



# Parish News

Ferryhill Parish Church Magazine

Summer 2015

## Following the Footsteps

### Minister's Message



Where are you planning on going for holiday this year? It is a question I have been asked a few times recently.

And ordinarily I would respond by mentioning a trip away with the family to a cottage somewhere. I still hope we will manage that, but I also have some other plans for the beginning of the summer...

As part of a small group of five from different churches in the Presbytery of Aberdeen (the larger group of Church of Scotland covering the city and environs), I will be heading out to Malawi at the start of July. We will spend two weeks in Malawi, meeting with other folks working in their churches and in community organisations. It will, no doubt, be a packed trip, definitely not a holiday in that sense, but one in which I am sure many new friendships will be formed. I am looking forward to it greatly.

I am doing this as part of my "study leave" and one of the particular reasons for going will be to think about how we

can start to build bridges between our younger generations within these very different communities based here in Ferryhill and around Chigodi Church in Blantyre City Presbytery.



There will be lots to think about, and no doubt in the next issue of Parish News I will be able to share something of that experience with you.

There is a wee irony in that in all the years I was minister in Blantyre, Lanarkshire, the opportunity to visit Blantyre, Malawi did not come up—though it was often on my mind. The chance to visit and follow both in the footsteps of other church members from Ferryhill who have visited in the



## Inside...

Church News	2
Hosting the Moderator	3
Church Service Diary	3 & 5
Empowering Women	4
The Cosy House	5
Community News	6
Shaping Our Commitments	7
Summer Club Flyer	8

past and, of course, in the footsteps of David Livingstone, whose missionary contribution was such a part of the history of both Blantyres, means there is a sense of "at last" in making the plans to visit.

As part of a school programme devised a few years ago, I played the part of H.M. Stanley travelling in search of Dr David Livingstone, available online at <https://youtu.be/SP9o8OrsQyl>, it feels a bit like that is coming to fruition now.

That being said, it is clear in my mind that this trip is not so much about the past, it is much more about thinking ahead to the future and what possibilities may develop to support one another from afar and the good that churches here and in Malawi can bring to their communities.

Now... where are you planning on going this summer?

Wherever it may be, God's blessing go with you.

# Church News



## Bakes 'n' Books Sale

A Bakes 'n' Books sale will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday 20 June from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This will be in aid of the Manse Appeal Fund.

Note that the winning ticket for the Dons autographed football will be drawn at the sale, raffle tickets for this are available now priced £1 each.



## Long Service Certificates

Congratulations to Nan Chalmers, Rita King, Ida Scott, Edna Sainsbury and Edith Meldrum, elders at Ferryhill, who received Long Service Certificates from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev John Chalmers, at the Annual Presbytery Service held in Newhills Parish Church on 23rd April. All five have served thirty years as elders.

## Blantyre City Presbytery, Malawi, Flood Appeal

Following devastating flooding in parts of Malawi that had affected many regions earlier this year, and including some families within Chigodi Church, with whom we are twinned, that found themselves homeless as a result of the damage done through the floods, the Presbytery of Aberdeen Malawi Partnership Committee put out an appeal to congregations to raise funds to send to our partner Presbytery in Blantyre, Malawi to be used where most needed. £6,045 was raised as a result, including £436 from Ferryhill. Thank you to all those who contributed to this immediate and pressing need.

## Bridge Club

Interest has been expressed in re-starting the Bridge Club, which used to meet in the church. If anyone in the community is interested in organising a Bridge Club, please contact the church office (details on back page).



## The Tale Machine Summer Club

The Summer is coming... and with it the Summer Club team are busy planning for another fun packed Summer Club week for primary school children that will be running from Monday 3 to Sunday 9 August, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Please see the back page of this issue for further details.

For leaders and volunteers, preparation meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Room on:

- Thursday 4 June 2015
- Thursday 2 July 2015
- Thursday 23 July 2015
- Thursday 30 July 2015

## Church Website

Thankfully, the main church website is now back up and running so please do use this to check what is happening and get up-to-date information. This includes our minister's regular blog.

[www.ferryhillparishchurch.org](http://www.ferryhillparishchurch.org)



# Hosting the Moderator



Ferryhill Parish Church hosted the final event for the Moderator's visit with Aberdeen Presbytery in April. Rt Rev John Chalmers and Liz spent time meeting with young people and youth leaders from a number of churches across the presbytery from ourselves and South Holburn all the way to Bridge of Don St Columba's with folks from Craigiebuckler, Queen's Cross, Midstocket and Trinity Church in-between.

This was a great opportunity for John and Liz to meet with some of the young people and leaders and hear their stories and concerns, and also some of the very positive and creative ways in which churches are responding to the needs of young people. It also gave us a chance to hear from John some of the things he has picked up from other churches across Scotland on his travels and some of the challenges that the church must face as far as communicating with young people using the technology now available to enhance how we encourage young people in their own spiritual journey.

As always, it was remarked how young people today are as much seeking a spiritual dimension in life as anyone, but that the institutionalised church

as we know it often does not seem like the place in which young people will find a place to help that spiritual journey. There are great challenges here as we try to find ways to reach out and enable that journey for others.

Some of the ideas that came up included offering places of sanctuary and peace, perhaps for young people to come and study away from the loud busy-ness of many homes or as a place for quiet self-guided reflection (something akin to the labyrinths we have offered on a few occasions), to larger gatherings of young people for special events, and more joint working between churches in order to encourage young people.

After some nibbles, pizza and juice, John presented Ferryhill Kirk with a gift (see image on facing page). This is one of a trail of doves that he has left in his wake as he has visited places across the country. We will find a home for it in the coffee shop in the foyer so that you can see it if you are passing, but there is more to it than the simple beauty of a stained glass dove. It is made by a group of Christians in Bethlehem, the glass gathered from the devastation of bomb sites in that troubled region, as a symbol of hope and peace.

## Diary

### June Services

#### Sunday 7 June 2015

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"A Song of Praise"  
Sunday Club and Crèche
- 19:00 Café Connect in the Foyer

#### Sunday 14 June

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"A Song of Lament"  
Sunday Club & Crèche
- 18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group

#### Sunday 21 June

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"A Song of Confidence"  
Sunday Club & Crèche
- 18:00 Evening Service in the Memorial Chapel with Holy Communion

#### Sunday 28 June

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"A Song of Thanksgiving"  
Sunday Club & Crèche
- 18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group Summer Party

### Care Home Services

#### Wednesday 3 June

- 11:00 Cowdray Club

#### Sunday 28 June

- 18:00 Maryfield East

### Sunday Club Planning

#### Thursday 4 June

- 19:30 Upper Room (Church)

### Hall Lets

Ferryhill Parish Church has an extensive suite of rooms and halls available for let. If you would like to enquire about a hall let please contact the office or email [ferryhill-bookings@gmail.com](mailto:ferryhill-bookings@gmail.com).

# How Kuapa Kokoo is Empowering Women

At Kuapa Kokoo, the cocoa farmers' co-operative in Ghana that owns 45% of Divine Chocolate, the encouragement and mentoring of women has always been a priority and thousands of women have learned income-generating skills that help bring money into the family when there is no cocoa to sell.

About a third of Kuapa Kokoo's membership (over 80,000 farmers) are women – yet, although many women have now risen to positions at national level, the proportion of women members is not yet reflected in the elected roles farmers can contest within the organisation. A survey shows that a significant cause may be the disparity in literacy levels between men and women: illiteracy amongst the men is 65% while amongst women it is 85%.

To address this, Kuapa Kokoo is using financing from Divine's Producer Supporting and Development Fund and support from the Ministry of Non Formal Education to run literacy classes primarily focused on women.

Just learning to write your name puts you in the position of being able to sign for things and record transactions. Learning to recognise and read a few local and common words is a step forward in negotiating your way around your world. As Lydia Dufie in Sikaman says, "Now I can see which bus I need to take me home".

When women gather for literacy lessons and skills training, they learn



more than what the class is teaching. It confirms to them how important and useful education is and makes them more likely to insist on their children going to school and not working on the farm. Other learning is shared too. Lucy Boatemaa of Anwona village says, "Now I understand more about teenage pregnancy, I want to make sure my children don't have to go through what I had to".

These literacy and numeracy classes will be rolled out across the membership. If the first few lessons can have such a great impact, imagine what women could do when they have reading and writing in their grasp.

You can support this project by buying Divine Chocolate at the Ferryhill Church Fairtrade Stall or from the Treats Box located in the foyer during Coffee Shop hours.

We have small and large bars, milk and dark chocolate in a variety of flavours. So give in to temptation in the knowledge that you are helping to improve the lives of women in Ghana.

For more information, please visit <http://www.divinechocolate.com/>



# The COSY House

## Peter Cumming on the first year of The Cosy House

We began The Cosy House nearly a year ago now. It has been an interesting and eye opening experience so far and continues to throw up countless challenges and laughs. So far in our short time in existence (Summer 2014 no less) we have already conquered the entertainment industry, putting together our very own (dubbed) music video! This is available for you to view on YouTube at [http://youtu.be/Vs\\_CJ3Nx5C4](http://youtu.be/Vs_CJ3Nx5C4).

We have had several movie nights (from Paddington to The Croods - and everything else in between). We have even hosted the Moderator of the Church of Scotland (nae bad, right?). And we even tried our hand at cooking some special foods at Christmas!

When we are not hosting Church of Scotland royalty and shooting high end budget music videos (we wish!), a usual Sunday night consists of table

tennis, snooker, nukemball followed by hot chocolate while relaxing on beanbags, then a discussion and a constructive and meaningful task (picture below is a map of the world created by memory with our



thoughts added), before heading back to the high adrenaline games.

If you are Primary Seven and older (up to Secondary 6) please join us fortnightly on Sunday evenings, second and fourth Sunday in each month of term time, in the church foyer and hall at 6:30 p.m., we would love to see you there!



# Diary

## July Services

### Friday 3 July 2015

10:00 Ferryhill Primary School  
End of Year Service

### Sunday 5 July

11:00 Worship for all ages  
"A Song of Happiness"

### Sunday 12 July

11:00 Worship for all ages  
including the Sacrament of  
Holy Baptism

### Sunday 19 July

11:00 Worship for all ages

### Sunday 26 July

11:00 Worship for all ages

## Sunday Club Planning

### Thursday 2, 23 & 30 July

19:30 Upper Room (Church)

## August Services

### Sunday 2 August 2015

11:00 Worship for all ages

### Sunday 9 August

11:00 Worship for all ages  
"The Tale Machine"  
with the Summer Club

### Sunday 16 August

11:00 Worship for all ages

### Sunday 23 August

11:00 Worship for all ages  
Sunday Club and Crèche  
18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group

### Sunday 30 August

11:00 Worship for all ages  
Sunday Club and Crèche

## School Holidays

### Friday 3 July

Term ends for summer holiday

### Tuesday 18 August

Schools return

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Albury Outdoor Sports Centre Herb Garden

A community herb garden has been created at Albury Outdoor Sports Centre.



The Centre (entrance off Albury Road) already offers facilities to play tennis, lawn bowls, croquet and putting to local people and visitors. The herb garden now offers a further attraction to encourage people to visit the Centre.

This is in addition to the various groups that use the sports facilities on a regular basis, including a wellbeing group and a walking group.

People are welcome to visit the Centre and sample the herbs on offer, which include some familiar names such as Parsley, Chives and Oregano plus some lesser known ones like Feverfew and Borage. The herbs are housed in a raised container, which makes them easy to access for people who find bending difficult or who are in wheelchairs.

Albury Outdoor Sports Centre is a working partnership between local residents and Sport Aberdeen and is run by volunteers.

## Friends of Duthie Park Open Day

This will be held on Sunday 16 August 2015 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. with lots of attractions for the whole family.



## Duthie Park Environment Day

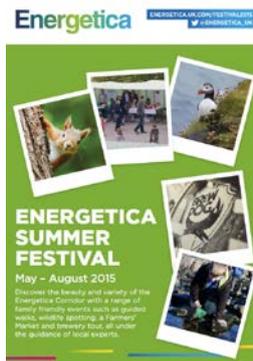
Join the Duthie Park Rangers and Special Guests for an afternoon of fabulous family fun! Also meet Hedwig from the Harry Potter films.

## Energetica 2015

The Energetica Summer Festival is back and is now in its third year, expanding and offering an even bigger selection of activities to residents and visitors. From guided walks and wildlife spotting to tours of the BrewDog brewery, there's plenty to choose from. Energetica is a 30-mile haven for walking, wildlife and stunning coastal scenery, stretching from the north of Aberdeen to Peterhead.

Take part in the activities running from through to August and discover the delights of this beautiful corridor in the north-east of Scotland.

[www.energetica.uk.com/festival2015](http://www.energetica.uk.com/festival2015)



## Community Council Quiz Night

Ferryhill and Ruthrieston Community Council (FRCC) are organising a quiz night for Friday 25 September at the Polmuir Bowling Club.

So, get yourselves into teams and start swotting up on general knowledge!

Ticket prices have still to be decided but will be finalised soon. Please reserve your tickets via [secretary@fr-cc.org](mailto:secretary@fr-cc.org) or [chair@fr-cc.org](mailto:chair@fr-cc.org).

## Community Council Elections

If you are interested in community issues and want to find out more, why not come along to a meeting of the Ferryhill and Ruthrieston Community Council? Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ferryhill Community Centre. There is no meeting scheduled for July. Please contact [secretary@fr-cc.org](mailto:secretary@fr-cc.org) or [chair@fr-cc.org](mailto:chair@fr-cc.org) for further information.

There will be formal elections taking place in October of this year to elect new Community Councillors. We need new members to keep the Community Council going as the majority of current Community Councillors will be coming to the end of their three year term. Please consider getting involved. Please contact Karen Rennie of Aberdeen City Council on [communitycouncils@aberdeency.gov.uk](mailto:communitycouncils@aberdeency.gov.uk) for further information.

## FRCC is on Twitter

You can follow FRCC using [@frcc\\_aberdeen](https://twitter.com/frcc_aberdeen).

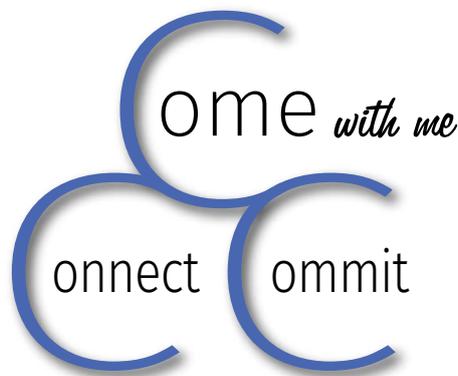
# Shaping Our Commitments

**W**hat do you value most in life? Which activities occupy most of your time? What are the natural gifts with which you have been blessed? What are your priorities for spending your money?

These and other questions have been the subject of our thoughts over the past couple of months at Ferryhill Parish Church. The reason for this is that we are continually striving to do what Jesus asked of those that follow him: that we serve others, serve our community, and in so doing serve him.

In order to do that many folks spend a huge amount of time and give generously to support and enable the work of the church. That commitment is appreciated deeply, though we recognise too that the costs of providing the Kirk building, which is such a valuable asset to the community, and used by many community groups, grows every year, and that we would like to be doing new things, particularly for young people.

We have thought about this through gatherings filled with activities, information and humour from our Doric Double Act, but not everyone could make it to one of those events.



For those unable to do so, we have made the booklets that accompanied our thoughts available both in the foyer at the church and online. These may help you think about your own gifts, your use of time and how you use money to support groups like the church in your community.

Please do pick up a copy of the booklets or check the church website for more information.

## Giving Online

We are also investigating how to make giving to the church easier and by the time this magazine is being circulated you should be able to do so online via the church website should you wish to do so. You do not need to be a member of the church in order to make such a donation.



# Hope's Promise

For what do you hope?

Is it some future event?  
Something that can be planned, researched, engineered or financed?  
Like a cure for cancer?  
Or a way of regenerating brain cells destroyed in dementia?  
Or marvellous DNA repairs for confused chromosomes?

For what do you hope?

Is it some notion that tomorrow will be better?  
That the benefits system will serve those in need?  
Or that Food Banks will no longer be necessary?  
That no one will sleep rough on our streets but that all will know shelter?

For what do you hope?

Is it for signs of world peace?  
The dismantling of refugee camps?  
The sharing of clean water?

For what do you hope?

The promise of God for God's people everywhere is to know peace in every situation because we are loved by the God whose name is love and who, in Christ, has already gathered us up in love.

Now that is something for which to hope.

A hope that will not disappoint.

## Ferryhill Parish Church

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# The Tale Machine

A Summer Holiday Club for Primary School Children

Monday 3 August to Sunday 9 August 2015

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cost: £1 per day



Will you be looking for something brilliant to do at the end of the holidays? Do you like games, stories, puppets, music, crafts, food and having a whole load of fun?

If you do, then our Summer Club is for you!

Flyers available at Ferryhill Parish Church or register your children online at [www.ferryhillparishchurch.org](http://www.ferryhillparishchurch.org)

More information from [summerclub@ferryhillparishchurch.org](mailto:summerclub@ferryhillparishchurch.org)

A Kirk for All  
at Ferryhill

