



Ferryhill Parish Church

The Church of Scotland

Ferryhill Parish News

February 2014

www.ferryhillparishchurch.org



*There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love,
and the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13.13



Minister's Message

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The Manse

Dear friends,

Dare one say it, but there are signs of Spring around us. In the planters around the church the shoots from the bulbs hidden in the earth have already started to peek through the soil. It is always a good feeling, even if, for those of us without green fingers, it brings the dread realisation that the garden will need tending once more.

Nurturing and tending new growth inevitably takes some effort. Over the past few months we have been nurturing and tending a new style for our parish magazine, and have experimented with how it looks, how much it will cost to produce, and how best to use Parish News as a means to help communicate with people across the parish.

There will be further changes in 2014 as we try to settle on a new format and timing. You can read about this on page 4. The intent, however, is to improve what we are doing to communicate with the widest number of people.

This also means adopting newer forms of communication, such as the church website, email and social media sites like facebook. In part to facilitate that, we are also looking to improve the contact information currently held for members and adherents (just names and addresses) to also include phone numbers and email addresses. You can read why on page 5. To this end, you will find a form inside this copy of Parish News. I encourage you to complete it and pass it on to a member of your Area Care Team or to bring it on a Sunday morning.

In the Great Commission, Jesus told his followers to go and teach all the nations. He did not specify the means to do so! Please do jump on board as much as you are comfortable so that you do not miss what is happening around Ferryhill Kirk and the community.

Every blessing go with you.

Services in February

Sunday 2nd February

11:00 Worship for all ages
Sunday Club, Crèche

Friday 7th February

19.30 Annual Presbytery Service
Led by the Moderator
Rt. Rev. Lorna Hood

Sunday 9th February

11:00 Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club, Crèche

Sunday 16th February

11:00 Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club, Crèche

18:00 Informal worship in the
Memorial Chapel with
Holy Communion

Tuesday 18th February

12:10 Mid-week service

Sunday 23rd February

11:00 All age Family Service
Sunday Club, Crèche.

Sunday 2nd March

11:00 Worship for all ages.
*Sacrament of Holy
Communion.*

Friday 7th March

19:00 World Day of Prayer

Care Home Services

Wednesday 5th February

11:00 Cowdray Club

Sunday 23rd February

18:00 Maryfield East

Meeting Diary

Monday 3rd February

14:15 Monday Fellowship
Family History

Wednesday 5th February

19:30 Guild
*Duthie Park Talk
Arthur Gill*

Wednesday 12th February

19:15 Congregational Board

Monday 17th February

14:15 Monday Fellowship
Music Yvonne Morton

Wednesday 19th February

19:30 Guild
*Discovery Talk
Ian Dow*

Changes to Parish News

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The beginning of a new ministry is always an opportunity to reflect on current practices and to consider whether improvements can be made. Parish News is no exception to this process. The monthly newsletter has existed in its current form for many years and, although it has always served a useful purpose, i.e. to inform members and the local community of events and developments at Ferryhill Church and invite folk to join in worship and activities within the church, it has been felt for a while that perhaps changes were required to make it more appealing.

The larger format December/January colour edition was very well received and many favourable comments were passed to the editor and the minister about the high quality, attractive and professional layout, the lively images

and the wide ranging content. The magazine, which was delivered to every home in the parish, contained the usual mixture of information about services, meetings and future events as well as prayers and reflections for the Advent season. A new addition was information about local events during the Festive season including articles from both the local primary school and the community centre, who were delighted to have some of their news included.

Methods of communication have evolved greatly since Parish News was first issued and today many of us receive our information electronically from email, websites or social media networks rather than on paper. At the same time we are, as an Eco-congregation, aware that we must try to reduce the amount of finite resources and energy we use. In addition, we must use the financial resources we have as responsibly and effectively as possible. As a church at the centre of the Ferryhill community, we have an important role to play not only in spreading the Gospel but also in providing opportunities for communication between ourselves and those living in our parish.

Taking all these issues into consideration, it has been agreed that from Spring 2014 Parish News will become a quarterly magazine, similar in format to the recent larger December/January edition, and issued to the whole parish in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

This new style magazine will contain a wide variety of articles relating to events in the church, including a page for children and families with news of Sunday Club activities and puzzles, games and craft activities, as well as items from groups within the community such as the school and the Community Council. It is hoped that other organisations may decide to contribute and that as a result, closer bonds may be established between the church and the local community.

There will no longer be a monthly newsletter for members only but we will be introducing other methods of communication so that everyone is kept up to date with what is happening in the church both locally and nationally.

Remember that the church website provides a helpful source of information and church news.

Facilitating Communication

To help us communicate better within the church to members and adherents, we are seeking to expand the contact information we hold to include phone numbers and email addresses.

The purpose is three-fold. It will provide the minister and Area Care Team members up-to-date contact information for those within their pastoral care. It will allow us to produce a printed Church Directory for all church members/adherents to enable people to communicate better with each other in our church family. It will also enable us to be able to produce a weekly online newsletter sent out using email addresses with news about what is coming up in the church.

To that end, a slip is included in this issue of Parish News. Please complete it and return it to us as soon as possible. It will only take a minute of your time.



Doing Things Differently

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On Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd February, the Wild Goose Resources Group of the Iona Community is leading a series of “workshops and other wonders” in Queen’s Cross Church. Friday evening is free, with a retiring offering and Saturday workshops are £5 for a half day and £9 for a whole day. All are welcome.

The two day event starts at 7.30pm on Friday 21st with **A BIG SING** with songs from around the world and nearer home. Musical expertise is neither guaranteed nor required.

On Saturday 22nd a number of workshops sessions are planned on the theme of **Exploring Worship**.

10.00am—12.30pm

Reclaiming the Bible as the People’s Book

Many lay people feel inadequate when discussing the Bible and some feel you have to agree with the minister or have to have studied theology to venture an opinion. This workshop it is not so much an attempt to humanise the Bible as much as to help people to use their natural intuition and gain confidence in opening its pages.

Children & Teenagers...Careful What You Wish For

Almost every congregation wishes it had more young people, but how do we arouse their curiosity about Jesus? This workshop provides some stories, struggles, successes, surprises and just one or two strategies in the on-going joy and challenge of being real among children and teenagers.

1.30—4.00pm

Re-imagining Places of Patience, Protest and Praise

Do our worship spaces constrain or liberate us? What would an ideal worship space look like anyway? Via exercises and conversations, this workshop will explore intersecting issues around space and place and that occasional ritual event we call Christian liturgy.

Enabling Congregational Song

It’s one thing to have a new hymn book, but another entirely to get people to sing, especially when “we don’t like new hymns”. The truth is that there is no difficulty, just a failure of nerve sometimes to trust ourselves and each other. This workshop will provide some handy tips to get folk singing.

Saint Valentine's Day

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The origin of St. Valentine, and how many St. Valentines there were, remains something of a mystery. The first official Saint Valentine's Day was declared on 14th of February by Pope Galasius in 496, in memory of a 3rd century martyred priest in Rome, but who exactly this priest was is unclear.

One opinion is that he was a Roman martyred for refusing to give up his Christian faith. Other historians hold that St Valentine was a temple priest jailed for defiance during the reign of Claudius.

The story goes that he defied Claudius by performing illegitimate marriage ceremonies and was jailed and ultimately beheaded, but not before he fell in love with the jailer's daughter. It is thought that on the

evening of his execution the bishop passed her a note which read "from your Valentine". This story has blossomed into the defining tradition of Valentine's Day. An estimated one billion cards are sent each year, making it the second largest card-sending holiday of the year behind Christmas.

Have you bought your Valentine's card or gift? On the first two Sundays of February, the Fairtrade Stall will be selling beautiful handmade Valentine's cards. The cards are made in Kathmandu by a company called GPI (Get Paper Industries) from cotton and paper waste. With profits from the sale of their products, GPI fund local community projects such as the local school which offers classes for local children with particular focus on girls as part of their "send your daughter to school" initiative.

There will also be some heart shaped necklaces and other gifts and, of course, lots of chocolate!

So why not treat your Valentine to a special gift which not only declares your love for him/her but also extends that love to struggling producers in other parts of the world.

Fairtrade Goes Bananas

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Bananas have been at the heart of Fairtrade since they appeared on our shelves 13 years ago. Since then a huge amount has been achieved, with over 1.2 billion Fairtrade bananas now sold in the UK each year. But with still only 1 in 3 bananas in British shops sold as Fairtrade, we still have a long way to go.



That's why Fairtrade Fortnight 2014 (**24 February—9 March**) marks the launch of a special campaign that aims to transform the banana industry to ensure those at the sharp end of the supply chain, get a fair deal.

As global exports have grown, many banana growers and workers have seen their earnings cut in real terms. Shockingly, the UK supermarket sector has almost halved the shelf price of loose bananas in the last 10 years even though the cost of producing

bananas has doubled. Most supermarkets battle each other every day through a highly-competitive and bitter price war driven by their desire to get more customers into their stores. In order to offer us cheap bananas, supermarkets use their massive buying power to keep the price they pay for them as low as possible. Unfortunately, this puts pressure on their suppliers and on banana farmers and workers, many of whom are caught in a cycle of poverty.

While Fairtrade provides a safety net for some banana farmers and workers, many still suffer. The Fairtrade Foundations is of the opinion that if supermarkets cannot work together to make pricing work for both consumers and farmers, it is time for the government to step in to end these unfair practices.

You can support the campaign by continuing to buy Fairtrade bananas and by signing the petition which will be available at the Fairtrade stall on Sunday 23rd February. You will also be able to buy home made banana muffins and banana bread.

The work to upgrade the manse, which was begun last spring, has almost been completed. Most of the work was done before the Johnston family moved in but since then all the windows at the rear of the property have been replaced with double-glazed uPVC units. All that remains is for the case and sash windows at the front of the house to be replaced but it was felt by all, including the Johnston family, that it would be better to wait until the Spring to have this done.

An appeal was launched last March to raise the money to pay back the £80,000 which we borrowed from the Church of Scotland to cover the cost of the refurbishment. There was also a grant of £20,000 from the Church of Scotland's Central Fabric Fund.

Repayments of £9,141 are due twice a year on 30 September and 31 March, ending 30 September 2018. Since the fund started in March 2013, donations and fundraising activities together have brought in around £28,000, including £8,200 transferred from the Coffee Shop from its surplus for 2012. Standing orders usually amount to about £350 per month, though it varies from month to month. Total costs up to 31

December are a little over £113,000 but there are some further invoices to come for instance for the remaining windows to be double-glazed. At 31 December 2013, the fund stood at around £30,000.

Please continue to contribute to the Appeal through donations or by supporting the fundraising events during 2014.

You may have noticed more scaffolding at the back of the church during January. As intimated in the November Parish News, following a report from Sholto Humphries of GPA Humphries (architects) unexpected but essential work has had to be carried out to repair slates, pointing and lead work at a cost of £10,000 in order to keep the building protected against wind and water.

At the time of writing, it is hoped that this work will be completed by the end of January, depending on the weather.

Given the age of the building, it is not surprising to learn that, while the contractors were working on the roof, they discovered more damage which will have to be addressed in the near future.

Church News

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Ferryhill Parish Church will be hosting a service led by Aberdeen Presbytery on Friday 7th February at 7.30 p.m. in which the Rt Rev Lorna Hood, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, will be welcomed by our own Gwen Haggart, Moderator of Aberdeen Presbytery, and invited to preach as part of Rt Rev Hood's visit to Aberdeen during her moderatorial year.

This service is open to all and will be followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

On 8th January, family and friends gathered in the church to celebrate and give thanks for the life of Moira Whyte. Moira was well known and greatly loved in the Ferryhill Church community and her lifelong commitment to children through her work as a sister at Aberdeen Children's Hospital and also as a nanny was remembered with thanks and affection. Moira was never happier than when she was surrounded by children and so it is particularly fitting that her family asked for donations to be given to the Archie Foundation.

The Archie Foundation 'Makes the Difference' for sick children and their families in the North of Scotland. They work to provide all the 'extras' that really do transform a sick child's time in hospital and even improve their health. This might be to provide specialist equipment that allows a child to be treated near or even in their own home or it might be providing support to the family of a sick child in a number of different ways.

The total raised was £1,625, a tremendous gift in memory of all the work Moira did for young people in Aberdeen.



Banish those winter blues and unwanted kilos!

After the success of last year's Ceilidh, the Fundraising Taskgroup are planning to repeat this popular event. It will be held on Friday 28 February in the church hall. The evening will begin at 7.30pm with a sit-down, two course supper with wine, during which David Martin, accordionist from Clatterin' Kist Ceilidh Band (and good friend of Ferryhill), will provide background continental accordion music. Later in the evening, David will accompany the dancing with a selection of Scottish dance music .

Caller for the dances will be Barbara Nicholson and she has promised to keep them easy to follow. So don't worry if you are not proficient at Scottish dances: Barbara will keep you right.

There will also be Scots songs and verse. Of course, as is the custom at Ceilidhs, anyone can offer to perform an impromptu

solo so we could be in for a few surprises!!

If last year is anything to go by, this will be a fun evening for all ages and a great opportunity for the church family to get together.

Admission will be by ticket only, purchased in advance, priced £15. These will go on sale on Monday 3rd February and can be purchased in the Coffee Shop from 9am –12 noon, from Monday to Saturday, on Sundays, or from any of the Fundraising Taskgroup. So get your ticket as soon as possible before they all disappear!

Donations to a raffle being held during the evening will be very much appreciated. This event is in aid of the Manse Appeal Fund.





Baptisms

Sunday 24th November

Calder James Rae

Sunday 5th January

Anthony Butler

Funerals

Thursday 24th October

Mrs Gertrude Norrie

Monday 9th December

Mrs Mary Ross

Wednesday 8th January 2014

Miss Moira Whyte

Monday 27th January

Mr Gerald Ritchie

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**A Kirk for All
at Ferryhill**

