



# Parish News

Ferryhill Parish Church Magazine

Winter 2018/2019

## Seek, and you shall find

### Minister's Message

The second track of U2's seminal album, *The Joshua Tree*, is the gospel-influenced song *I still haven't found what I'm looking for*. I once heard a minister use the song as an example of "the current generation's inability to know what they need" which amused me deeply. The song is indeed a song of yearning, as the singer strives for what seems always just out of reach. It fits into a great tradition of faith songs from the psalms to the slave songs of the American cotton fields that yearn for a better future that seems always a step ahead of the present.



In the Christmas story in Matthew's gospel we find the story of the Magi, those wise travellers from the East who come seeking a King. In their long journey and deep commitment to their task we can sense that same yearning to celebrate something good that will impact the future positively. Their presence in the story is a reminder that this was not good news just for a single tribe in provincial Palestine, but rather for the whole world, and not just for a people under oppressive rule two millennia ago, but for all time. The human yearning for something better, that desire to seek for the good is a part of what makes us who we are.

Hope is a powerful motivator. And during the season of Advent in churches across the world it is one of the four themes we often focus upon: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

It can also be terribly misused and abused by those who are willing to manipulate people's hopes and aspirations for the future. The racist manipulates people's hopes of gaining control over their own future by finding a scapegoat to blame for their current predicament. The autocrat plays with people's hopes by positing that they, and only they, have the power to bring change that will benefit the people. The powerful are willing to lie to us about the



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future we hope for as long as it keeps them in power and wealthy.

The hopeful yearning for a better world that was implicit in Jesus' life and teaching is marked by a clear diagnosis of what was wrong with the world as he found it. Much of his ministry and teaching focussed on helping people grasp that hope in a different way of living meant grasping the interconnected nature of community, that healing comes in reconciliation, that inequality breeds division, and a better world cannot be imposed from outside but is nurtured within our own souls.

This Advent and Christmas I pray for you all to harness the hope of this season, to seek for what is good, and not to give up on what you're looking for.

Artwork by Leila Kleinsdam

# Church News

## Farewell Mary

Rev Mary Whittaker's probationary placement came to an end on 30 November after 15 months with Ferryhill and St John's Church for Deaf People. Whilst we are very sad to see Mary (and Scott) go, we are also delighted that Mary will be starting a new full-time ministry in the deaf community based at St John's Church for Deaf People in Aberdeen. It is not just for Aberdeen, though, as the post extends across the whole north of Scotland, from Perth to the Western Isles!



We wish Mary every blessing for the years to come. Mary starts in her new role on 1 December. An official service of introduction will be held in due course and will be intimated when we know the date and time.

Mary is pictured above with her sister, Anne, who has often provided interpretation for her sister on a Sunday morning, and with Scott, Mary's faithful hearing dog.

## Christmas Fair

Come and enjoy some festive fun at our Christmas Fair on Saturday 1 December from 2 to 4 p.m. The Large Hall and Foyer will be filled with stalls

selling Christmas crafts, hand made cards, festive wreaths, cakes, sweets, fine pieces and Traidcraft goods. Try your luck at the chocolate tombola, the bottle stall, the raffle or guess the baker's birthday or the cost of the Christmas hamper. You could also enter the raffle for a beautiful hand made quilt or get your face painted. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a festive mince pie and cream or a scone, jam and cream.

Donations for the stalls and raffle would be gratefully received during the previous week or on the Saturday morning.

## Remembrance Poppies

A tremendous response from both the community and church members saw more than 3,000 poppies created most of which were used to create an archway for the church's main door. Some were also used in the Remembrance Sunday service to commemorate the centenary of Armistice Day. We remembered those whose names we know from our community and those whose final resting place is unknown, their graves left without a name.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this community act of remembrance.

## Coffee Shop

You may have visited or heard about our popular coffee shop. Open from 9:30 to 11:30 am Monday to Friday and till noon on Saturdays, it is a great place to meet up with friends for a fly cup and a chat, and treat yourself to a sweet or savoury snack.

The Coffee Shop is staffed entirely by volunteers and there is always a big welcome for new helpers. Whether you have catering experience or no experience at all, and a little free time on your hands (as little as three hours once a fortnight), just speak to one of the volunteers in the Coffee Shop and

become part of the team, giving a little something back to the community.

## Sleep In The Park 2018

Last year five members of Ferryburn Fellowship, our joint youth group with South Holburn Parish Church, headed down to Edinburgh to participate in Sleep In The Park. This year nine members of the youth group are going to participate by sleeping out in Duthie Park as one of four venues for this year's Sleep In The Park on the night of Saturday 8 December.

The initial target of raising £900 to sponsor those participating has already been surpassed at the time of writing but you are very welcome to make a further donation through the fundraising page [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/ferryburn-fellowship1](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/ferryburn-fellowship1).

The purpose of Sleep In The Park is to raise awareness and funds to help eradicate homelessness in Scotland. Last year £4m was raised.

## 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, one local and one international.

### *The Sisterland Project*

The Sisterland Project was set up by local charity Kids Action to provide safe shelter and training to some of the many homeless women and their children living on the streets in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The project works in collaboration with a non-profit organisation in Freetown, running a house that has been leased there. Women usually stay for around six months and are given training to enable them to become self-sufficient when they leave.



## The Sisterland Project

Some of you will remember that we supported Aberdeen St Fitticks Rotary Club earlier this year when they organised a container of furniture and equipment to be sent out to Sierra Leone to fit out this house.

The next phase of the project is to build a nursery school in the grounds of the house, which St Fitticks Rotary Club is again planning to help equip, funded by a grant from Rotary International. The primary schools in Ferryhill, Torry and Kincorth will be involved in collecting books, toys, etc., but money will be required to cover the transport costs.

This is an opportunity to be part of a unique community effort and we feel that contributing towards such a cause is appropriate for our overseas donations. For more information, visit [www.sisterland.org](http://www.sisterland.org).

### City Centre Work Place Chaplaincy

Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland (WPCS) is a Christian charity with its roots deep in Scotland's industrial past. The charity has evolved from the 'Scottish Churches Industrial Mission' to take up the 21st century challenge of providing pastoral and spiritual care to more than 1000 business outlets, local authorities, emergency services and transport hubs, such as airports and bus depots across the country. It aims to offer relevant pastoral and spiritual support to people where they

are – in the setting of their daily work and individual lives. The chaplain is available to all, of all denominations or none, from the managing director to the new-start apprentice.

The Rev Ron Flett, a chaplain with WPCS, came to Aberdeen in 2013. He has worked with companies and Aberdeen City Council to provide access to WPCS services for staff in a wide variety of organisations, such as shopping centres, restaurants, pubs and the Fire and Rescue Service. Many staff members, struggling with challenging situations in their lives have appreciated the workplace chaplain who provides a listening compassionate ear, and, where possible, advice and guidance to access other services.

As funding is at risk for this valuable local service which supports a number of local people we believe that this is a worthwhile recipient for our local charity donation.

For more information, visit [www.wpcscotland.co.uk](http://www.wpcscotland.co.uk).



# Diary

## December Services

### Sunday 2 December 2018

11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Moses' Birth Story"  
including chat and a cuppa  
at 11:45 in the Large Hall

### Wednesday 5 December

11:00 Service at Cowdray Club  
Care Home

### Sunday 9 December

11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Samson's Birth Story"  
including chat and a cuppa  
at 11:45 in the Large Hall

18:30 Ferryburn Fellowship  
Youth Group in Manse

### Wednesday 12 December

19:00 Carol Singing at Whinhill Gait

### Sunday 16 December

11:00 Worship for all ages  
"John's Birth Story"  
including chat and a cuppa  
at 11:45 in the Large Hall

### Friday 21 December

09:30 Ferryhill Primary School  
Christmas Service

### Sunday 23 December

11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Mary & Joseph's Story"  
including chat and a cuppa  
at 11:45 in the Large Hall

### Monday 24 December

10:00 Christingle Preparation  
18:00 Christingle Service  
for families  
23:00 Carol Singing  
23:30 Watchnight Service

### Tuesday 25 December

10:00 Christmas Day Family Service

### Sunday 30 December

11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Gospel Repercussions"

# Getting To Know You...

*In our series of "Getting to Know You" interviews we meet Audrey Skinner, who recently joined Ferryhill Parish Church.*

## **How did you become a member at Ferryhill?**

I was previously a member at Queen Street Church but, following the union in October 2017 with St Mark's Church, I required to find somewhere more accessible, preferably with no stairs. Living in Kincorth, I was very familiar with Ferryhill Church, it being on my regular bus route to and from town, so I decided to try it and was very glad I did.

## **What do you like about Ferryhill Church?**

Pretty much everything. It is a very attractive building, with a beautiful sanctuary. It has a cosy and welcoming feeling to it as soon as you cross the threshold, and much to admire re what is going on inside. I have been made to feel very welcome since I joined in November 2017 and would like to thank the congregation for all their friendly help. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that I already knew many of the members enabling me to settle in quite quickly. I very much enjoy Sunday Worship led by Rev Peter Johnston, ably assisted by members young and old as they carry out their various duties and readings; and not forgetting the organist Kevin Haggart, who produces such amazing music.

## **What hymns make your skin tingle?**

'In Christ alone'; 'How deep the Father's love for us'; and 'The Lord's my Shepherd' all by Stuart Townend. 'The King of Love my Shepherd is', and 'Lord of all hopefulness' from CH4. Most moving of all is, 'The Lord bless you and keep you', especially when sung at baptisms. I am always moved to tears and find it impossible to sing it through to the end.

## **What difference does your faith make to your life?**

It gives me strength to see me through life's difficulties but most of all it gives me joy; joy in all the friends that have become part of my life through the fellowship of the church, the Guild and other Christian organisations and groups; joy in that precious sense of belonging; joy in knowing, as the scriptures tell us, that we can never be separated from the Love of God.

## **Finding God: wham bang wallop or slow and steady?**

Slow and steady; starting with Sunday Schools but eventually missing most of the teenage years when I turned away from the church. I returned to church not for me, but to accompany my best friend who was getting married. Her mother would not allow her to be married in church unless she became a member, so I gave in to her pleading to go along with her. She duly got married, took off for Cyprus with her soldier husband and I was left having taken vows before God and the congregation and questioning myself about that. I attended fairly regularly, and was in time taken under the wing of my district elder and his wife who became close friends, and who encouraged and supported me to become active within the congregation.

And so began the real growth in my faith as I became fully immersed in the life and work of the congregation at Greyfriars through Sunday School; Young Woman's Group; Woman's Guild and Presbyterian Council; Kirk Session and Congregational Board; World Church Group which included Christian Aid; Commissioner to Presbytery; and Congregational rep. to the local Branch of the Scottish Bible Society. I am still involved with the Bible Society serving now as Chairperson of the local Action Group. I credit membership of The Guild for the strengthening of my faith, meeting with so many people for whom Jesus was real and a major part of their lives.



## **What activities are you involved in at church?**

The Greyfriars years were very busy years and I fear that the Ferryhill years will be much less so, as I am far less able than before and the years are piling up. I am attending the Monday Fellowship, the Guild, and the Living Well Café (as a helper), although I am not a lot of help yet. I hope to do better as the weeks go by.

## **If you could ask God two questions, what would they be?**

- 1) Why do some people get so much more than their fair share of tragedy and trauma?
- 2) Was it really necessary to create wasps?

## **What could the Church of Scotland do better?**

We could and should blow our own trumpet more than we do. The public image of the Church (that's us by the way) is not what it should be - we do not seem to be accepted as committed people of faith, love and joy. We need to be cheerful about the kirk. Let's not dwell on falling numbers; instead let's look at the quality of those who are attending, faithful happy friendly people trying to be the best they can be. Encouragement is what we need: we should not feel guilty about what is not being done, rather we should take account of what is being done. As long as love for God is at the heart of it, all is well.

# Advent Adventure: Important Births

The Worship Team each year tries to think of a way to help us connect with the season of Advent and the run up to Christmas. After a few years of amazing artistic creations the team has decided to try something a bit different for 2018.

Over the four weeks of Advent (Sunday 2, 9, 16 and 23 December) we are going to think about some of the important birth stories we find in the Bible from Moses in Egypt through Samson and John the Baptist to the preparations of Mary and Joseph for Jesus' own birth. We want to learn about what happened, what the different stories have in common and what they reveal to us about life today.

## Worship/Chat Over A Cuppa

And to help us do that together we are going to do things a bit differently each morning of Advent.

We will start at 11 a.m. as usual in the church sanctuary for a gathered time of worship with all ages together when we will be introduced to the important birth story that is our focus for that Sunday. After 45 minutes we will then move together through to the Church Hall to gather for a cuppa and a snack.

Over that time, gathered around tables, we will all then have a chance to chat about the birth story we



have heard. Some discussion starter questions and points will be provided and there will be a host on each table so we all know what we are doing.

## Tree Decorations

As a way for us to reflect on those conversations we will have some wee object onto which a simple message can be left (each week we will have a different prompt) and these will be added to the main Christmas Tree over the course of Advent so that the tree becomes more and more decorated with our thoughts and prayers.

We anticipate that taking around 30 minutes at the end of which we will sing a last song and say the grace to each other as our time of worship and chat comes to a close.

# Follow Me...

When Jesus was inviting people to join him in the way of life that he was revealing he simply said, "Follow me!" In the new year we will be offering an opportunity for you to find out what that means for us today.

Of course, we do not have to be a member of a church in order to follow Jesus' way, but it does help! It helps

because we can do it together rather than feeling we are doing it on our own. We support each other and help build each other up in order to follow Jesus.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a part of Ferryhill Kirk's family, please contact Peter at [pjohnston@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:pjohnston@churchofscotland.org.uk). Details of membership course to follow.

# Diary

## January Services

### Wednesday 2 January 2019

11:00 Service at Cowdray Club Care Home

### Sunday 6 January

11:00 Worship for all ages "Light Comes" including the Sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday Club

### Sunday 13 January

11:00 Worship for all ages "John's Testimony" Sunday Club  
18:30 Ferryburn Fellowship Youth Group

### Sunday 20 January

11:00 Worship for all ages "The Wicked Tenants" Sunday Club

### Sunday 27 January

11:00 Worship for all ages "The House Builders" Sunday Club  
18:30 Ferryburn Fellowship Youth Group

## 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](mailto:bookings@ferryhillparishchurch.org).

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Bon Accord Silver Band

Experience the very best Christmas concert in Aberdeen, with the Bon-Accord Silver Bands.

The Bon-Accord Silver Band, and the Bon-Accord Silver 'B' Band will be filling Ferryhill Parish Church with festive joy and that warm, fuzzy feeling of Christmas.

The bands will be performing a mixture of traditional and modern Christmas classics and there will be plenty of opportunity for you to sing along to your favourite carols.

Mince pies and mulled wine will be available at the interval and will once again be included in your ticket price.

We hope to see you all there again this year—you can wear your favourite Christmas jumper if you wish!

Tickets £8 for adults and £5 for concessions available on the door.

## Carol Concerts in Duthie Park

The annual carol concert will take place in the David Welch Winter Gardens, Duthie Park on Saturday 15 December at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Entry is free.

Come along and join in singing your favourite carols to the accompaniment of the Bon Accord Silver Band and singers. Food bank donations are also being accepted in aid of CFINE, a social enterprise charity committed to improving health and wellbeing for all.

## Beginners-To-Improvers Pilates Classes

Pilates targets the deep postural muscles, building strength from the inside out, rebalancing the body and bringing it into correct alignment. It can improve your strength, mobility and posture.

Pilates classes now run regularly at Ferryhill Parish Church with Caroline, a fully qualified level 3 Matwork Pilates teacher. Every class is kept small and carefully planned to ensure you get the most out of your exercise.

Classes begin in the second week in September and run for a six-week block. Class times are as follows:

- Monday 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
- Thursday 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.



Please contact Caroline at [caroline@pilatestogether.co.uk](mailto:caroline@pilatestogether.co.uk) or phone 07455 577543. On Facebook and Instagram: @pilatestogetheruk.

## Taoist Tai Chi™ Classes

The stresses of daily life can take their toll on the body as well as the mind. The gentle, yet thorough, stretching and turning in our Tai Chi can help re-balance the body, calm the mind and improve health and wellbeing.

Taoist Tai Chi™ is distinguished at the physical level by stretching, full range of motion and the continuous turning of the waist and spine. The movements exercise the whole physiology; including the tendons, joints, connective tissue and internal organs. Mentally, they are a method of developing an attitude of calm, compassion and reduced self centeredness both during practice and in daily life.

Regular practice can bring a wide range of health benefits to the muscular, skeletal and circulatory systems. The flowing movements serve as a moving meditation that helps reduce stress. Learning the sequence of slow and gentle movements in a friendly, supportive environment is a stimulating mental challenge to help relax mind and body from the cares of a busy day. It takes about 3 to 4 months to learn the 108 moves set and be able to do them with a group.

The beginner class format is quite simple and people of all ages and conditions can learn. The moves can be performed in any comfortable clothing. All the instructors are volunteers and all branches operate on a non-profit basis. Fees are used to pay operating costs such as hall rent and advertising. A beginner class in Ferryhill Parish Church Hall runs on Tuesdays from 9.30 to 11.15 so come along and give it a try (first class free).

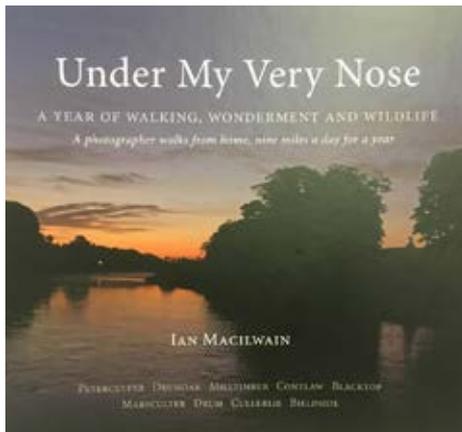
For further information, including details of other beginner classes in the Aberdeen area, please visit the website [www.taoist.org.uk](http://www.taoist.org.uk) or phone 07927 332 036 or email [gb@taoist.org](mailto:gb@taoist.org).

## An Appeal From Finn Allan

**M**y name is Finn Allan and I am a 5th year pupil at Harlaw Academy.

In 2020 I will be attending an expedition to the north of India where we will be participating in a community project, building a greenhouse for a village in the Indian Himalayas.

As part of my fundraising I am selling a book called "Under my Very Nose" by author Ian Macilwain. Ian has spent a year walking in the area, taking lots of photos and has put together a brilliant collection that would make an ideal Christmas present.



The book is on display in the foyer at church, costs £20 and is available from me. You can leave your details at Ferryhill Parish Church or contact me via [catr\\_allan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:catr_allan@yahoo.co.uk) or 07964279462.

## Dedication of Nativity Scene

**P**upils from Ferryhill Primary School will be participating in the Dedication of the city's Nativity Scene at Kirk of St Nicholas Uniting at 11 a.m. on Monday 3 December 2018. This is an event that is open to all.

## Ferryhill Nativity Show

**T**he infants at the Primary School will be putting on their evening Nativity Show on Thursday 13 December 2018 in Ferryhill Kirk at 6 p.m.

## Traidcraft and Fairtrade

**T**wo months ago, Traidcraft plc warned that they were considering closing trading, affecting many Fairtrade stalls across the UK, including our own, and, most importantly their suppliers and producers in developing countries. The reason for this is primarily related to the decrease in value of the pound since the Brexit vote, which has adversely affected Traidcraft's purchasing power and their ability to pay a meaningful Fairtrade premium to producers. They had carried the cost of this burden themselves in order to honour the agreements they already had with producers, but alas this became impossible to continue indefinitely.

The good news is that Traidcraft have announced a rescue plan. The bad news is that it means the loss of most of the UK-based workforce and it involves a big reduction in the number of product lines being offered. In turn this will mean a reduced ability to benefit people in poor communities who have been able to invest in their communities and children's education, for instance, as a result of the Fairtrade premium that had previously been a part of the agreements made.

As a congregation, many of us signed a letter voicing our concerns that was sent to Ross Thomson MP. In the letter we offered a question addressed to the Minister for International Trade, Dr Liam Fox MP. At the time of going to print, we had not received a response to that question though Ross Thomson MP had agreed to ask the question.



In the meantime, the Traidcraft stall at Ferryhill is still active and you are welcome to peruse the Fairtrade wares on offer after worship every Sunday.

# Diary

## February Services

### Sunday 3 February 2019

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Patchwork Parable"  
Sunday Club
- 12:00 Sacrament of Holy Communion following morning worship

### Wednesday 6 February

- 11:00 Service at Cowdray Club Care Home

### Sunday 10 February

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Persistent Parables"

### Sunday 17 February

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Jesus Challenges"  
Sunday Club

### Sunday 24 February

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Calm Before The Storm"  
Sunday Club
- 18:30 Ferryburn Fellowship Youth Group

## Ferryhill Parish Church

Fonthill Road, Aberdeen, AB11 6UD

Church Office

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

Wed & Thur 12:30-3:30 p.m.

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# Christmas in Ferryhill



## 24 December 2018

### Christmas Eve

- 10 a.m.     **Christingle Preparation**  
*Families are invited to the Church Hall to prepare the Christingles for the evening service.*
- 6 p.m.     **Christingle Service**  
*A service for all ages to celebrate on Christmas Eve.*
- 11 p.m.     **Carols at the Kirk**  
*A selection of favourite carols as we prepare for Watchnight.*
- 11:30 p.m.     **Watchnight Service**  
*Join us to see in Christmas Day.*

## 25 December 2018

### Christmas Day

- 10 a.m.     **Family Service**  
*A short family service on Christmas morning.  
Children are invited to bring along one of their presents.*

