



This Little Light Of Mine

Mary's Message

I don't know about you but winter is my favourite season. Long dark nights make me think of the delightful beauty



of the clear night sky and coming home to the roaring open fire, toasting crumpets and curling up on the sofa with a mug of hot chocolate (with a drop of Bailey's). Night time walking my dog is the best time when the clear dark night is pierced with countless stars especially the Milky Way and the occasional shooting star.

I feel fortunate to live in a Moray village where sometimes the Northern Lights appears so clearly. A deaf teenager I used to work with sees them as "God making music" which I thought was an excellent description. I also remember one visitor to Aberdeen asking what time the Northern Lights come on!

The size and awe of a clear night sky makes one think of the vast universe containing objects of incredible size and mass at distance which our minds cannot grasp. It always reminds me of two passages from the psalms: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of His hands." (19:1) and "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place..." (8:3) I imagine King David's memory of being a shepherd boy looking up in awe at the starry night sky, the brightness of the moon



and the path of the distant galaxy as he wrote. They all shouted about the timeless majestic grandeur of God's hands to give us the pleasure to see all the beauty of winter's night sky. When we consider the power of the Lord who made all this, we cannot help but to wonder and feel humbled.

The stars and the moon not only shed a little light onto the dark earth, their constellations also provide guidance. Need to know which direction is North? Just look for the Pole Star.

With their natural light, we can go almost anywhere. Without them we would lose a source of comfort and guidance, with no way to know what to do or where to go. It was into the darkness of night that the "Light of the world", as Jesus described himself, was born. However, this light is not just for Christmas but a source of illumination and guidance throughout our history, present and future. We have a light that shines, a light that illuminates and directs our pathway, and a light to bring us peace and hope.

The song "This little light of mine...I'm

going to let it shine..." always comes to my mind at this time of year. I pray that we all take the opportunity to be sources of light to the world through Jesus Christ, bringing our little light to fill the dark spaces with hope and peace in this winter time and always.

Have a wonderful, star-filled Christmas!

Mary Whittaker
Probationer Minister

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Church News



Sleep in the Park

The Youth Fellowship from South Holburn Parish Church and our own Cosy House youth group have teamed up and under the banner of "Ferryburn Fellowship" are supporting the *Sleep in the Park* event taking place in Princes Street Gardens on Saturday 9 December 2017. Six of us will be joining 9,000 other people in the gardens for a sleepout in solidarity with the homeless and to raise awareness of the rising numbers living on our streets.

Through this event it is hoped to raise £4 million to help put into effect a plan to eradicate homelessness in Scotland.

Ferryburn Fellowship need to raise a minimum of £600 in sponsorship in order to participate. The young folks would really appreciate your support.

You can make a donation securely through <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ferryburn-fellowship>.

Remember all those sleeping out on 9 December and, more importantly, those who sleep with no roof over their heads every night.

Church Administrator

Having served as our Church Administrator for the last year, we will be very sorry to say farewell to Lynda Johnston as she moves on to take up further responsibilities at St Andrew's Cathedral. We thank her for the support she was able to provide at Ferryhill Kirk and wish her well.

Christingle Service

The annual Christingle Service on Christmas Eve is a favourite for all ages. Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, the Christingles will be made in the hall after the morning service. All are welcome to stay behind for a snack and to help to make the Christingles, which will be distributed during the service at 6.30 p.m.



The Christingle is a reminder that we have a part to play in shining the light of God into our world, and sharing the love of God with all. Please come and join this fun activity.

Streaming Services

Each Sunday morning we are now live streaming our worship services via our YouTube channel. These are then also available to view later at your convenience. This is a great way for people who find themselves unable to leave their homes to be a part of our worshipping community, or for those who have missed a Sunday to catch up with the message.

It also means that for special services (such as a wedding or a funeral) at the church we have the ability for people who may not be able to be there in person to share that moment from afar either live or later.



Open YouTube and search for Ferryhill Parish Church to find our channel and please subscribe.



Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop will close on Saturday 16 December 2017 and reopen on Monday 15 January 2018 for the annual break. This will allow the team of volunteers, who are on duty once a fortnight, a well-earned two week break. We look forward to welcoming you back after the festive season.

If you have not visited the Coffee Shop before, do drop in and sample our cooked breakfasts (Mondays only), bacon and egg rolls, scones, pancakes, biscuits and Fairtrade tea and coffee any morning from 9.30-11.30 a.m. (and to 12 noon on Saturdays). You will be made very welcome.

Chigodi CCAP Twinning

While we have long had a relationship with our partner congregation Chigodi CCAP in Malawi, this has been under the auspices of a large covenant between Aberdeen Presbytery and Blantyre City Presbytery in Malawi. That situation has changed recently and we are now being encouraged to look into twinning agreement between congregations.

The Kirk Session has started that process and will be making contact with the leadership at Chigodi CCAP over the next months to try to put into place that twinning agreement.

Christmas Offerings

We have a number of special offerings over the Christmas period including at the School Service at the end of term, the Christingle and Watchnight services.

The money raised through these offerings will this year be split between two charities.

The Living Well Project

The Living Well Project is a Christian Charity set up by Newhills Parish Church, Bucksburn. It began in 2010 establishing a much needed befriending service for the lonely and isolated.



THE LIVING WELL PROJECT
living well café

The Living Well Café was then set up in 2015, in partnership with Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian and Alzheimer's Scotland. The Project is overseen by a Management Team from Newhills Church. Following the success of the two cafés at Newhills and Oldmachar Churches, two further cafés were opened in 2017, one here at Ferryhill Parish Church in April and one at High Church Hilton in August. The cafés cater for people with memory loss, dementia and their families and carers and operates in Ferryhill on alternate Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. They are staffed by trained volunteers along with two salaried coordinators who are always in attendance. Activities on offer include: Reminiscing, Singing and Dancing, Word Search, Aqua painting, Colouring, Jigsaw puzzles and Boccia. Various aid agencies also attend, when available, to give advice.

Just two of the comments received:

"The café allows the person to still integrate with people. People who will not judge him, they are in the same place/frame of mind. The music brings out a spark in him".

"What you are doing here is wonderful. You just have to look at the faces of the people.

Everyone looks happy and it is great to see the range of activities as well as everyone chatting together".

We have been able to set up this worthwhile facility here in Ferryhill with no financial cost to ourselves. Your contribution towards expanding this initiative in other areas of the city would be appreciated.

Vine Trust

Vine Trust is an international interdenominational volunteering charity which seeks to enable volunteers to make a real and significant difference to some of the poorest children and communities in the world. Established in 1985 in Bo'ness, Scotland, Vine Trust welcomes people from all backgrounds who share their ethos of caring and their belief that, whilst we can't help everyone, we can all help someone.

There are many isolated parts of the world where people live with no access to any medical services. In cooperation with local partners, medical ships work in Amazonia, Peru and Lake Victoria, Tanzania, to provide primary healthcare to some of the poorest people in the world.

To celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, Vine Trust acquired, modified and delivered a medical ship to Lake Victoria in Tanzania. In October 2014, The Princess Royal commissioned the vessel in Mwanza, Tanzania, the first medical ship Lake Victoria has ever seen. Due to the complex nature of the challenge being faced, the Programme's services must go beyond the clinical approach alone. Included in the plans are a variety of community-based initiatives which will engage community leaders, start support groups and train health champions. The Jubilee Hope Medical Programme will not only change lives, but help to save them.

www.vinetrust.org

Diary

December Services

Sunday 3 December 2017

Advent 1

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordofwarning"
Sunday Club
- 18:00 Café Connect in the Foyer

Wednesday 6 September

- 11:00 Service at Cowdray Club
Care Home

Sunday 10 December

Advent 2

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordoflife"
Sunday Club
- 18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group
meets at the Manse

Sunday 17 December

Advent 3

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordofwelcome"
Sunday Club

Sunday 24 December

Advent 4

Christmas Eve

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordofflesh"
- 12:00 Christingle preparations in
the church hall
- 18:30 Christingle Service
for families
- 23:00 Carol Singing
- 23:30 Watchnight Service

Monday 25 December

Christmas Day

- 10:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordofwooliness"
short family oriented service

Sunday 31 December

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordofwilderness"

Ferryhill Kirk Fundraising

Fundraising Events for the Manse Appeal Fund... The End is in Sight!

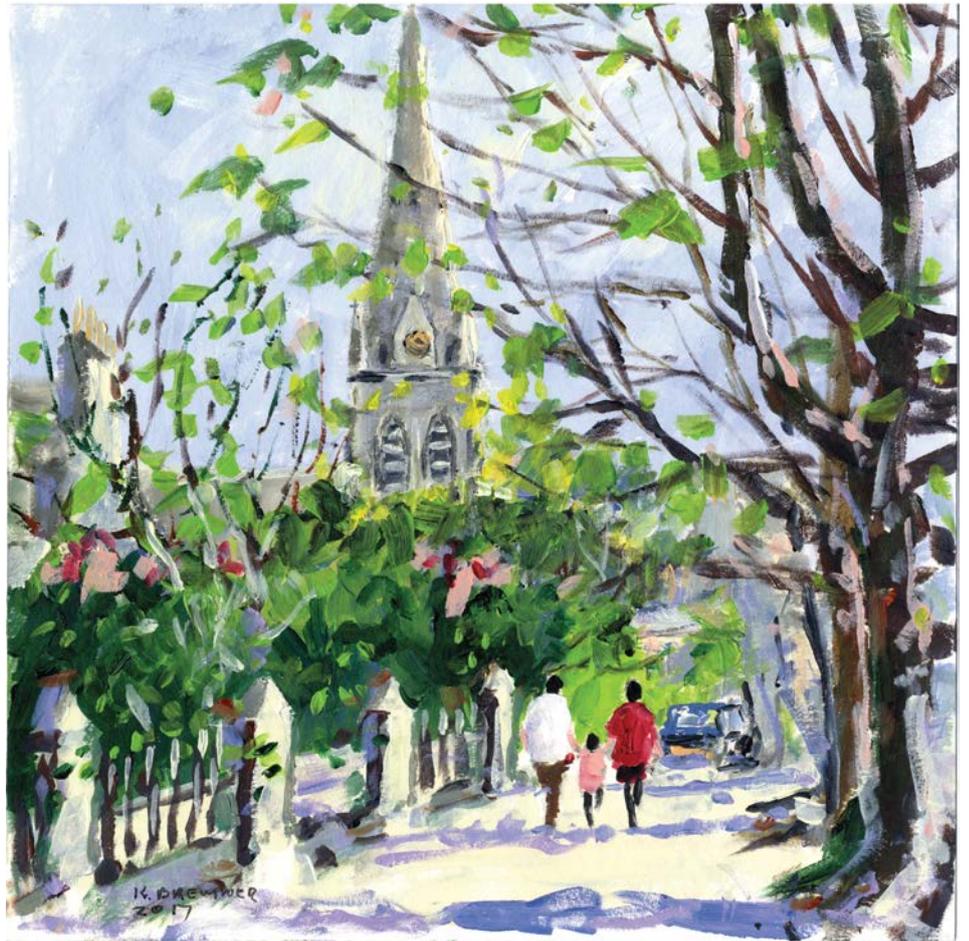
In 2013, after the retirement of Rev Ian Dick, members of Ferryhill Parish Church realised that a huge amount of work needed to be done to the Manse to make it suitable for a new minister and his or her family to call home! Bathrooms and kitchen required a major upgrade and Church of Scotland regulations meant that new double glazed windows had to be installed and local regulations required them to be wooden sash and case windows like the original ones. As with most building projects, once the work started, unforeseen problems were found, such as dry rot in various joists. To help cover the cost of the entire repair, upgrading and decorating work, an £80,000 loan was taken out to be repaid over five years. Many members set up standing orders for annual or monthly payments to help repay this loan and this has been invaluable.

The fundraising team have also organised a variety of events over the last four years to provide entertainment but also raise the extra money needed to pay off the loan. This year alone, we have raised almost £4,000 and the Christmas Fair will hopefully take us well over that.

We now have less than £6,000 to raise before September 2018. A final push is needed to finish off this appeal and your support for events in the coming year will be much appreciated.

Christmas Fair

The last fundraising event of 2017 is the very popular Christmas Fair, to be held on Saturday 2 December from 2 to 4 p.m. in the church halls. Afternoon cream teas will be served, faces will be painted and stalls selling Christmas crafts, table decorations, cards, home baking, sweets and



Fairtrade goods will be interspersed with competitions such as a raffle, a chocolate tombola, bottle stall, guess the price of the hamper and a chance to win an original painting of Ferryhill. Please support us by coming to enjoy the festive atmosphere and also by donating goods to the stalls and raffle.

Burns Supper

The first event of 2018 is a Burns Supper to be held in the church hall on Friday 26 January. We have excellent speakers, delicious food and traditional music arranged. Tickets are £15 each and include the meal and entertainment. You are welcome to bring your own drink (BYOB). Tickets will be available from the Coffee Shop in December.

Original Ferryhill Painting

Ferryhill Parish Church has been gifted an original painting called "Walking to Church, Ferryhill" by artist Kathleen Bremner. Kathleen has had much success painting unique and delicate interpretations of Aberdeen's vibrant city and surrounding landscape.

As this framed painting was generously donated as a fundraiser, it will be on display at the Christmas Fair and other fundraising events. You will have the chance to win this painting by paying just £5 to add your name and phone number to a grid of 100 boxes. When all the boxes are full, a number will be randomly selected to find a winner. This is a wonderful opportunity to own an original work of art portraying your local area.

Greeting card versions of this painting will also be for sale.

GIFTS FOR LIFE

Do you find yourself getting stressed as Christmas approaches and you just can't think what to get for a family member or friend who doesn't seem to need anything? So why not give something different this year? You might want to try "A Gift for Life" from

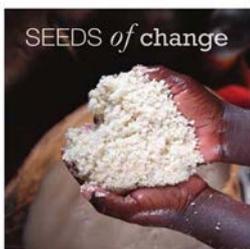


Traidcraft, which will transform the lives of people living in poverty in developing countries.

Traidcraft offers many different

gift options ranging from just £5 to £60. For £5 you could help support tea farmers in Kenya and Bangladesh to increase their yields, access training, and earn a better wage to provide for their families.

A £7 gift of seeds could support farmers to grow more resilient crops, helping them to stop the effects of climate



change and ensure a good harvest for themselves and their family.

For £20 you could enable groups of women to band together in friendship groups and have a more powerful voice so that they can negotiate higher

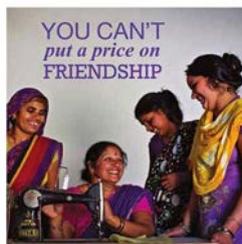
prices and better working conditions for themselves and their friends.

£45 could support projects which train farmers in the importance of diversifying their crops, so they can rely on a more secure, regular income and keep their families fed and their children in school.

Whichever gift you choose, you will receive a beautiful illustrated gift card and envelope in the post which you can personalise with your own message. The card also contains an explanation of what the donation helps fund.

100% of the cost of this gift goes directly to Traidcraft Exchange, supporting their campaigning and development projects across the world. They work in some of the world's poorest communities, helping people to get more out of the hard work they do every day. Their projects help people to increase their incomes and invest in their futures and those of their children. They really are the perfect Christmas gift.

For more information, visit www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/charitygifts or stop at the stall and ask one of the Team about Gifts for Life.



Diary

January Services

Wednesday 3 January 2018

11:00 Service at Cowdray Club Care Home

Sunday 7 January

11:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordofwitness"
including Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday Club

18:00 Café Connect in the Foyer

Sunday 14 January

11:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordofabundance"
Sunday Club

18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group in the Hall and Foyer

Sunday 21 January

11:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordofzealousness"
Sunday Club

18:00 Evening Service in the Memorial Chapel with Holy Communion

Sunday 28 January

11:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordofwisdom"
Sunday Club

18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group in the Hall and Foyer

New Year Prayer

Hogmanay passes,
New Year arrives,
memories fade,
resolutions waver,
but your love, God of fresh starts,
is sure and certain.

May I rest myself in your love,
open my heart to your will,
and learn to serve you:
in the way I treat other people;
speak to other people;
and seek the best for other people.
Amen.

Pushing Out The Boat

Pushing Out The Boat is a North East of Scotland magazine of new writing and the visual arts. Highly acclaimed as one of the best regional literary magazine in Scotland, it contains high quality writing, with a unique blend of the local and the global. The latest edition has been described as a 'beautifully produced treasure house of new writing and art'. It boasts an array of inspiring work from talented authors, poets

and artists, introduced by a glowing Foreword by novelist and poet Wayne Price and artist Tom Hammick's personal inspiration for the image on which the eye-catching cover is based.

Copies of the magazine are on sale in the Coffee Shop for £7.00 and would make an ideal Christmas gift.

For more information, visit www.pushingouttheboat.co.uk.

What We're About At The Kirk

Over the past year the Kirk Session and congregation at Ferryhill Parish Church have been engaged in a process called "Local Church Review". This is a means by which congregations have a chance to look at themselves and what they are doing in their communities, take stock, and plan ahead for the next five years.

As a result of this review, we have a new Action Plan which we will make available once the presbytery has accepted it. This covers a wide range of tasks, challenges, hopes and aspirations, noting the when and who for each task.

This process also provided us with a chance to revisit the Vision Statement that had been used for many years. We were keen to use the feedback from the congregational meeting in February 2017 when we considered what kind of church we are, and what priorities and ethos shapes our mission.

Who are we?

We are a worshipping community of faith, inviting and encouraging all, seeking to learn and live the way of Jesus, developing our experience of faithful living and humbly offering our service to God's world.

What do we offer?

We offer a community which is open to all, valuing and welcoming diversity, celebrating each person's uniqueness, recognising the uncertainty of life's journey and offering a safe place in which questions can be expressed.

What are we doing?

We are striving to be a loving and gracious community, working together to build relationships of inclusion and acceptance, of care and concern, of friendship and support, and participating in God's mission in Ferryhill and across God's world.

We sought to make our vision easily understood by reflecting three very simple questions:

- Who are we?
- What do we offer?
- What are we doing?

See the inset box for the final form that we agreed at the Kirk Session meeting in May 2017 and which is included in our five year Action Plan.

While these are just words they represent the expression of what is most important to us a part of the body of Christ, the Church of God, at work in our community and world to make a difference for the sake of all people.

If the responses to these simple questions speak to you then it might be time for you to think about your part within this vision. Could you be a part of what we are trying to do?

Do get in touch with our minister to find out more.

The Big Questions...

In the new year at our monthly Café Connect evenings we are going to be thinking about our "big questions". There is a huge number of questions around at the moment. These range from ethical issues through faith questions to the question of what kind of society and country do we wish to live within?

We need your help to decide which big questions to look at for each evening.



What is your burning question? What is the question that keeps nagging away? What question would you like to hear other people's opinions on?

If you have a question that you would like to share with the Worship Team that organises Café Connect to add to the mix please email it to us at worship@ferryhillparishchurch.org.

Café Connect usually meets on the first Sunday evening of each month and is open to anyone.

Please check the website for further details in due course where we will note which big questions we will be looking at and on which night.

Thank you!

CAROLS

Annual Carol Singing and Winter Barbecue

The traditional evening of singing, food and a chance to get together will take place on Sunday 17 December 2017 at 5 p.m. in the Albury Outdoor Sports Centre.



Entry is free as are the refreshments.

Note that this is an outdoor event so make sure everyone is wrapped up warm before you come and join us for the festive fun!

ARCHIE IN AFRICA

On Friday 3 October, Ferryhill School's Rights Respecting Steering Committee organised a fundraising day in aid of 'Archie in Africa'. All pupils and staff showed their support by wearing their pyjamas to school.

This year money raised was put towards buying special glasses for surgeons called 'loupes'. These cost £500 a pair and we are delighted that we managed to raise in excess of that with a grand total of £641.

Ferryhill School are proud to have supported Archie in Africa since its inception in 2015. Many schools, organisations and individuals throughout the North of Scotland have already been involved in the funding of the first ever operating theatre for children in Uganda. Prior to this, children were operated on in adult hospitals without the necessary specialist equipment for



children. Archie has now joined with the Wood Foundation and the focus has extended to include Malawi and Tanzania with operating theatres being installed in both these countries.

The United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Article

24 states 'Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care...richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this'. By focussing on this goal and supporting 'Archie' we hope that as well as helping to save lives, we have helped to make a real difference to the health and happiness of families and children in Uganda, Malawi and Tanzania.

Carol Concert in the Park

The annual Christmas Carol Concerts will be held on Saturday 16th December in the David Welch Winter Gardens in the Duthie Park. There will be two concerts, one at 11 a.m. and one at 2 p.m.

There will be a collection for Community Food Initiative for the Northeast at the entrance at both concerts. Donations of non-perishable food, toiletries or money will be very much appreciated.

CFINE is a local social enterprise and charity. They operate a food bank from their premises in Aberdeen, distributing emergency food parcels to those in need. They also redistribute perfectly edible, in-date surplus food from the food industry to charities and community organisations throughout the north east. In addition they offer a range of services to people experiencing food poverty, including financial capability and referrals. For more information, visit www.cfine.org.

Diary

February Services

Sunday 4 February 2018

11:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordofwellspring"
Sunday Club

18:00 Café Connect in the Foyer

Wednesday 7 February

11:00 Service at Cowdray Club
Care Home

Sunday 11 February

11:00 Worship for all ages
"#wordofwashing"

Sunday 18 February

11:00 Worship for all ages
Sunday Club

18:00 Evening Service in the
Memorial Chapel with
Holy Communion

Sunday 25 February

11:00 Worship for all ages
Sunday Club

18:30 The Cosy House Youth Group
in Church Hall & Foyer

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 bookings@ferryhillparishchurch.org.

Ferryhill Parish Church

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Wed 1:30-4:30 p.m.
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Christmas at Ferryhill

Opportunities to celebrate the birth of Jesus,
the Light of God coming to the world,
the Word of God made flesh to live with us,
bringing hope, peace, joy and love.

Christmas Eve 24 December 2017

11:00

Morning Worship Service
for all ages

12:00

Christingle preparations in the church hall
to help create the Christingles we will use later in the evening

18:30

Christingle Service
for families

23:00

Carol Singing

23:30

Watchnight Service

Christmas Day 25 December 2017

10:00

Morning Worship Service
A short family oriented service to which
children are welcome to bring a present to show

A Kirk for All
at Ferryhill

