



# Parish News

Ferryhill Parish Church Magazine

Spring 2023

## SHINE!

### Minister's Message

I missed them again! Another chance to see the Northern Lights and the clouds obscured everything here in Aberdeen. But... the night sky was beautifully clear over Chugiak, Alaska.



The picture was taken by my sister-in-law from their home, looking northward. The incandescent lights are from Chugiak High School where my wife, Carolyn, was a student. What a beautiful display of the solar wind causing the precipitation of particles in the upper atmosphere. Sounds a bit like heavenly rain to me!

It is a reminder that while Chugiak is on the other side of the planet from us, we are still connected and just neighbours in the wider scheme of things.

A shared experience and being part of the same community is also a beautiful thing, leading to stories that shape and give meaning to who we are. Such is the case with the great stories of faith handed down across the generations such as the story of Jesus that we remember in Holy Week.

This year we have a variety of ways to explore that story held either at South Holburn, St Mark's or at Ferryhill. On Good Friday we will have the church sanctuary open at Ferryhill for a Good Friday Labyrinth,



which will be a multi-sensory opportunity to explore the Easter story. Or join together for a meal at St Mark's on Maundy Thursday. See the back page for more details.

And please read carefully the joint letter that Rev David Stewart and I have written about the future of our congregations as we seek to create a new shared experience and community.

Let the light shine!

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# CHURCH NEWS

## Lent Series

In this year's season of Lent we are hosting an evening series that draws its inspiration from William Henry Davies' poem "Leisure".

*What is this life if, full of care,  
we have no time to stand and stare?  
No time to stand beneath the boughs,  
and stare as long as sheep and cows:  
no time to see, when woods we pass,  
where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:  
no time to see, in broad daylight,  
streams full of stars, like skies at night:  
no time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
and watch her feet, how they can dance:  
no time to wait till her mouth can  
enrich that smile her eyes began?  
A poor life this if, full of care,  
we have no time to stand and stare.*

You are most welcome to join us for a reflective evening on the Sundays of Lent either onsite or online as we stop and take a moment amidst everything going on around us and think of our place within this world. Each session is self-contained so you can join those sessions for which you are available

Sundays from 26 February to 26 March, 7 p.m. in Ferryhill Parish Church Foyer or via Zoom (Meeting ID 869 3687 7390 and Passcode 734830).

Refreshments will be available.

## Christmas Offerings

Thank you to everyone who made a donation over the Christmas period for the two charities we had designated. A total of £1023.57 was raised which has been split between the local charity Mental Health Aberdeen and the work of Shelterbox in providing resources to help people in times of emergency.

We will have a presentation to Mental Health Aberdeen on Sunday 19 March during morning worship.



## Summer Club 2023

We are all looking forward with excitement to this year's Summer Club. The theme, crafts, games, stories and activities are still to be finalised but it is always a week full of fun, laughter and friendship for both the children and helpers.

The 2023 Summer Club will run from 10:00 to 12:30 on 7 to 11 August 2023, culminating in leading the Service on Sunday 13 August. It is open to all children who will be starting Primary 2 to Primary 7 and costs just £1 per day, including a snack and drink.

Look out for posters and further information on the church website.

The Summer Club Team is a very happy group and new helpers are always made very welcome. If you are interested, please volunteer, via the church office, (01224 213093) as soon as possible to allow time for Child Protection Registration.

## Church Union

Copies of the **Basis of Union** and **Basis of Team Ministry** about which a congregational vote will be held on Sunday 26 March 2023 are available on the church website. Rev David Stewart and Rev Peter Johnston have written a joint letter about this which is included on page 4 of this issue of Parish News.

## Living Well Café

The Living Well Café is now regularly back in action at Ferryhill Parish Church open fortnightly on Thursday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Living Well Café provides a welcoming, safe and supportive place for people living with dementia and/or memory problems and their caregivers. It is open to anyone and you are welcome to come on your own or with a caregiver.

There is no set charge for the café but donations are welcome to cover the costs of the refreshment and entertainment.

For further details, please contact either Jeanette (07512 141818) or Linda (07927 541029).

## Ferryhill Kirk Hall Space Available

We have times available for groups or organisation who may need a space to meet. Please do keep us in mind or point people to our church website where there is plenty of information about the options (under Information > Hall Bookings) that are available.

Please get in touch with our Church Administrator, Julie, at the Church Office for further information.

## Audio-Visual and Web Streaming

Those of you who attend worship in Ferryhill or watch the services online will know that we have, for many years, used technology to enhance the delivery of the services. There is a sound desk which controls the microphones, a computer which displays the PowerPoint slides on the large screen at the front and a streaming system which enables anyone anywhere who has internet access to watch the services live or later on YouTube.

However, all these systems need to be operated by someone. There is a small and dedicated group of volunteers who are on duty every Sunday. We will be losing some of these folks as they move away and so would really like to increase that number and are looking for volunteers to join the team.

Most people, when asked, react in horror at the idea of operating what they assume is a highly complex technical system. "Oh, I am not very skilled with technology. I would probably get it all wrong," is the usual response. However, the reality is very different. The sound desk and computers may look complicated but actually the task involved is pretty simple. One volunteer said "I don't know what most of the buttons are for and I have no idea how it all works but, thanks to a little training, I know which ones to press and when." If you use a computer or iPad you probably already have the skills you need.

So if you think you might be interested, please speak to Peter or to any of the volunteers at the sound desk.



Ferryhill Coffee Shop is open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 09:30-12:00 and is a great place to relax over a coffee with friends.

On Wednesdays, delicious freshly cooked breakfasts are served between 09:30 and 11:40—a 'Wee' breakfast at £7.00 or a 'Big' breakfast at £8.00. Both offer great value as the price includes toast and a hot or cold drink of your choice.

On Saturdays we offer a variety of hot breakfast rolls along with a fresh bakery box and a selection of pancakes and butteries, and other goodies. A takeaway menu is also available on both Wednesdays and Saturdays. We also have a gluten free, a children's and vegan menu available.

We have also introduced a loyalty card scheme, so when you buy 10 drinks you get the next one free.

The Coffee Shop also sells a variety of handcrafted cards and gift cards, as well as pre-loved books.

So if you are passing by, pop in. We would love to see you!

## New Minister At Aberdeen North Parish Church

We welcomed into the new Presbytery Rev Fiona Lister who was ordained and inducted to the charge of Aberdeen North, Greenfern Road, on Thursday 2 March 2023. We wish her well in her new ministry as she moves from Aberdeenshire into the city.

# Diary

## March Services

**NOTE THAT ALL SERVICES IN THE CHURCH ARE ALSO STREAMED ONLINE ON BOTH OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND FACEBOOK PAGE**

### Wednesday 1 March 2023

11:00 Worship at the Cowdray Club Care Home (meet at the Coffee Shop before 11 if you would like to attend)

### Sunday 5 March Second Sunday in Lent

11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Nurture's De-Escalation" including the Sacrament of Holy Communion  
19:00 "Stand and Stare"  
Lent Discussion Series

### Sunday 12 March Third Sunday in Lent

11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Delilah's Destiny"  
19:00 "Stand and Stare"  
Lent Discussion Series

### Sunday 19 March Fourth Sunday in Lent

11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Where Is Wisdom Found?"  
19:00 "Stand and Stare"  
Lent Discussion Series

### Sunday 26 March Fifth Sunday in Lent

11:00 Worship for all ages  
"How Long Will You Love Being Simple?"  
19:00 "Stand and Stare"  
Lent Discussion Series



A Kirk for All  
at Ferryhill

# Joint Letter from David and Peter

Dear friends,  
The prophet Isaiah, writing for an anxious people in a time of exile, assured them of God's presence in the turmoil they were facing. In chapter 41, the Lord says, "I, the Lord, am first, and will be the last... Each one helps the other, saying to one another, 'Take courage!'. The artisan encourages the goldsmith, and the one who smooths with the hammer encourages the one who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering, 'It is good';... do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

While we may not be in such a traumatic situation as those exiled in Babylon, we are nonetheless going through some of the same emotions as we journey towards a future together which will involve change and developing new patterns of how we do things. The words of the Lord in Isaiah that we should "Take courage!" and encourage one another in that process is well received indeed. God stays with us throughout these journeys into new places.

The representatives from the congregations of Ferryhill, South Holburn and St Mark's have been working diligently to create the Basis of Union and the Basis of Team Ministry that will be presented to church members. These have been approved by the three Kirk Sessions and the central church has given their green light to the documents so that we can proceed with congregational votes. We intend to hold the votes on **Sunday 26 March**, following morning worship, in each of the three churches. A Presbytery representative will oversee this process in each church.

## Basis of Union

The Basis of Union is the formal legal agreement that creates a single congregation from our three current



congregations. After much discussion and input from a local historian, the name **Devana Parish Church** was picked. Devana is an old Roman name for Aberdeen, and may describe the confluence of rivers, Denburn and Dee. It is intentional to use this spelling of the name.

A united Kirk Session will be formed with the current elders of the three congregations. All members of the congregations, unless they inform rollkeepers otherwise, will be added to the new roll of Devana Parish Church. The worship pattern for Sundays is still to be finalised, but church members will be free to worship at either or both buildings (Holburn Street and Fonthill Road) as they will both be a part of the new congregation.

## Basis of Team Ministry

The Basis of Team Ministry is the formal agreement that outlines how we, as ministers of the new united charge, would operate that Team Ministry.

We very much see this as a ministry of equals sharing together in order to best serve the new congregation, and building on the joint working we have already been doing over the past years. The church's law defines that one minister needs to be designated as the Moderator of the Kirk Session and by mutual agreement Peter has agreed to take on that role. This leads to a slight imbalance as the other minister who

is a member of Kirk Session has the right to vote on matters of business (something the Moderator cannot do unless to break a tied vote), but David has offered that the Basis of Team Ministry should note that he would not exercise that right to vote.

The Team Ministry will also include the Mission Development Staff worker, John Amalanand, who is currently in post with South Holburn, and working with families and students.

We are committed to good communication amongst the Team and see that as being particularly important in the first months and years of a new united congregation. It is important that you know we are committed to doing what we can to make this work, to encourage each other and all within the new congregation of Devana Parish Church in order that we might develop our witness to God's good news across a large new parish.

We would encourage you to support this new adventure, add your vote when the time comes, and commit yourself to that shared witness.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Rev David Stewart or Rev Peter Johnston or speak to Lorna Glen, Session Clerk of Ferryhill Parish Church.

Yours with every blessing,  
David and Peter

# TRAIDCRAFT

It was with great sadness that we learned in January that Traidcraft PLC was going into administration. Traidcraft has been a leading ethical retail company for over forty years. We have sold their products in our Fairtrade stall at Ferryhill since 2010 and have tried to spread the message of the need for trade justice across the developing world.

Traidcraft was in a weak financial position for some years and the combination of the pandemic followed by the war in Ukraine, the rise in the cost of living, rising energy prices and increased transport costs meant that, despite their efforts, it became clear that they could not continue to operate. They made the honourable decision to cease trading now in the hope that the impact on their suppliers and creditors could be minimised.

Our Fairtrade stall will close in the meantime, once all our stock is sold. However, there is always the possibility that other companies will emerge who can take over from Traidcraft. That is certainly our hope. In the meantime,

many thanks to our loyal customers and to those who have helped to run the stall.

However, we take comfort from the fact that the Fairtrade Mark has become a widely recognised symbol in the UK and products bearing the Mark can be found in most supermarkets. We hope that our customers will continue to buy Fairtrade products where they can.

There is a list of suppliers on the Traidcraft website:  
[www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk).

The mission to combat trade injustice and poverty is far from complete. Transform Trade, the charity arm of Traidcraft will continue its work supporting producers and fighting for trade justice and people-centred trade.

You can find out more about the work of Transform Trade at  
[www.transform-trade.org](http://www.transform-trade.org).

*A huge thank you to Shelagh Bain, our resident Fairtrader, and all the volunteers who have helped on the Fairtrade stall over the years.*

## Final Parish News?

If we proceed to the formation of a new congregation over the next months then it will mean a re-thinking of how we communicate across the new much-larger and more diverse parish which will stretch from Garthdee to the city centre.

Which means that this is likely to be the final issue of Parish News in this current format. For many years this magazine has been produced to share stories and news not just from the church but across the community in Ferryhill.

Shelagh Bain (editor) and Rev Peter Johnston (who creates the final document) thank all those who have contributed stories, news and insights over the years.

We also thank the team of volunteer distributors both from the church and wider community who have given of their time to deliver copies of Parish News across the parish.

In the meantime, we will be continuing to use electronic formats of news distribution from website to Facebook page and our regular weekly e-news mailing to which you can sign up via the website. We also have an active YouTube channel.

A new website will be created should the congregations vote to form a new Devana Parish Church.

# Diary

## April Services

### Sunday 2 April 2023

#### Lent 6/Palm Sunday

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"The Wise Prophet Anna"  
includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 15:00 Palm Sunday Walk in Duthie Park (meet at Polmuir Road gate)

### Monday 3 April

- 19:00 Holy Week Service  
South Holburn Church

### Tuesday 4 April

- 19:00 Holy Week Service  
South Holburn Church

### Wednesday 5 April

- 11:00 Worship at the Cowdray Club Care Home
- 19:00 Holy Week Service  
Ferryhill Parish Church

### Thursday 6 April

- 19:00 Maundy Thursday Service  
St Mark's Church

### Friday 7 April

- 16:00– Good Friday Labyrinth  
21:00 Ferryhill Parish Church

### Saturday 8 April

- 14:00 Holy Saturday Short Service  
Allendale Cemetery

### Sunday 9 April

- 07:30 Dawn Service in Duthie Park
- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"A Joyful Reunion"

### Sunday 16 April

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Queen Vashti Says No!"

### Sunday 23 April

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Esther Is Chosen"

### Sunday 30 April

- 11:00 Worship for all ages  
"Esther's Persuasion"

# Community News

## Ferryhill Community Centre

As some of you may be aware the Community Centre has been under new management since November 2022.



**Anna Horne—Manager**

Anna has the firm belief that the Community Centre should be the heart of a community and, as such, should accommodate every member of the community.

Anna certainly has a determined streak and that is shining through in what has already changed at the Centre—some ideas have worked and some haven't but like she says "...you can't win them all...".

Anna is available in the centre Monday to Friday and the occasional weekend. Feel free to pop by and say "Hi" and let her know what you think or what you would like to see at the Centre. Anna welcomes all feedback on any aspect of the centre.



**Barry Henry—Team Leader**

Barry comes from a hospitality background and is an excellent 'front of house' person. He always has a smile for visitors to the centre.

Barry has been a great team member and recently, he was given a step up to Team Leader and works with Anna to create a relaxed and welcoming environment with a full and varied programme.

If you're passing and just pop in to the café you can rest assured that Barry will make you more than welcome.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CENTRE?

There is a great programme of activities and events already in place. Anna has a lot more weekly and monthly events and activities in mind which are currently being investigated. It is all calm on the surface but paddling like mad underneath to ensure the community has a vibrant, busy and exciting centre seven days a week.

Some of our new and one-off socialising events:

- Silver Teens: a social group for the over 55's every Friday 11:00 until 13.30.
- Lunch Bunch: every Wednesday 12:00 to 13:30, only £3 per meal.
- Family Fun Days every month.
- Comedy Night: Saturday 11 March 19:00 to 22.30 at only £10 per ticket.
- Easter Craft Fayre, Saturday 8 April 12:00 until 16:00.

Please like and follow the Centre's Facebook page for daily updates and news.

The Centre's café is also open daily from 9:00 until 20:00 Monday to Friday and from 10:00 until 14:00 at the weekend.

### CENTRE RE-BRANDING

The Centre is undergoing a complete rebranding and asked the children at Ferryhill Primary School to take part in a competition to redesign the logo for the Community Centre, rename our café and also design the logo for the café. We had some brilliant designs; it was so hard to choose the winners but we feel we have a new logo that says what the centre is about.

The winning designs are going to be announced just after this issue of Parish News goes to print, so watch out for details on the Centre's Facebook page and website.

### Albury Community Sports Hub

Remember that the new Pay and Play / Membership season starts in April 2023 when the volunteers at the Sports Hub on Albury Road will be delighted to welcome you for tennis, lawn bowling, petanque and putting. Tennis coaching is available.

<https://alburyhub.org.uk/>

# CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2023

Christian Aid is a global movement of people, churches and local organisations which, for over 75 years, has sought to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. Christian Aid believes that everyone is equal in the sight of God and that, together with people living in poverty, we can amplify our voices to speak truth to power and create lasting change.

Christian Aid works with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies around the world, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to. And one of the most pervasive inequalities in the world is that between women and men. Gender justice is, therefore, at the heart of Christian Aid's work. Climate justice is another important aim as global warming affects developing countries and pushes more people into poverty.

Christian Aid Week is held every year in May and we at Ferryhill have always responded with generosity by donating money through the Christian Aid envelopes. Every pound donated and every fundraising event held helps to eradicate poverty.

This year, with South Holburn and St Mark's churches, we have decided to organise a sponsored walk to be held on Saturday 13 May 2023, walking either from Peterculter (for the more energetic) or from Cults (for the more relaxed) along the Deeside Way (disused railway line) culminating at Duthie Park and with refreshments available in Ferryhill Kirk.

Details of timings and sponsor sheets will be available nearer to the event from the churches.



## Palm Sunday In Duthie Park

Join us for a short walk across Duthie Park as we remember the events of Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem for his final week.

We will meet at 15:00 on Sunday 2 April 2023 by the main gates to the park on Polmuir Road (next to the nursery).

## Good Friday Walk Of Witness

Good Friday is the day when the worldwide church remembers the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. Aberdeen Churches Together is organising a Walk of Witness within the city centre on Friday 7 April 2023 from 11:00 to 13:30.

The walk will start at the Quaker Meeting House on Crown Street at 11 a.m. and will journey to St John's Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church, Crown Street Baptist, Kirk of St Nicholas, City of God (St Nicholas Street), Salvation Army and St Peter's at Castlegate where the walk will finish. At each station there will be a part of the story read and a short reflection.

Refreshments will be available at the end of the walk.

## Holy Saturday

A short gathering in Allanvale Cemetery on Saturday 8 April at 14:00, meeting in the centre of the cemetery, entry through the gates by the gatehouse.

# Diary

## May Services

**NOTE THAT ALL SERVICES ARE ALSO STREAMED ONLINE ON BOTH OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND FACEBOOK PAGE**

### Wednesday 3 May 2023

11:00 Worship at the Cowdray Club Care Home (meet at the Coffee Shop before 11 if you would like to attend)

### Sunday 7 May

11:00 Worship for all ages "Esther's Plan Succeeds" includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Sunday 14 May

11:00 Worship for all ages "Responding To Trauma"

### Sunday 21 May

11:00 Worship for all ages "Persistence And Patience"

### Sunday 28 May Pentecost Sunday

It is anticipated that this will be the first service of the new united congregation and details for this service will be made known nearer the time if the congregations vote in favour of the new congregation.

## Ferryhill Parish Church

Fonthill Road, Aberdeen, AB11 6UD

Church Office

Administrator: Julie Mackie

Mon, Wed & Thur, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Thur & Fri 12:30-3:30 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 414747

pjohnston@churchofscotland.org.uk



# Holy Week & Easter

## Sunday 2 April 2023

11:00 **Morning Worship on Palm Sunday**  
*"Creation to Crucifix", suitable for all ages*

15:00 **The Awakening of Hope**  
*A short walk through Duthie Park remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, meeting at the entrance from Polmuir Rd*

## Monday 3 April

19:00 **Short Act of Worship**  
*South Holburn Parish Church*

## Tuesday 4 April

19:00 **Short Act of Worship**  
*South Holburn Parish Church*

## Wednesday 5 April

19:00 **Short Act of Worship**  
*Ferryhill Parish Church*

## Thursday 6 April

19:00 **Maundy Thursday Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
*St Mark's Church*

## Friday 7 April

16:00-21:00 **Good Friday Labyrinth**  
*Pop in to journey the labyrinth at any point between these times*  
*Ferryhill Parish Church*

## Saturday 8 April

2 p.m. **Holy Saturday Short Service**  
*Meeting in the centre of Allenvale Cemetery enter by the main gateway*

## Sunday 9 April

7:30 a.m. **Sunrise Service for Easter Day**  
*Duthie Park*  
*(meet near Polmuir Road entrance)*  
*followed by breakfast in Ferryhill Church Hall*

11 a.m. **Morning Worship for Easter Sunday**  
*"A Joyful Reunion"*  
*All age service suitable for families*  
*Ferryhill Parish Church*  
*includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion*

