

Ferryhill Parish News

June, July August 2013

For delivery by 2nd June

As the summer approaches, we hope that it won't be too long before we can welcome Rev. Peter Johnston and his family to Ferryhill. It has not been possible to confirm a date for his induction because of the work which still needs to be done on the manse. You can read about this and the appeal which has been set up on page three. Along with this copy of Parish News, you will receive a form to facilitate what is hoped will be a generous response from the congregation to this important appeal.

Our locum minister, Elspeth McKay, leaves us at the end of June and her farewell is being marked by an evening of **Music for a Midsummer evening**, on **Friday, 21st June**, presented by Elspeth herself along with her guests, (whose identities at the moment remain known only to Elspeth herself!) We know that Elspeth is a very talented musician so we look forward to an interesting evening which will begin at **7pm** and will be followed by cheese and wine in the Hall. Tickets, £10 for adults and £5 for schoolchildren, will go on sale in early June in the Coffee Shop or on Sundays. We are hoping for a large audience to show appreciation for Elspeth's dedication to Ferryhill over the past two years. She has kindly offered to present this concert as a donation to the Manse Appeal Fund.

The **Summer Club** is always a week full of fun for all who attend. "Ferryhill Festivals" is a look at various festivals celebrated throughout the year using crafts, games, music, stories and much, much more! All children attending primary school after the Summer are very welcome. It runs from 5th-11th August 2013 between 9.15am to 12.15pm every morning at a cost of only £1 a day. No places are reserved, come on Monday 5th August and register at the door. For more information look for the posters or tel. Fiona on 590806. The Summer Club is very lucky to have a lot of dedicated helpers, all of whom are Disclosure Scotland checked. The next meetings are on 20th June, 4th and 18th July and 1st August at 7.30pm in the Small Hall. New volunteers are welcome to come to these meetings. A great way for everyone to help this year is to collect small artificial flowers. Please place these in the box provided in the Foyer.

PARISH REGISTER

Funerals

David Beattie	20.4.13
Annand Fullerton	5.5.13
Peter Geddes	7.5.13
Isobel Shewan	16.5.13

Baptisms

Dylan Nathan Morgan	28.4.13
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SERVICES IN JUNE

SUNDAY 2nd

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.

WEDNESDAY 5th

11 a.m. Service in the Cowdray Club

SUNDAY 9th

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

SUNDAY 16th

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

TUESDAY 18th

12.10 Mid-Week Service

SUNDAY 23rd

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

6 p.m. Maryfield East Care Home

SUNDAY 30th

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club Presentations

SERVICES IN JULY AND AUGUST

Please note that this summer the
**Sunday Services in July and
August will be at 11 am, not 10am
as in previous years.**

SUNDAY 4th August

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated during this service.*

SUNDAY 11th AUGUST

Service led by children
of the Summer Club.

*(Details of the Summer Club given on
page 1 in this edition of Parish News)*

**Sunday Club resumes on Sunday
25th August**

The Congregational Board

will meet on Wednesday 12th
June at 7.15 p.m.

**The Guild Summer outing to
Ballater and Braemar takes place
on Wednesday 26th June, leaving
from the church at 12.30pm**

Our Study Series "**TOMORROW'S
CHRISTIAN** a Framework for
Christian Living" concludes with
Session 6 – a spiritual experience
person - on Thursday 6th June
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.

MANSE UPDATE



There is a real sense of anticipation about the approaching new ministry at Ferryhill. It is hoped that Revd Peter Johnston will be with us by the middle of August. However the Church of Scotland will not allow his induction until the condition of the manse meets with the approval of Aberdeen Presbytery. Unfortunately serious wet rot has been found which needs to be sorted. Having raised sufficient funds, the Congregational Board has worked hard to get this work started, and it is now under way. However the manse does not meet the required standard regarding toilet and kitchen facilities (especially not for a family of six!) and is not fully double glazed, so we must address this. As you can imagine, this will be costly, so we have applied for and been given a grant of £20 000, and a loan of £80 000 from the Church of Scotland.

You are being reminded of the responsibility that we, a congregation of around 400 people, have for our Manse. It is the one large asset that we own. (The church is owned by the Church of Scotland General Trustees.) We are obliged to maintain it to the requirements of the Church of Scotland, and also as responsible property owners in a very desirable area of Aberdeen. It is not just the duty of the Kirk Session and a few others to do this; it is the shared responsibility of EVERYONE!

You are therefore being made aware that in order to pay back the loan from the Church of Scotland (at very preferential rates) we need to pay back £20 000 per year over the coming 5 years. If each one of our 400 members gave just £1 per week for the next 5 years, this would be done. As this is unlikely to happen, we are asking as many members as possible to make a regular commitment to this appeal, according to their means.

You are encouraged to give serious and prayerful consideration to enabling your church to pay back the loan in the required time (if we fail to do so it will cost us a whole lot more!) If you would like more information about this appeal, please contact the Session Clerk (Lorna Glen) or the Finance Convener (Mary Fraser). There is a response form inserted in this copy of Parish News for your use.

PLEASE help us in whatever way you can and play your part in enabling our new minister to have a well maintained home to come to with his family.

Instant Neighbour has seen a sharp increase in the number of individuals seeking food parcels since the beginning of 2013. Indeed, they have given out almost the same number of food parcels in the first four months in 2013 as they did during the whole of 2012 (1,265 so far in 2013 vs 1,343 in total in 2012). This represents a *268% increase* in the number of food parcels distributed by Instant Neighbour between 2012 and 2013.

This clearly represents a staggering increase in demand, and places an on-going strain on Instant Neighbour's resources and they are struggling to satisfy demand. Despite the historical fluctuations in numbers, the trend for 2013 is a worryingly sharp increase over previous levels of demand. Anecdotally, clients are visiting Instant Neighbour complaining of a lack of money due mainly to changes to the operation of the benefit system. Please help by donating non-perishable foods by leaving them in the trolley at the foot of the stairs.

Bethany Christian Trust supports 4,000 homeless and vulnerable people every year in Scotland to find, equip and maintain a home within their local community and helps with problems such as addictions, debt, unemployment and social isolation. The Bethany Shop at 123 George Street is appealing for donations. They would appreciate any donations of clothes, accessories, books, bric-a-brac, toys, jewellery etc. They can be handed in to the shop. For more information, phone 01224 640319 or see <http://www.bethanychristiantrust.com/>

At last the scaffolding, which has been surrounding the church for months, has been removed to reveal the lovely restoration work on the steeple. Check out the following YouTube clip by typing this link into your browser. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vq8tpK1uKi8> or log into YouTube and search for Ferryhill Church Steeple. You will see a couple of familiar faces!!

The recent **Books and Bakes Sale** raised £606 for the Manse Appeal Fund and thanks are due for that splendid result to all who donated to it as well as to those who attended, and of course to all who worked so hard to make it such a success. A similar Sale will be held in September. The photo shoot raised £120, also for the Manse appeal.

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