



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST**

- ◆ **Accept one another**
- ◆ **Kirk Session**
- ◆ **Café News**
- ◆ **Youth Activities**
- ◆ **Newhaven Heritage**
- ◆ **Heart of Newhaven**
- ◆ **Thanks from Tearfund and Timothy**
- ◆ **Kampi**



**PRAYER
FOCUS**

Love one another.

John 13: 34

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

SPRING 2024

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the second month of the year and soon we'll be turning our thoughts and attention to Easter and all that Easter means, especially for us as followers of Christ. As I've said before, Easter is one of my most loved times of year, primarily because of what we remember as Christians, in terms of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Personally, I find it is a time of year that concentrates my mind on Jesus in a way that other times do not.

It is a time, for me, to be quiet and still, to spend time pondering all that Jesus experienced for the life of humanity.

It is a time, I find, that draws me even closer to Jesus, and evokes in me a sense of gratitude that I find hard to put into words because it speaks to me of the profound love of Jesus and all that he was prepared to suffer in order for us to experience life in abundance, the life of the kingdom of God.

For me one of the most profound passages of scripture about the character and person of Jesus is found in the pages of the gospel according to John, chapter 13 where we are told that before the Festival of Passover, Jesus and his disciples had gathered together to share a meal together.

As he sat at supper, aware of what was going to take place in his life in the next few hours and with the knowledge that Judas would betray him, Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he had tied around his waist.

I have often wondered what must have gone through the disciples' minds as they saw

their Master and Lord on his knees before them washing away the dust and dirt.

We get an indication from Peter, who was flabbergasted to witness what Jesus was doing.



Peter asked him, "Lord are you going to wash my feet?" And Jesus, who knew what Peter was thinking, answered, "You do not know now what I am doing but later you will understand." In typical fashion, Peter told Jesus, "You will never wash my feet."

Jesus told him, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me," and again in typical fashion, Peter exclaimed, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head." Jesus replied, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you."

When Jesus had finished, he returned to his place at the table and asked his disciples, who I'm sure still had eyes as big as saucers, "Do you know what I have done to you?" Then Jesus told them that what he had done for them, they should do for one another.

"Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

continued over

Jesus took the role of the lowliest of the low, in this instance, to demonstrate his love for his disciples, for that is what one who washed peoples' feet, after they had been out in the dusty streets, was considered to be. It is something profound, and it is made more profound considering what was about to take place in Jesus' life, namely his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and his crucifixion.

It reminds me so very strongly that God's power is seen in weakness, that what the world would think of as foolishness, Jesus understood as something right and good and full of love, that power and authority was not seen in force, but in humility.

We would be wise to take heed of what Jesus did, and like his disciples, to follow his example.

Our world at this time seems to be polarised beyond comprehension in all sorts of ways, both big and small. It would be good if we, in our own small ways perhaps, would humble ourselves before one another and "wash" one another's "feet," for in this way we honour God and our neighbours and bring transformation to a world in desperate need of love.



Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.
Romans 15:7

This Easter may we focus our hearts and minds and souls on the One who gave up his life freely so that we might be liberated from sin and all that blocks our entrance to the grace of God.

May we also come to a new understanding of the depths of Christ's love, and allow ourselves to be transformed by it.

May you all have a blessed Easter.

Much love,

Peter



Thank You, Sandra

Sandra, having already retired from the Bank, is now about to retire again. She has been our café manager since July 2018. I remember vividly my concern when Yvonne intimated that she would have to step down for health reasons. Where could we find a replacement? Just as I was expressing my concern to a friend at the Abbey Summer School, he simply said "she is here". I was introduced to Sandra and the rest is history.

Sandra has always had a passion for running a community café particularly as part of a church. She entirely bought into our vision of it being part of the fragrance of Christ in the community. She is always ready with support and, in particular, prayer for any occasion. There have been customers coping with bereavement; other customers looking for friendship and someone to talk to; members of the church going into challenging meetings and situations; and so many other instances where one went forward knowing that you were backed up by the prayers of the café team.

She has also pioneered several new ventures in the cafe, including providing catering for outside organisations like Heart of Newhaven and our local MP. We have entered into arrangements with Sainsburys over their providing us

with items with short dates on them. We also have had various theme days and have tried all sorts of new promotional events. Sandra was always looking for ways in which the café could do more.



Sandra has also been an excellent mentor to the volunteers, and the Council inspectors commented on how well she supervised them. Being a volunteer can be a useful step for some in getting into regular employment. There are a good number who used their volunteering at the café as a step to employment.

We are indebted to Sandra for all she has brought to the café and wish her God's blessing in her future service at her church, Bellevue Chapel, and in her many other interests. No doubt this will not be her last retirement!

Thank you, Sandra.

John Hodge

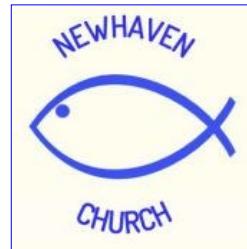
Kirk Session Report

While there have been three Session meetings since the last Harbour Lights, there are not a lot of concrete decisions to report. Many items at the time of writing this report are still awaiting final resolution. Inevitably much time has been spent discussing the Presbytery Plan. At the moment, the position is unclear. As previously intimated, for various reasons it became apparent that the previous plan for an immediate union of the three congregations was not appropriate. An amended plan was produced for a union of North Leith with South Leith and on 4 February both congregations voted to unite, with effect from 31 March. This was approved by Presbytery on 6 February.

At the time of writing this report, it was proposed that we enter a parish grouping with the united congregation of North and South Leith. This means that while we retain our independence with our own Kirk Session, we work closely with them and engage in joint activities. We are seeking to meet with the Presbytery to ascertain the ramifications of this and in particular to discuss the likely timeframe. There is concern that a short timescale would leave us in a continuing situation of uncertainty and not enable us to plan effectively for the future. We intend to call a congregational meeting once it becomes clearer what is proposed. Retaining our independence also brings its own challenges in that we have to make sure that we can still have the resources to carry out our work.

Looking back at the Christmas services, with Christmas Eve falling upon a Sunday and there being three services, we wondered how attendances would hold up. As it happened, not only was there a good attendance at the 10.30am service, but the 4pm service was back up to almost pre-pandemic levels with about 80 folk there and the watchnight service was significantly better attended than in previous years. Christmas morning also had a good attendance. We are grateful to Peter and all who helped organise all the services and all that went with it.

The Kirk Session also received a significant legacy from the late Georgie Orme for use in connection with our café and youth work. We are extremely grateful to Georgie for leaving us this valuable resource.



We have also been busy trying to find a replacement for Sandra Lindsay when she retires as café manager. We are extremely grateful to Sandra for all that she has given and brought to the café. I will pay tribute separately (see p.2). It has been challenging finding a replacement and we are most grateful that one has been found.

The Kirk Session also has to deal with practical matters like the church insurances and also the repairs to communal parts of the building. The Session Clerk and the Fabric Convenor attended a meeting of the residents in the flats above the church and, after a friendly meeting, are looking forward to working co-operatively together.

At this time of year, we also have to prepare for the inspection of the church records. This includes looking at our roll of members and making sure it is up to date. In some cases, members have moved away and there are others who we have not seen for some time. However, there are also a good number who attend regularly but are not members. Perhaps they should consider whether they might like to join? Becoming a member may not be particularly significant, but it is an indication of commitment, and it also allows you to vote on any union proposals. If you are interested in joining, please speak with either Peter or myself.

John Hodge
Session Clerk



Lead a Loving Life

Self-knowledge and self-love are the fruit of knowing and loving God. You can see better than what is intended by the great commandment to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and to love your neighbour as yourself.'

Laying our hearts totally open to God leads to a love of ourselves that enables us to give whole-hearted love to our fellow human beings. In the seclusion of our hearts we learn to know the hidden presence of God; and with that spiritual knowledge we can lead a loving life.

Henri Nouwen

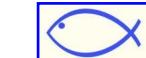
Café News

After a good Christmas break (a week longer than usual due to the installation of a new central heating boiler in the church) it was great to open our doors again in mid-January. The beginning of the year is always a busy time for us in the café as there are so many special dates and occasions to celebrate. We started with haggis and clootie dumpling on the menu for Burns Day in January, closely

followed by the café's 17th birthday in early February – when we shared free sweet treats with everyone to celebrate God's faithfulness to us over the last 17 years. And it was lovely to delight our 17th customer each

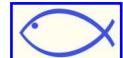
day with a gift of coffee and birthday cake on the house!

As this newsletter goes to print we're preparing to make piles of pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, heaps of heart-themed treats for Valentine's Day, and our Special main dish of the week will have a distinctly Asian flavour as we mark Chinese New Year in celebration of the 6 Hong Kong volunteers in our team. Now that's what I call a busy week!



STOP PRESS!

The ladies from Duke Street Church will be bringing their Stall of hand-made Easter gifts and decorations to the cafe FOR ONE DAY ONLY on **Tuesday 12th March**.



The Right Attitude

What separates the best from the rest? Have you ever given that some thought? It's attitude!

The Bible says, 'For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.' (Proverbs 23:7) Your attitude can be your greatest asset or your greatest liability. It makes you or breaks you. It lifts you up or drags you down. The right attitude may not let you do everything, but it will help you to do anything better than you would when your attitude is wrong. The happiest people in life don't undoubtedly have the best of everything; they simply try to make the best of everything. They're like a person in a remote village who daily goes to the well for water and says, 'Every time I come to this well, I come away with my bucket full,'

instead of saying, 'Do I have to keep going to this well every day!'

Your attitude has a profound influence on your approach to life. Ask a doctor if a patient's attitude can affect recovery time, or ask a teacher if a student's attitude has an impact on taking an exam.

Jesus said, 'According to your faith be it unto you' (Matthew 9:29). Like a magnet, faith draws on the strength which God offers.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess. 5:18)

From UCB Word for Today

After that we'll be looking forward to Easter with the appearance of Spring flavours on the menu and hopefully the arrival of Spring weather in Newhaven.

The other key piece of café news is about staffing changes. Many of you already know that I'm going to be retiring from my job as Café Manager in March. It's been a real privilege to have worked in this lovely community café for the last five and a half years and I'm so grateful to all the customers, volunteers and church members who have encouraged and supported me throughout that time.

As I move on I'm delighted to be able to introduce you to Bea Green who will be joining the team as the new Manager and I know you will give her a very warm welcome.

I'm confident the café will be in good hands under the leadership of Bea, Amy and Tamsin, and I look forward to seeing the place go from strength to strength in the months and years to come.

Best wishes

**Sandra Linda
Café Manager**



Youth Updates

Time never stands still. There always seems to be so much happening. I personally cannot believe that it's already February. Make time this year to look around you and find beauty in the simple things/people that surround you!.

Our Messy Church on 2nd February looked at how amazing people are. We all have wonderful abilities. We are God's masterpieces, each one unique. Everyone enthusiastically sung 'Build it' and chatted about how we can build one another up. Our crafts were drums, the dove of peace and placemats. The eagerly created drums added to the excitement of the singing of the song 'He has the whole world in His hands'.



Please take note of our upcoming events:

Inflatables

Saturday 23rd March

Information will be sent out on Monday 26th February about the time slots available.



Messy Church:

Friday 29 March - Easter Messy Church

Friday 19 April - an entertaining afternoon of games

Friday 17 May - Pre-schoolers Messy Church

**Sandy Edwards
Youth Worker**



Thank You from Tearfund

Dear Friends

Thank you so much for your church's gift of £286. Your generosity is helping to provide a livelihood and hope to people like Zuleima, a Venezuelan migrant living in Colombia.

'Sometimes I endured long queues for two days,' remembers Zuleima. 'Then when the supermarket finally opened its doors, [I would find] there was no food left.' Faced with no food on the supermarket shelves, 35-year-old Zuleima made the painful decision to uproot her life and move with her son to Colombia. Zuleima was determined to forge a future for her family and establish a growing woodwork business.

'I work with wood, mainly driftwood I collect from the beach and pine wood,' Zuleima explains. 'I make home decoration items.' But the situation for Venezuelan migrants entering Colombia is extremely difficult. The majority have no legal status so they cannot access formal employment, healthcare or other services.

Thanks to your church's generosity, Tearfund is supporting 15 self-help groups in Colombia through its local partner, AGAPE. Each group provides 15 Venezuelan migrant women with the opportunity to come together and regularly save money, support each other and receive business training.

Thanks to her self-help group, Zuleima has learnt to be disciplined and to rely on God. And thanks to you, AGAPE was able to gift Zuleima with a table saw. She is now making plans for the future. 'This has been the answer to my prayers,' says Zuleima. 'I used to ask myself, 'Where am I going to get the money to buy such an expensive tool, which is necessary to strengthen my business?'

Thank you for being part of God's solution – bringing hope and a future to people like Zuleima.



Yours in Christ

Newhaven Heritage

WATCH THIS SPACE!

In the last article published in *Harbour Lights*, Newhaven Heritage announced its aspiration to acquire, via the Community Empowerment Act, two empty ground floor flats in 4 Pier Place to be used as an educational facility.

Newhaven Heritage, a registered charity, sired by Newhaven Action Group, was formed in 2006 to reinstate the community museum that used to be in what is now Welch the Fishmongers at the harbour. Currently, the vision of a modern museum in the format envisaged is beyond the grasp of NH due to the lack of suitable premises. However, it is believed that the community can make full use of these two former dwellings if they are entrusted to NH's keeping. The properties would used to help young folk and locals better appreciate the village's heritage using a replica of a house of the Victorian period and NH's extensive archive of images and documents.



The good news is that NH was able to give a good account of its plans to the Stage One adjudicating panel consisting of councillors and council officers, and this was favourably received. Approval was given to proceed to Stage Two of the two-part process. This will give Newhaven Heritage the opportunity to provide the evidence and assurances that the Council will require before disposing of part of their estate.

At the time of writing, permission is required as a first step to seek the change of use for these two former houses to non-residential purposes. Newhaven Heritage has exciting plans for these flats located at the very centre of the village with their commanding view over the harbour.



In the words of the well-worn adage, watch this space!

www.newhavenheritage.scot

Gordon Young
Clerk to Newhaven Heritage



Thank You from Timothy

Dear Mrs Jackie Souness and friends:

How are you? I hope that you are fine with your family members. I am fine also with my fellow pupils in Kenya. Here in Nyamira the climate is cool and wet. I am writing this letter to assure you that next year I will joining grade 8 in this new curriculum of competency Based curriculum. I want to say thank you for bought me clothes, shoes and cause the previous year. Thank you for supporting me and I wish you a merry Christmas and happy new year 2024. May God bless you.



Heart of Newhaven

What goes on at The Heart?

Whilst we strive very hard to engage as widely as we can, this is still a very common question, so here is a snap shot of a typical week that includes:

- N.E Edinburgh Counselling Service by appointment
- Cyrenian lunch (every Monday, all welcome)
- Dressmaking with Ink on Mesh, a resident of the Heart
- Life drawing classes by another resident artist, Think Circus
- Pregnancy Café with Bump Start
- Slow and Steady yoga
- Pilates, zumba, basketball
- Knit and Natter (all welcome)
- Leith Folk Club
- Open 4 Coffee, Wed & Sat, 9am-12pm, all welcome (with ACE IT every Wed. offering free support with laptops, phones etc.)
- Newhaven Community Choir
- Gospel Group, Winners Chapel
- Cooking workshops
- Multi-Cultural Family Base sessions
- After school
- Men of Leith Men's Shed.



Coming up

We are delighted to have received a further 12 months funding from Age Scotland for our Dementia Meeting Centre which, from March, will be open every Wednesday from 1.30 - 3.30pm.

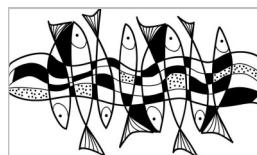
We have also received funding to support the development of our Community Garden in which we will develop a number of raised beds with different groups of older and younger people.

Plus, with support from The Heritage Lottery Fund, we are tackling essential repairs to the roof and windows of the oldest parts of the school. This funding also supports an intergenerational community heritage project 'Our Schooldays - memories and legacies - Heritage tales from Newhaven, Trinity and Leith Harbour'. We are aiming to have appointed a project co-ordinator by April who will be inviting people to get involved.

For more information on any activities visit our website: <https://heartofnewhaven.co.uk> or give us a ring on 0131 380 3504

Judy Crabb
Chair, HoNC

[www.heartofnewhaven.co.uk](https://heartofnewhaven.co.uk)



Be still, and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)

Don't be so self-centred, self-motivated or self-sufficient that you don't trust God and seek His guidance and presence.

Jesus said, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing' (John 15:5).

By letting God work in your life, you begin to realise that He is with you, you develop a deeper level of intimacy with Him, and you discover you can trust Him for the entire trip.



News from Kampi Child Care Centre

In November last year Rosemary Gilmore, who had worked with Georgie Orme at the Kampi Child Care Centre more than 20 years ago, went back to Kampi to visit the Child Care Centre. Rosemary, along with her brother Stephen and me from Newhaven Church, are the trustees of Kampi Disabled Children's Trust, the vehicle that raises funds from Newhaven Church and the Gilmore's network in Northern Ireland, to help provide finance each year to the Child Care Centre. When she was there, Rosemary was so pleased to see the continuing work of the Centre and in particular was able to report on two crucial developments.

First, the Centre has started the foundation work to build a new workshop that will be named after Georgie, and will commemorate the wonderful, loving work that Georgie did in Kampi. The photograph (below) shows the foundations being laid, with the existing buildings of the Child Care Centre in the background. The Kampi Disabled Children's Trust has made a financial contribution to the building of the workshop and so the congregation of Newhaven should be reassured that their generosity in supporting Kampi is being put to very practical and tangible use.

Second, Rosemary met with several of the children whom she had worked with when she was there all those years ago. Of course, they are now adults and living independent lives, in many cases without any obvious sign of their disabilities. This is a wonderful testament to the transforming work done by God in the Centre then and now. What is more, those same former pupils at the Centre are now keen to establish a former pupils group, to support one another and also to support the Centre through various projects such as chicken and goat rearing and clothes tailoring.

Please continue to give thanks for Kampi Child Care Centre and pray that it may continue to carry out its wonderful work.

Colin MacNeill



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

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Charity No. SC019117

Newhaven Church Roll

Added by Certificate of Transference

Colin Campbell
Cathy Campbell
Betty Lewis

Removed by Certificate of Transference

Blyth McLucas,
to St Leonard's, Dunfermline

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

Copy Deadline

Please send any items for
inclusion in the next issue of
Harbour Lights to the Editor,
Elaine Greig, or email her at:-
editor@n-c.org.uk

TGBTG

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