



Sowing the Seeds

Minister's Message

I do hope you had a chance to enjoy the wonderful colours and textures that adorned the trees and pillars around the church over April



and May. So many people from the church and community were involved in knitting the squares that it truly represents the diversity of Ferryhill (though we also had some squares arrive from England and Portugal!).

It made a particular statement this year with the extended cold weather meaning that the usual signs of new life were very late in arriving. However on the day of writing this the blossom is out and forcing their way through the multicoloured yarnbombing are shoots with leaves beginning to unfurl.

The late start to the growing season, while a boon for those non-gardeners, like me, who have enjoyed an extra couple of months without weeding, is no doubt a real worry for farmers and cultivators wondering whether the seeds they sow will grow to harvest in the time remaining this year.

Some weeks ago Rev Mary Whittaker and I attended a conference on preaching in New College, Edinburgh. This was organised by the Church of Scotland but was open to all and benefitted from a range of different speakers talking about the role of preaching within the Kirk. Traditionally, of course, the Presbyterian church has been renowned for the centrality of the preached Word of God,



represented in many church buildings by a centrally mounted pulpit (once the case, though no longer in Ferryhill), rather than the focus being the altar or communion table. Over recent years in many parts of the Kirk there has been a growing recognition of other aspects of worship as important to develop, such as a greater emphasis on Holy Communion or participative liturgy, but preaching is still very important.

We may remember Jesus' parable about the Word of God represented by seeds sown by a farmer onto different types of ground: a path, rocky ground, among thorns, and in good soil. Jesus unpacks the parable for the disciples by describing the different responses people can have to the Word of God. The conference reminded me of this deep truth about the art of preaching: it is not about the preacher. When a sermon is doing what it should, then what is happening via the preacher's words is a communication and connection of the members of the congregation with the eternal and living Word of God. Without the active participation in receiving that message, the sermon is nothing. It only exists, to get philosophical, when it is received. Those carefully crafted words and arguments and questions

are nothing until they are offered into the community with God's speed and garner a response.

There is a lot more going on when preaching is taking place than perhaps we recognise! It is about all of us receiving and responding to the Word of God: receiving those seeds in our own lives; letting them grow and flourish so that the whole community is enriched and enlivened by our response; and then sharing that harvest of faith. We are all in this process together.

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Church News



Yarnbombing...

By the time this issue is printed our Yarnbombing of the trees around the church will have come down. What an impact they made throughout the Easter season in bringing a bit of colour to the top of the hill and stirring many conversations and photo ops!

We are busy washing the blankets now and finishing them off. We had considered giving these away, but we have been approached by some wanting to know if the blankets will be available after they have been used. Once they are finished we are going to sell them with all the proceeds going to support the local charity Instant Neighbour. If you might be interested in one of the blankets please contact Linda Kerr on 01224 954468 or kerrlinda@aol.com.

Church Quiz Night

Exercise the old grey matter and come join us for a quiz night at Ferryhill Kirk on Friday 1 June, 7 for 7:30 p.m. £5 per ticket with teams of four or come and join a team when you arrive. Light refreshments will be served, but please bring your own bottle. A raffle will be available and donations for this are most welcome.

Walking To Ferryhill Church

An update on the wonderful original painting by Kathleen Bremner is that it has not been won yet!

You still have a chance to win the picture by buying numbered squares at £5 each. We have had the picture on show and the grid of squares available at recent fundraising events and another opportunity will be at our Quiz Night on 1 June. After that we hope that all squares will be sold and we can reveal the lucky winner. If you would like a chance at this and cannot come to the Quiz Night please do get in touch so we can add your name. But you will need to be quick! Once we have a winner, there will be a lot of disappointed people who have been imagining the picture on a particular space on their wall. The good news is that you can order prints of the picture, unframed and slightly smaller than the original. The price will be under £20 and cost will depend on the number ordered. The more orders we receive, the lower will be the price. Greetings cards of the picture are available in our Coffee Shop now.

So if you would like to buy a square or order a print please get in touch. We will keep the ordering of prints open over the summer. Contact Ann Ralph, 01224 749521 or agralph@btinternet.com.

Manse Appeal

Good News! Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and the hard work of the Fundraising Team, we have been able to pay off the Church of Scotland loan for the manse renovation and upgrades a few months earlier than expected and saved more than £1,000 of interest payment as a result.

We are very grateful for the contributions made to the Manse Appeal Fund, either by regular giving or the support of the many fund

raising events held over the years and take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated to the fund.

Piper Alpha Disaster 30th Anniversary

It was 30 years ago that many of us woke on 7 July 1988 to the news that a terrible disaster had taken place overnight in the North Sea with the loss of 165 people from the oil rig Piper Alpha and two crewmen of the Standby Vessel Sandhaven.

To mark that anniversary, on Saturday 7 July we will keep the Church Sanctuary open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. providing a peaceful space in which to remember those who lost their lives and those who were affected by the worst offshore oil disaster in terms of lives lost and industry impact, one that touched many families in the North East as well as further afield.

Visitors will be drawn to the Memorial Chapel, home of the beautiful and meaningful Piper Alpha stained glass window. The church at present is also home to the Lord Provost's Book of Remembrance and visitors will be able to read the names of loved ones who lost their lives that night, as well as survivors' names and official letters of condolence from all over the world.

A short film with some memories from survivors of the disaster will also be available.

There will be the opportunity to light a small candle in remembrance. Anyone wishing to remember this event and the lives lost will be welcome.



Living Well Café



On Sunday 18 February we were delighted to welcome members of the Living Well Project to our morning worship to receive a cheque for £764.88 in response to our Christmas Appeal 2017. A similar amount was also sent to The Vine Trust.

During the service Jeanette Abel, Team Leader, gave a short presentation outlining the work of the Living Well Café at Ferryhill and also mentioned the other Cafés operating at Newhills, Oldmachar and High Hilton Churches.

The Living Well Café at Ferryhill is well supported by both café friends and carers and is held every second Thursday from 1-3 p.m. Jeanette noted how appreciative they were of the accommodation provided at Ferryhill and reminded everyone that this is a community effort. If you know of anyone who may benefit from being part of this group, please do let us know. The proceeds of the donation will be spent on equipment for the cafés to supplement the activities enjoyed which include Reminiscing, Singing and Dancing, Word Search, Aqua painting, Colouring, Jigsaw puzzles and Boccia to name just a few. Various forms of entertainment are provided on a regular basis and music especially plays a big part in the programme of events. Singing together is just one of the enjoyable

aspects of our afternoons. We always finish in a party atmosphere by taking part in the "Hokey Cokey" with everyone participating whether sitting in a chair, in a wheelchair or needing support and those who can still touch their toes would surprise you! Refreshments are provided throughout amid a very happy atmosphere.

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful team in our Leader Jeanette and our Coordinator, Linda Rendall. They are very talented as well as caring and provide so many extras to the entertainment on a Thursday. One of the highlights recently was the "Living Wellth Games" held during the Commonwealth Games fortnight and the sports our café friends enjoyed that day were truly remarkable with medals awarded to all.

The Ferryhill Living Well Café, which offers a safe, friendly, relaxed and welcoming space for people with a diagnosis of dementia or memory problems and their carers, has been a real success since its opening in April last year and with the support of you all and the volunteers involved we are delighted that it has now become part of the Church family here in Ferryhill.

For further information please contact Rita King, 01224 572391, or Shona Matthew, 01224 704378.

Diary

June Services

Sunday 3 June 2018

11:00 Worship for all ages
"The Ten Commandments
Part 2"
with Holy Communion
Sunday Club

Wednesday 6 June

11:00 Service at Cowdray Club
Care Home

Sunday 10 June

11:00 Worship for all ages
"The Ten Commandments
Part 3"
Sunday Club
18:30 Ferryburn Fellowship
Youth Group

Sunday 17 June

11:00 Worship for all ages
"From the Beginning"
Sunday Club

Sunday 24 June

11:00 Worship for all ages
"God Is Light"
Sunday Club
18:30 Ferryburn Fellowship
Youth Group at the manse

Hall Lets

Ferryhill Parish Church has an extensive suite of rooms and halls available for let. Details of the facilities available can be found on the church website.

If you would like to enquire about a hall let please contact the office or email our Hall Booking Coordinator: bookings@ferryhillparishchurch.org.

Getting To Know You...

How well do you know the folk at Ferryhill Church? Over the next few editions of Parish News, the editor will interview different people about their life and faith.

Our very own Session Clerk, Lorna Glen, has been elected as the Moderator for Aberdeen Presbytery for the coming year. Parish News caught up with her to find out how she is feeling about her appointment.

Congratulations on your appointment as Moderator of Aberdeen Presbytery. How do you feel about having been chosen?

A bit taken aback that Presbytery has the confidence that I am up for the task! But like anything else concerning a commitment in life, there is a job that needs doing, so I'll do it to the best of my ability, knowing that I'm part of a great team. Generally past Moderators have been Ministers, but I am the fourth Elder Moderator of Presbytery and also the fourth ever woman! I think it's significant that in this important year for women, I should have been asked, and for that reason alone, I had to give serious, prayerful thought to accepting the invitation and stepping up to the mark!

What is the role of the Moderator?

First and foremost the Moderator chairs the business of the eight ordinary meetings of Presbytery during the year, and any other business meetings arranged. Besides that, it's a case of representing the Church of Scotland at any other meetings or events that take place during the year such as the Kirking of the City Council, which is the first engagement of the Moderatorial year. There are regular events such as the dedication of the Nativity Scene at the Mither Kirk, the annual visit to Aberdeen of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (who this coming year is also a woman), and worship events such as the World Day of Prayer.



What would you like to achieve during your term of office?

The Church of Scotland is going through a time of dramatic change. There are a lot fewer ministers, fewer younger folk involved in the life of congregations, and more being demanded of the older generation, many of whom are less able than they'd like to be. The church is for ALL in the community, a spiritual home offering firstly worship, and also comfort, friendship, response to community need, support and inspiration. So I'd like to speak up for the Church of Scotland in Aberdeen, motivate people to find out what's going on in their local church in an age when people are seeking clearer meaning in life, and show that the presence of Christ is just around the corner (in our case at the top of the hill!). I'd like to play my part in welcoming new seekers to church communities across our city.

What are you most looking forward to in the busy year ahead?

At present there are several congregations without ministers in Aberdeen, and it would be lovely to take part in the welcome of a new minister to at least one of these churches. There are always things to celebrate across the churches in Aberdeen and I'd love to share and affirm whatever my fellow Christians are doing in their parishes for their communities.

Is there anything you are apprehensive about?

Not really. I know that there are controversial issues within the church, but I believe in listening and learning where people's views come from, in being gracious and respectful, explaining my position and looking for common ground so that we can work together where we are in agreement.

Do you think that the role of women in the church still needs to change?

Despite the past 100 years of change, there is still a way to go before women and men are indistinguishable in their status, roles and responsibilities. It being 50 years since the historic decision to ordain women as ministers in the Church of Scotland is a special celebration for us. Women no longer work away in the church behind the scenes; they play a full part in decision making at local and national level and I hope that they are treated with equal respect. However, we know that there are still issues today of pay and status inequality. Even in the Church there are still some pockets of resistance to women receiving equal treatment. Christ chose women to be amongst his disciples—Mary Magdalene, Susanna and Joanna—they were a significant part of his ministry. What was the case two thousand years ago should be even more true today.

Thank you, Lorna. We wish you every success in the year ahead. Our prayers go with you for a fulfilling, enjoyable and productive year.

CHURCH TRIPS



Oberammergau 2020

The German village of Oberammergau is world famous for the spectacular Passion Play performed solely by its residents and only every 10 years. Keeping a pledge made nearly 400 years ago, this re-enactment of the crucifixion of Christ is regarded by many as the most important passion play in the world.

The Ferryhill Worship Team is investigating the possibility for a group from Ferryhill congregation and friends/family to attend the play in the summer of 2020. As yet, no definite plans have been made, but since this will be a fairly expensive trip, if you think you might be interested, you may want to start saving now. Look out for more details in future issues or on the church website.

Congregational Retreat

A congregational retreat has been proposed for May 2019 to The Burn, a beautiful short stay study and leisure break centre set in a small country estate near Edzell. The purpose of the retreat is to allow folk to relax, discuss, socialise and enjoy being together. Cost for two nights, including all meals, is about £85 per person per night and accommodation is mostly in twin rooms, although there are family rooms also available. For more information about The Burn see www.theburn.goodenough.ac.uk.

More information about the trip will be available in due course, but please feel free to indicate your interest to Peter Johnston or Linda Kerr or any member of the Worship Team.

At The Heart—On The Edge

Queen's Cross Church and St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, are hosting at Queen's Cross on Wednesday 13 June from 10 a.m., a day to explore mission and ministry in relation to:

- Congregation—Liturgy and worship for day-to-day communal life, gathered and local.
- Commerce—Starting and sustaining distinctive enterprise to generate finance for churches.
- Compassion—Growing participation and volunteering to address social need locally.
- Culture—Using art, music and

performance to reimagine the Christian narrative in your context.

HeartEdge is a growing ecumenical network of churches and other organisations working across the UK and overseas aimed at creating new communities with those working at the heart of commerce, culture and community, those at the margins and on the edge, in order to learn, develop and share resources together.

Learn more about HeartEdge at <https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/life-st-martins/mission/heartedge/>.

Visit Queen's Cross website to book.

Diary

July Services

Sunday 1 July 2018

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"Spirit of Truth"
Sunday Club
- 12:00 Holy Communion
(after service)

Sunday 8 July

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"God Is Love"

Sunday 15 July

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"Where You Go, I Will Go"

Sunday 22 July

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"Welcomed By Boaz"

Sunday 29 July

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"The Cloak"

August Services

Sunday 5 August 2018

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"Ruth's Redemption"
Sunday Club
- 12:00 Holy Communion
(after service)

Sunday 12 August

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
Time Trekkers Summer Club
Service

Sunday 19 August

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"Who Are We?"

Sunday 26 August

- 11:00 Worship for all ages
"What Do We Offer?"
Sunday Club

COMMUNITY NEWS

A New Playground For Ferryhill School

As you may have heard, Ferryhill School Parent Council has launched an ambitious fundraising appeal to raise funds to completely transform the upper stages playground. Following an in-depth consultation process with pupils and staff, our exciting plans for the playground include fixed football/basketball posts, new line markings, a new shelter, bicycle stands, and—top priority—an adventure trail installed on safe surfacing.

The cost of all this will be just over £38,000 plus, if we can raise the funds required, another £46,600 on top to replace the tarmac. Doing it all in one go would be first prize but may not be realistic to achieve this year!

The school is open to the community year-round outside regular school hours, so achieving our target means that Ferryhill will have a fantastic new play facility for after-school and weekend fun. The adventure trail, which was chosen by the pupils, will have a 20-year guarantee so the work being done today will benefit our children for a long time to come.

Built in 1877, the school used to look across cornfields to Ferryhill Mill and has since been the home to many generations of Ferryhill residents. Over the years, the school has had several upgrades, including central heating, the walkway to the



annexe and the playing field and has grown from its original role of 200 children to 480 Nursery to P7 pupils today. The outside area has sadly not changed in the past few decades and the playground upgrade is long overdue.

With plans and approvals in place, we are now at the exciting stage where we need to raise the funds to ensure we can give our pupils the playground they deserve. Over the past few months, we have been very busy approaching funding programmes and local businesses within our catchment area for their support. Pupils and staff of Ferryhill are 100% behind the appeal and by the time this issue of Parish

News goes to press, they will, hopefully, have raised a few thousand pounds through a school-wide “grow a tenner” challenge as well as a sponsored run in Duthie Park.

How can you help?

Please help us by buying tickets for our main community fundraiser, the “Big Summer Raffle”.

With over £3,000 worth in prizes including a weekend away in Findhorn, a gas barbeque, teeth whitening, personal training, yoga, spa treatments, restaurant vouchers and many other prizes, this is a great opportunity to support us and, hopefully, get something in return.

Tickets come in books of five at a cost of £5 and can be purchased from the school office, church Coffee Shop, or by sending the Parent Council an email (below).

If you prefer, you can also support us financially by donating online at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ferryhill-playground.

If you have other ideas or suggestions, please contact the Parent Council at pcferryhill@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk. Your support today will make a huge difference for the children of Ferryhill, now and in twenty years’ time...

Angela Wigham





My Fair Lady Musical

The team at Phoenix Youth Theatre is busy working with the children and young people in advance of their performance of Lerner & Loewe's "My Fair Lady" in Aberdeen Arts Centre 19-23 May 2018. Tickets are now available.

My Fair Lady is the story of cockney flower-seller Eliza Doolittle, who is transformed into a society lady by phonetics expert, Professor Henry Higgins, as the result of a bet.

With a few hilarious gaffes along the way, not to mention an appearance from her ne'er-do-well father, Eliza's tuition in the art of speaking beautifully does not run smoothly. However, after much trial and tribulation, Higgins and his friend, Colonel Pickering, succeed in passing Eliza off as a member of London 'Society'. But that's not the end of the story—what is to become of Eliza now?

The glorious score includes such favourites as Wouldn't It Be Lovely? I Could Have Danced All Night, On the Street Where You Live, and Alfie Doolittle's rousing rendition of Get Me to the Church on Time.

This provides exceptional training in theatre skills right on your doorstep. Weekly theatre and dance classes for children aged 4-18 years of age are held at Ferryhill Church with some places still available for this term. The next enrolment will be in August 2018.

More information is available at www.phoenixaberdeen.co.uk or via 01224 863946.

Beginners-To-Intermediate Pilates Classes

Pilates can improve you strength, mobility and posture. Now running regularly at Ferryhill Parish Church with Caroline, a fully qualified level 3 matwork Pilates teacher, every class will be kept small and carefully planned to ensure you get the most out of your exercise.



PILATES TOGETHER in ABERDEEN

Class times are:

- Monday 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
- Tuesday 6:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.
- Thursday 6:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Please contact Caroline if you want to reserve a place at one of these classes at caroline@pilatestogether.co.uk or phone 07455 577543.

Traidcraft: Supporting Communities Worldwide

The Traidcraft Stall available every Sunday after the morning service in Ferryhill Parish Church is now stocking beautiful hand poured candles from Indonesia. The candles are made with 100% palm wax, which contributes to the sustainable production of palm oil. They do not contain paraffin, any animal-derived ingredients or artificial fragrances. Even the wicks are 100% cotton. They are designed to be kind to the earth and burn cleanly, producing minimal soot and smoke.

These are now available at the Traidcraft Stall or from the website www.traidcraftshop.co.uk.

Coffee Shop



Do remember that the Ferryhill Kirk Coffee Shop is open throughout the summer every morning (Monday to Saturday) with refreshments, scones, teacakes, bacon rolls, and more.

If you need a quiet break or a place to catch up with friends, it is an ideal venue right in the heart of the community, staffed by volunteers from the community.

Summer Flower Tubs

The Flower Team will be planting summer flowers in the tubs outside the church in June. If you might enjoy some gardening that will also benefit the whole community and would like to help with the planting, please contact Margaret Emslie, 01224 704129 or email m.a.emslie@btinternet.com.



Ferryhill Parish Church

Fonthill Road, Aberdeen, AB11 6UD

Church Office

Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 9 a.m.-12 noon

Wed 12 noon-3:00 p.m.

01224 213093

office@ferryhillparishchurch.org

www.ferryhillparishchurch.org

Parish News Editor: Shelagh Bain

01224 588744

editor@ferryhillparishchurch.org

Minister: Rev Peter Johnston

01224 949192

pjohnston@churchofscotland.org.uk



FERRYHILL PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PRESENTS

TIME TREKKERS

**A SUMMER CLUB FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN
6-10 & 12 AUGUST 2018**

This year the amazing Summer Club's Nutty Professor has built a time machine!

Will it work?

Who knows!

We will have to wait until 6th August to find out.

TIME TREKKERS is a fun filled week of stories, laughter, crafts, games and songs which will see us travel in space and time around the world. It runs from 10 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. Monday-Friday and on Sunday morning. All children attending Primary School after the summer holidays are very welcome.

We ask for a small donation of £1 per child per day to help cover the costs of the exciting week.

More information about **TIME TREKKERS** can be found on posters, flyers or on the church website, where you can also book a place.

Enquiries to summerclub@ferryhillparishchurch.org.

www.ferryhillparishchurch.org

