

Ferryhill Parish News

March 2013

Maxi Edition for delivery to each home in the parish by 3rd March

We are absolutely delighted to announce that the **Rev. Peter Johnston** was unanimously elected as minister of Ferryhill Parish Church after preaching as sole nominee on Sunday 10th February 2013. We look forward to welcoming Peter along with his wife Carolyn and their four children to Ferryhill in a few months and hope that he will have a happy and fulfilling ministry in our midst.

In the meantime, a lot of work needs to be done to prepare for their move to Aberdeen. Members of Ferryhill Parish Church are responsible for the upkeep of the church and manse buildings. Many of you know the Church buildings well but very few folk have seen further than the front room of the manse. This is your chance! During the vacancy you are invited to look round the manse at a **Manse Open Day on Saturday 9th March from 11am to 3pm**. Recently wet rot has been found in some areas of the house and the presbytery have insisted that, along with fixing this, we upgrade the manse to an acceptable modern standard, such as a second bathroom and double glazing. The Board and Session have agreed that this work is essential and needs to go ahead. We want the Johnston family to be happy and comfortable in our manse but it will cost a lot of money. All we ask is that, when you come to look around the manse, you bring folding money (cash), a cheque (made out to Ferryhill Parish Church) or sign a standing order for the Manse Appeal Fund. Gift Aid forms will be available for all these donations. Come and explore your manse and help start off our **Manse Appeal Fund** with a boost!

During the first three days of **Holy Week**, there will be an opportunity to **Pause for Prayer** in the same way as we did during Advent. The church will be open from 6.00 - 6.30pm from Monday 25th to Wednesday 27th March (inclusive) so that anyone who wishes can come to the church for a time of quiet prayer and contemplation. At 6.00pm there will be a short prayer of Approach to God, followed by a quiet, time of about twenty minutes, when those present can offer thanks for the past and pray for confidence in the present and vision for the future.

SERVICES IN MARCH

Sunday 3rd

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sacrament of Holy Communion.
(Children are welcome to participate fully in the Sacrament under the guidance of an adult)
Sunday Club and Crèche.
After church café

Sunday 10th (Mothering Sunday)

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club and Crèche.
After church café

Sunday 17th (Passion Sunday)

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club and Crèche.
After church café.

Tuesday 19th March

12.10p.m. Mid-week service of
approx 15 minutes.

Sunday 24th (Palm Sunday)

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club and Crèche.
After church café.

HOLY WEEK

Mon 25th – Wed 27th March

6.00-6.30 Pause for Prayer

Maundy Thursday 28th March

7.30 p.m. Agape Meal

Good Friday 29th March

7.30 p.m. Good Friday Meditation

Easter Day Sunday 31st March (N.B British Summer Time begins)

7.30 a.m. in the Duthie Park

Followed by breakfast in the halls

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion in the
Memorial Chapel.

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Crèche. After church café

Services in the Residential and Care Homes

Wednesday 6th at 11 a.m.

in the Cowdray Club

Sunday 24th at 6 p.m.

in Maryfield East

The Congregational Board

meets on Thursday 14th March
at 7.15. p.m.

The Kirk Session

meets on Thursday 21st March
at 7.15p.m.

Our Winter Study Series
“**TOMORROW’S CHRISTIAN a
Framework for Christian Living**”
continues with Session 4 on
Thursday 7th March from 6.30 to
8.00pm in the Foyer. The
evening starts with refreshments
and you are welcome to come
along even if you haven’t
attended before to reflect and
share your thoughts about
Christian Life.

Monday Fellowship

4th March - Salvation Army Talk
Mother Benett

18th March – Fairtrade Shelagh
Bain

Guild

6th March - Education - Bill Burnett

13th March – Spring Rally
Ferryhill Church 7.30pm

20th March – Victorian Pharmacy
Jenny Brown

Message for the Month

We are now into the season of Lent, and making our pilgrimage to Easter and the Cross. Pilgrimage is a familiar theme of faith and life in general. For years people have gone in pilgrimage as a representation of the journeys we all undertake in life. In fact journey is a helpful metaphor for understanding so much in our lives. As we journey we choose the paths on which we travel, and often it feels like particular paths also choose us. And of course, on any journey there are the unexpected happenings that can stop us suddenly and blow us off course. In our Sundays throughout March we join Jesus and his disciples as they journey to Jerusalem and all that will happen there.

We also make our own Lenten journey as we re-appraise what this Jesus, what this Easter faith means for us today. This is a journey of rediscovery and reappraisal we all must make. For most of us life is a journey of discovery. We discover our true selves; hopefully we learn to discern what is important in life and what is not. We learn who to trust, and who cannot be trusted. And all along this journey, which inevitably at times is rough, and at times smooth, we learn that we are never alone. The constant throughout this journey is faith - faith in a God, in a power beyond ourselves that we recognise most in the life of Jesus. God is revealed in his love, his justice and compassion.

That is why on our journey we can have faith that we never walk alone, and whatever the future may hold for us, we face it with the one in whom all journeys meet their fruition. A Prayer for you from the Iona Community:

Help us to accept, O Christ, that our paths may not be smooth and our journeys may often be risky.

Help us to accept vulnerability with no promise of security.

Help us to give you devotion with no promise of reward.

We don't know what we're asking when we ask for these things.

But give us hands to take the cup you hold out to us - a cup of companionship.

Help us gladly immerse ourselves in the baptism you want us to share and so to know you on the road with us that all our anxious thoughts of status, security and reward wash away and we are left with you, just you, astonished by your love for us again.

With all good wishes for you on your own journey,
Scott

Do you ever shop online? If so, why not register with www.easyfundraising.org.uk This is a system similar to Nectar but instead of points, your chosen cause receives a money donation from the retailer and there are thousands of retailers including John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Tesco Direct, Boots and Amazon to name a few. It's **easy!** Just log on, register with Ferryhill Parish Church as your cause and follow the simple on-screen instructions. Since we joined in December, nine shoppers have raised over £52 which will go towards the Tower and Spire fund. So why not have a go? It doesn't cost you anything. Posters in the Coffee Shop explain everything.



Fairtrade Fortnight 25th February – 10th March 2013

The focus of Fairtrade Fortnight this year is smallholder farmers who make up 50% of the world's hungry because they are unable to earn a living from the crops they grow. Fairtrade campaigners are asking for a sustainable world food system which works for everyone and ensures that small farmers get a decent livelihood from the crops that they grow. Join the campaign at www.fairtrade.org.uk or www.traidcraft.co.uk or www.oxfam.org.uk

There is enough food in the world to feed everyone. (<http://enoughfoodif.org/>)

- **IF** we give enough aid to stop children dying from hunger and help the poorest families feed themselves
- **IF** governments stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries, so that millions of people can free themselves from hunger
- **IF** we stop poor farmers being forced off their land and we grow crops to feed people not fuel cars
- **IF** governments and big companies are honest and open about their actions that stop people getting enough food.

On 10th March, you can buy home bakes made with Fairtrade ingredients at the Fairtrade Stall. All profits will be donated to Traidcraft. Mother's Day gifts and cards will also be on sale.

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