prior. You will be asked to fill out a form in advance.

Youth in the Park -

11:45am-12:30pm; 27th September, 11th October. Text Cassie to RSVP!

Messy Church -

4pm-5pm on 18th September. Please RSVP to Cassie by end of day Wednesday. TBD 16th October; TBD 20th November 2020. Please watch social media or sign up to Cassie's newsletter to keep up to date. You will be asked to fill out a form in advance.

Cassie Abousamak
Newhaven Church
Children and Youth Worker

Harvest

Each year at Harvest we worship together in an all-age service. This will take place on Sunday 4th October at 10:30am on Zoom followed by after-church coffee. Links will be forthcoming in emails from John and Cassie. Do be in touch if you would like to receive these and do not already.

We will be looking at the Ten Commandments and what insight this might give us into our role in God's Earth.



Many of you may be aware that we take an offering each year to support the ministry of Tearfund who work in developing countries alongside local churches to end poverty.

Tearfund is committed to following Jesus where the need is greatest. This year Tearfund Scotland's campaign is called: [Your Neighbour Is Thirsty](#)

Jesus taught us to love our neighbour. When we respond to those in need, we are showing the love of God to our neighbours.

*'Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for one of the least
of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.'*
Matthew 25:40

Right now, our neighbours in northern Ethiopia need your help. Droughts are becoming longer and more intense as climate change takes its toll. As riverbeds are dry, many are forced to walk long distances to get enough water to provide for their families and, all too often, they are having to go to bed thirsty. Orbisa has to walk up to ten hours each day to collect water for herself, her husband and their family, and it is still not enough. Everyday life is a real struggle.

Tearfund, through local organisations and churches, is helping communities by installing solar-powered wells, which will provide a local, clean and abundant water source. This will transform life for Orbisa and her family. Please help provide this life-saving water.

You can help by giving cash/cheque in an envelope, marked for [Tearfund](#), to the Church Treasurer, Alister Greig. Or send a cheque direct to: Tearfund Scotland, Suite 529-534, Baltic Chambers, Wellington Street, Glasgow G2 6HJ. Or you can donate by card or PayPal online:

www.tearfund.org/give/



For the past 5 Harvest services we have also had some form of Big Bake competition led by the teenagers. In lieu of the current restrictions, a small group of teenagers and leaders have proposed that this year we create a cookbook of all of our favourite bakes over the years (both ones that have been entered in competition and those we haven't quite managed!) into the [Newhaven Big Bake Cookbook](#). This will go on sale for a suggested donation of £5 to Tearfund. To submit a recipe please email me, Cassie, or hand write and post/drop off in the church letterbox, your recipes by Wednesday 30th September.

Please keep an eye out on the church's website, social media, and email communications for instructions on how to purchase a copy in the month of October!

YOUR NEIGHBOUR IS THIRSTY

AND THEY NEED YOUR HELP



Café news....We're back in business!!

We've missed everyone over the last few months and we're excited to be re-opening our Café from 15th September. For the first week we'll be offering all our goodies on a Takeaway basis only so we can get to grips with how to operate in a new way in our kitchen and use different processes (like our new contactless card payment system). Then we'll be pleased to welcome customers to enjoy our sit-in Café service from 22nd September.



We are, of course, following all of the government guidance for eating places, and have introduced lots of changes including a one-way system for entering and leaving the building, social distancing measures, and increased ventilation and cleaning to keep everyone safe.

But you'll be pleased to hear that not everything will be changing...you can still look forward to our warm welcome, our tasty café food and drinks, and not forgetting our delicious home-baking! And as we look forward to the autumn months we'll be sharing some new seasonal dishes and cakes with you. Do please tell your friends and neighbours, and help spread the word that we're open again and happy to have the opportunity to serve them!

If you're a fan of the Café perhaps you would consider joining our volunteer team? Volunteering is a great way of connecting with others and making new friends. Research has shown it is beneficial to mental health, can have a favourable impact on life satisfaction and offers a sense of purpose and achievement. If you could spare an hour or two every week or every fortnight, either to help out in the kitchen or to assist customers in a new front-of-house role, please contact Sandra our café manager for more information. You can speak to her at the cafe, or email newhavenconnectionscafe@gmail.com

We hope to see you soon!

Sandra Lindsay
Café Manager



News from Nikolai in Belarus

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ. I want to share a little about what has been happening. This year has been quite hard for us. It was difficult to decide about running SU camps because of the pandemic. But we decided to go ahead and, with God's help, we had 6 camps. The Lord blessed us abundantly and fortunately nobody got sick. We had very strict hygiene procedures in place. The Lord also blessed us with wonderful weather. The children were from various parts of the country and one third were from non-Christian families. There were also children from large and deprived families. In camp the children were able to make many new friends and learnt about the importance of praying to God and reading the Bible and also of fellowship. It was very good to hear and see many of them wishing to serve God. We thank God that in partnership with you we were able to sow the good seed in the hearts of teenagers and adults. May the Lord bless and grow the good seeds in their hearts and

bless us to continue to support them. We need your support and your prayers. Thank you again.

Your brother in Christ,
Nikolai Podrez, August 2020.



Treasurer's Report

For all of us the last few months have been challenging to say the least. From a financial perspective I'm hugely indebted to everyone who has setup standing orders or made donations to the church. Without regular Sunday offerings this has allowed me to keep the accounts level and on track. Thank you.

Having said that a number of people have asked how they can also setup standing orders or give to the Church. There are a number of ways:-

Bank donations – I have a bankers' order form I can send you to complete and submit to your bank. Do get in touch by email or by phone and I can send you more information regarding the bank details you'll need. If you are making an online payment, please include your name as a reference.

Cash/cheque and Freewill Offering donations – If you wish to make a cash or cheque donation, or if you have FWO envelopes, please put in an envelope marked for the attention of Alister Greig, Treasurer, Newhaven Church. These can either be posted to the church at 7 Craighall Road, Edinburgh EH6 4ND or, handed in directly when the Church is available. They can also be given to any elder or office bearer.

For more information, please contact me. My details are below. Again, my sincere thanks to everyone for all your support and help. It's been much appreciated.

Alister Greig, Treasurer

Email: bowtow@btinternet.com

Phone: 07395 512890



Kampi Child Care Centre – an update

The Child Care Centre that we have long supported at Kampi ya Samaki in rural Kenya needs our prayers and our support more than ever right now. They are struggling with not just one crisis, the global COVID-19 pandemic, but another crisis caused by the rising lake waters in Kenya's Rift Valley.

The lake waters have been rising for several years now, threatening local communities who live by the lakes and depend upon it for their livelihoods. One such community is Kampi ya Samaki, the village where the Child Care Centre is located. The actual Child Care Centre buildings are right on the shore of Lake Baringo and have been out of use because of rising waters for many years now, with the Child Care Centre effectively having relocated to a building within the grounds of the village school, which is higher up. The situation has got worse, however, because of heavy rains since March this year and the water is at its highest point ever (see photos). The water level has threatened the local church building and is now only 200m away from the school itself.



The levels of COVID-19 cases in Kenya are nowhere near as high as we have experienced in the UK, but that is against the background of a much less developed health service and the Government has imposed significant restrictions on gatherings. All primary and secondary schools are closed and will not open until January 2021. The children of the Child Care Centre were sent home in May this year and this means that the staff of the Centre have to travel much more frequently to treat and support them.



Another blow to the Centre was the untimely death in May of Daniel Kangogo, himself a disabled child of the Centre who for the last 10 years worked making calipers, prosthetics and other equipment for the children.

Please stand in prayer solidarity with the children and staff of the Child Care Centre, their families and their neighbours in the region, as they struggle with so much.

Our Church Ceilidh in November each year raises funds to support the Child Care Centre, but this year COVID-19 means we'll have to think differently. Watch this space for details, but whatever it is, please remember our brothers and sisters in Kenya and support them generously.

Heart of Newhaven — important update!

By now, most of the congregation will know that Victoria Primary School is planning to move into a new, bigger school building in Western Harbour. This will mean, of course, that the building and grounds on the Main Street will become vacant. Heart of Newhaven (HoN) was formed nearly two years ago as a community group to acquire this historic building for the community. Two of our own congregation are very closely involved in HoN's efforts, being Judy Crabb and Colin MacNeill.



The latest news is that the City of Edinburgh Council approved HoN's application to acquire the building.

This is wonderful news, and is a very significant step further along the road to the establishment of a multi-generational community hub, right in the heart of Newhaven. When HoN takes possession of VPS, the development of the site can begin according to the imaginative plans of HoN that the Council have now blessed. These include the following-

- * Early years nursery in the Anchor Building
- * Café
- * Artists' Studios and exhibition space
- * Rehearsal space for the Youth Theatre and local Choir

- * Heritage Suite (including Wee Museum, the Victorian Schoolroom and we hope Newhaven Heritage)
- * Men's Shed
- * Shared Business Centre for small businesses

The next step, however, is for HoN to raise the cost of acquisition (being £700,000 plus costs). An application has been made to the Scottish Land Fund for a major grant to be able to make this capital commitment. The Scottish Land Fund will want to know that what HoN is proposing is supported not merely by key interest groups (such as Newhaven Church) but by individuals and households across the entire community.

That is why it is important to increase the number of people prepared to sign up to say, "Yes please, this is what we need for the future". The key is the development of a vibrant Community Hub, or as HoN puts it, the beating Heart of Newhaven Community.



Some of you will already be supporters, but if you are not and want to give your formal support to our effort, please go to www.heartofnewhaven.co.uk where you can "join us". You'll also find a whole lot more information on the website or by contacting Colin or Judy.

Colin MacNeill

Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal 2020

Despite the difficulties that they face every day, through poverty, illness, disability, or other disadvantages, receiving a shoebox brings such joy to children and adults in Eastern Europe.



Shoeboxes are going ahead this year and I hope you will join with us in Newhaven Church in supporting this worthwhile project. Shoeboxes can make such a difference to lives that are otherwise almost hopeless. It's a great chance to be part of this, and know that the boxes will go to those who really need them.

Things will be a little different this year. Please only bring filled shoeboxes to the church — unfortunately I am unable to take donations of separate items to put in a box. Why not do this with your family or friends? You can fill a box for a child teenager, man or woman.

I will have plenty of leaflets which I am happy to deliver or they can be picked up from the café at the end of September.

Please look at the Blythswood trust website for information, a video and stories. We read of three children whose parents work recycling aluminium and plastic earning only 50 -100 euros a month and often struggle to provide food - <https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/>

If you need help wrapping a box please contact Christine Hodge. Blythswood also say that if you are having a problem sourcing an empty shoebox this year then please use a drawstring bag (no plastic ones please) instead. Maximum size 500mm x 300mm. These are available in a number of shops, especially sports shops.

Boxes can be brought to the church during café hours during the last week of October ready for our zoom service on 1st November or you can contact me via the Session Clerk - newhavensessionclerk@btinternet.com

Christine Hodge

Advent Help Needed!

As many of you know, the role of Children's and Youth Worker often has time spent in school as a key part of what I do. In the current climate, I am unable to go into school based on Edinburgh Council guidance. Looking forward, this seems like it will be the case for quite some time; therefore, I have been thinking about ways that we can still support the school in meeting Religious Observance and Religious Education objectives while not being able to be present face to face.

One particular privilege and joy I have each year, often with the help of the SU group, is to share a bit about what the season of Advent and Christmas means to Christians and what we believe about Christmas. I wondered how we might do this without physically being in the school and two things have been decided, with a couple more ideas simmering away on the thought bandwagon as I write this. The first two require support from our wider church community to make happen.

1. We have pre-ordered sticker Advent Calendars from Godventure which include a Christmas storybook and stickers to help tell the Christmas story each day. We have ordered enough for each family at Victoria PS to receive one. Could you sponsor a family, or two or three? The calendars cost £2.50 a household and there are 223 households. To sponsor please complete a bank transfer to the church with ref: **AdventCal** OR send a cheque to the Attention of Treasurer, Alister Greig, with a Ref: **AdventCal** to the church.



2. We'd also like to give each PI at Victoria PS a sheep like the ones from our Messy Sheep Trail as a special present this Christmas, but that is a lot of knitting, so we need to get started! If you would like to knit a sheep or two by 25th November 2020, please let me know and I will provide you with a pattern. They are traditionally white with a black nose, but happy for them to be brown, white, cream, any sheep-like colour!

Will you join us in providing these resources to our local school?

Thank you,

Cassie



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or call: 0131 454 4374



**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

Newhaven Church Roll

Deaths

18 July -
Jim Grant

31 July -
Anna Batchelor

In order to keep the Church Roll as accurate as possible, please notify the Roll-Keeper, 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.

Copy Deadline

The next **Harbour Lights** will be the Winter issue, covering December, January and February - copy deadline Sunday 22nd November.

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

editor@n-c.org.uk



www.n-c.org.uk