



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

Harbour Lights

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEWHAVEN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CHRISTMAS 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Alpha
- Prayer Focus
- The Haven
- Newhaven Community History Group Syllabus
- Guild Syllabus
- Money Matters
- News and Updates

PRAYER FOCUS

May the love of God burn in our hearts and light up our lives so that others will see and believe.

Please remember to pray for our children.

Light in the Darkness



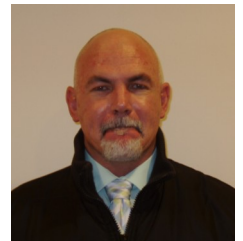
"The people living in darkness have seen a great light." Matthew 4:16a.

For people living in the Northern Hemisphere, we know all about living in the darkness that Winter brings, but, for us, it is also the time of year when we celebrate the wonder of that great light, the birth of Jesus.

My prayer, as we reflect on this, is that we will share a deep sense of joy and peace that God has given to the world in Him; that His very name Immanuel - "God with us"- may give us confidence and fill us with the assurance of God's presence.

Leandra and I would like to wish you and your families a very blessed Christmas.

Peter
(Rev. Peter Bluett)



Alpha Update

Alpha –'Let's start at the very beginning.....'

September saw the start of Newhaven Church's first Alpha course for several years. Alpha is a really effective resource for helping us examine what the Christian faith is all about, and those of us attending (more than 30) have been really challenged to take a fresh look at what it is we believe.

As well as developing our faith, the course provides an opportunity for us to develop our fellowship. The

evening starts with a light meal, always delicious and prepared by different people each week. Eating together has, since Biblical times, been recognised as an excellent way to develop bonds of friendship, and this has once again proved to be the case.

Those of us able to attend the 'Away Day' at the local Health Club were very aware of God's presence, as we took time to be with Him and to consider all that

He wants to bless us with through His Holy Spirit. God also gave us stunning views from this beautiful venue on a lovely sunny day, just to remind us what an amazing world He has created!

If you were unable to attend the Alpha course on this occasion, have no fear, as this will hopefully be the first in a more regular program of Alpha courses over the coming years. It's even worth coming for the food!!

See you next time!!

Kate Aitchison (Mission and Outreach Convener)



Chilean miners

Haiti

North-East India

Week of Prayer for
Christian UnityGlobal Poverty Prayer
Week

Prayer Focus

Give thanks for the safe recovery of the Chilean miners. Pray for them and their families as they re-adjust to everyday life.

Please pray for the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Haiti - first an earthquake, then cholera, and now storms and flooding. Pray that the aid will get through to those who so badly need it.

North East India has a high concentration of Christians, but there are fears that this is being exploited by criminals posing as missionaries and evangelists to traffic children. Pray for the protection of children from traffickers.

The *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* is celebrated from 18-25 January, this year led by an ecumenical group in Jerusalem -

www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer

The Church of Scotland officially recommended Tearfund's prayer resources to its congregations at the General Assembly earlier this year. Please pray for Tearfund activities in Scotland through *Global Poverty Prayer Week* which will take place from 27 February to 6 March 2011.

Who's who on the Working Groups?

Worship - Peter Bluett*, Charles Livingston, Colin MacNeill, Pedro Orbegozo, Jen Robertson

Education - Peter Bluett*, Brenda Cloete, Lynn MacNeill, Jeanette Meek, Colin Robertson, Edna Davie

Communications - Shona Adam*, Audrey Gardner, Elaine Greig, Susan Edwards, Chris Myers

Mission and Outreach - Kate Aitchison*, Charles Livingston, Lynsey Orbegozo, Brian Souness, Eileen Tait, Lesley-Anne Weir

Pastoral Care - Peter Bluett*, Edna Davie, Georgie Orme, Marcus Stout, Jaquie Bain

Social - Moyra Logan*, Audrey Tully, Catherine Lighterness

Admin - Heather Robertson*, Susan Edwards

Finance - Alister Greig*, Nick Timmins, Douglas McKenzie, Catherine Lighterness, Moyra Logan

Fabric - Bill Oliver*, Jeanette Meek, Retta Lindsay, Iain Logan

Appointments & Welfare - Peter Bluett*, Shona Adam, Susan Edwards, Colin MacNeill, Heather Robertson

* denotes Convener

Don't worry if you can't put faces to names - photos will appear on the noticeboards soon!!

The Haven

The Haven Centre had a wonderful 10th birthday with visits from Diana Morton who brought along archive material from the museum and from some P6/7's from Victoria school. They brought old school registers for us to view. We had a very special cake, complete with lighthouse, which Bea Francis made and it was cut by The Haven's oldest and the school's youngest visitor.

We then had a few weeks before Alba Falconry visited and although it was always going to be special to see the birds at close quarters we had no idea the treat that was in store for us. We got to hold some of the birds afterwards and during the presentation could stroke their chests! As it was school holidays that week we had several young visitors who all seemed to enjoy it. And "Princess" the golden eagle

came and was greeted with many wows! A very special time for all especially when we remember that The Lord God made them all.

Eileen Tait



MacGregor the tawny owl.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

1 Corinthians 12: 27



Newhaven Community History Group: Syllabus

SYLLABUS 2010 - 2011

Jan 25 **Scottish Night** - by Band With No Name

Feb 22 **Edinburgh Museums** - by Denise Brace

Mar 22 **Newhaven** - by Jeff Liston

Apr 19 **Operating on the QE2** - by Nick Bates

Meetings are held in NEWHAVEN CHURCH HALL at 7 pm.

All welcome (non--members £1.)

Guild Syllabus *“What does the Lord require of you?”*

Supporting the Mission Aviation Fellowship. *Mission Run—Madagascar*

2011

Jan 18 **Chinese Evening**

Feb 01 **Fisher Women:** *Simon Fairnie*

Feb 15 **Valentine Evening/Film**

Mar 01 **Mission Aviation Fellowship**

Mar 04 **World Day of Prayer** (*Host Church - Newhaven*)

Mar 15 **Bible Study:** *Peter Bluett*

Mar 20 **Soup Lunch** in aid of Guild Project

Mar 29 **Daffodil Tea & AGM**

Apr 12 **Closing Social: Trinity Trio**

May **Guild Outing** - to be confirmed

All meetings commence at 7.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated

Money Matters: Mammon Rules OK?

Matthew had it to a T (and he should know; he had been a Tax Collector). “You cannot serve God and Mammon”. Why not? After all, whole nations appear to do just that and the system seems to work “just fine”. Has God’s Word been proven wrong? Have we called Matthew’s bluff? Does Mammon rule the lives of us westerners?

On a lecture tour of Romanian Baptist churches in 1991, not long after the collapse of the

oppressive Communist regime where all churches were banned except the State supervised Orthodox Church, I was humbled by the attitude of Christians towards money. The Romanian Christian threw in his lot with God; they lived as church communities, depending upon one another. Money was not absent, but it was never the focus; more like air or water, simply the means but not the objective. A wealthy trader gave funds to build a church; a Pastor prayed in faith for

funds to pay taxes and electricity. They discovered that what they possessed was provided by God out of *his* wealth.

In the relative comfort of Scotland’s Capital, few of us will have experienced the privations and persecution experienced by the Romanian Christian, but God’s Word is read in both countries. It just comes down to trust in it.

Mammon doesn’t rule surely. OK?

Nick Timmins
(Treasurer)

A Word of Thanks

I would like to thank the congregation and Haven Group for their prayers, cards and best wishes for my 90th Birthday. They were very much appreciated and, God Willing, I look forward to sharing the years ahead with you.

George Hackland

A total of 70 shoeboxes were collected from the Church plus 32



from Footprints. These will be heading off to make Christmas special for children in Belarus. Thanks to all who contributed.

Louisa MacKenzie

Thanks to all who attended the meeting of all the Working Groups in October. We hope to run a workshop on ‘working together’ in February.



Committed to Serving Christ, each other, and the Community

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Newhaven Church Roll

We are delighted to welcome the following people to our fellowship:

John and Christine Hodge

Mrs Helen Macdonald

Alastair and Irene Sutherland

May you find a true spiritual home in our midst

Dates & Notices

Footprints Christmas Service will be held in St Serf's Church Hall on Sunday 12th December at 3pm. Please come along and support the children who are taking part.

We will be carol singing again outside Asda on Tuesday 21st December from 7-8pm. Please keep this date free and join us to make a statement that Christmas is Jesus. We will serve soup afterwards in the café back at the church.

Newhaven is to host the Night Shelter on Monday 3rd January and Friday 7th January. Volunteers are required to help prepare and serve food and to chat to the service users. If you feel that you can help, please speak to Bea Frances.

Thanks to all who contributed flowers in the past year. The new Flower Rota for 2011 is now on the notice-board.

Please remember to switch off the lights if you are last to leave a room!! It is eco-friendly - and saves on electricity bills!!

The next issue of *Harbour Lights* will be Easter time [copy deadline 13th February]. Please contact the Editor, Elaine Greig, at editor@n-c.org.uk should you wish to contribute to the next issue.

Kirk Session News

Like every other Kirk Session in the Edinburgh Presbytery, we have recently been engaged in the consultation exercise concerning the new 10-year Presbytery Plan. This plan is due to be put to the General Assembly in 2012 and seems certain to impact every congregation in the city. Its aim is to make the best use of the Kirk's resources – people, buildings and money – for the furtherance of God's Kingdom. The guiding principle of the plan is the mission of God to which the church is called, and its context is our city and its communities.

We were asked in the consultation exercise what we regarded as the top three missionary tasks for the church in Edinburgh and how we would envisage these tasks being carried out in our

parish. In our response, we made mention of Christ's commission to his disciples in Matthew 28: 19 & 20. Taking the preaching of the Gospel as a given, we said that our top three tasks are helping unbelievers to come to faith, nurturing and providing opportunities for growth, and service, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups, such as the poor, the lonely and the marginalised.

We will build on our ongoing Alpha course, growth groups, the Café and all our other areas of service, our fellowship at Newhaven Church and our commitment to serving Christ, each other and the community.

Heather Robertson
(Session Clerk)





Come and join us!

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Luke 2: 10



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| <p>Sun 19th Dec 10.30am All age Worship Service</p> <p>Tues 21st Dec 7pm Carol singing at Asda (see Dates & Notices)</p> <p>Fri 24th Dec 7pm Family Service 11.15pm Mince pies 11.30pm Watchnight Service</p> | <p>Sat 25th Dec 10am Family Service</p> <p><i>A short informal service with an opportunity for young (and old) to show the gifts they received.</i></p> <p>Sun 26th Dec 10.30am Morning worship, communion and Sunday School</p> |
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