

Ferryhill Parish News

February 2013

For delivery by 3rd February

The **Nominating Committee** was delighted to announce on 20th January that, after a long and detailed search, they have unanimously agreed to invite Rev. Peter Johnston, currently minister of Blantyre, St Andrew's in the Presbytery of Hamilton, to preach as sole nominee on Sunday 10th February 2013 at 11.00am. Enclosed with this month's edition of Parish News is a letter from the Session Clerk which outlines the voting procedures which will take place immediately following the service on that date. On the two Sundays before that, a formal intimation will be read in church. The Committee hopes that as many members and adherents as possible will attend on 10th February so that they might have the opportunity to vote. If you need a lift to church, or if you are able to offer a lift to anyone, please contact Margaret Barclay, transport co-ordinator Tel: 596182.

We are holding a **SOUPER SUNDAY** on 24th February after the Church service to support and promote the work done by **World Mission HIV Programme**. This programme is worthy of our support, and it is hoped that as many as possible will stay after Church to share in a soup lunch. There is no fixed charge for this meal but donations (hopefully generous) will be gratefully received and used wisely in the work of World Mission helping those who succumb to this illness.

Banish those winter blues and unwanted kilos!

A **Ceilidh** is being planned in aid of the Tower and Spire Fund. It will be held on Friday 1st March. The evening will begin at 7.30pm with a sit-down supper with wine after which David Martin (accordionist from Clatterin' Kist Ceilidh Band), will provide the music for the dancing with a selection of Scottish dance tunes interspersed with some French café music. There will also be Scots songs and verse. Caller for the dances will be Barbara Nicholson. She has promised they'll be easy to follow!

Admission will be by ticket only, purchased in advance. Tickets priced £12 will go on sale on 11th February and can be purchased in the Coffee Shop from 9am – 12noon on Monday to Saturday, on Sundays, or from any of the Fundraising Taskgroup. Donations to a raffle being held during the evening will be very much appreciated. All are welcome.

PARISH REGISTER

Funerals

Malcolm Lawson (21.10.12)

William Kellas (21.11.12)

Frank Sherriffs (12.12.12) Gairn ACT)

Alexander Anderson (22.12.2012)

Baptisms

Logan George Stevenson (28.10.12)

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Sunday 3rd

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

Sunday Club and Crèche.

Wednesday 6th

11 a.m. Service in Cowdray Club

Sunday 10th

11.00 a.m. Worship for all ages

Service led by Rev Peter Johnston, sole nominee.

Sunday Club and Crèche

Sunday 17th

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

Sunday Club and Crèche.

6 p.m. Informal worship in the Memorial Chapel with Holy Communion.

Tuesday 19th

12.10 p.m. Lunch-time service (lasts about 15 mins)

Sunday 24th

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

Sunday Club and Crèche.

6 p.m. Maryfield East Care Home

Sunday 3rd March

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Guild

6th February- Mike Gibb - Talk by the playwright

20th February - Betty Burns - Canadian Justice

Monday Fellowship

4th February - Mr Curphey – slides

18th February - Joyce Fogg - poet

Tomorrow's Christian A Framework for Christian Living

The Winter Study series continues with Session 3- **an Evolving Person** on Thursday 7th February from 6.30 to 8.00pm in the Foyer. The evening starts with refreshments and you are welcome to come along even if you haven't attended before to reflect and share your thoughts about Christian Life.



Message for the Month

Happy New Year! It only seems a minute since the celebrations of Christmas and New Year, but Lent is almost upon us. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is on 13th February this year. In the supermarkets the Christmas biscuits and chocolate have been taken off the shelves or sold off cheap and Easter eggs have taken their place as have hot cross buns.

Easter is about as early as you can get this year, it can be a bit earlier, but only just! It does seem a bit strange that the date of Easter can change each year. It started when a Church Council in Nicea (present day Turkey) in 325AD decided that Easter should be the first Sunday after the full moon following the northern hemisphere's equinox. So this year, Easter is on March 31st. That means that Lent, the period of 40 days prior to Easter, also begins at a different time each year, and this year it starts on the 13th February.

The period of Lent consists of 40 days starting from Ash Wednesday (but not counting Sundays). The number 40 has special biblical significance: Moses and the people of Israel were in the wilderness for 40 years; Jesus was tempted in the desert for 40 days. In fact, Jesus, when he was feeling that he needed some 'space' and some time for himself, often went into the desert on his own to think and to re-charge.

Some people do the same thing now when they feel that they need to rest and recuperate. They go to spas, chill out on the beach, go for a long walk, or just have some time to themselves at home.

There is a belief in Celtic Christianity that, on earth, there are 'thin places'. A thin place is where 'the veil that separates heaven and earth is lifted and one is able to receive a glimpse of the glory of God'. Medieval pilgrims also made, sometimes long, pilgrimages to special places which could also have been considered to be 'thin places'. Quite often, 'thin places' are in rugged countryside or in places with special associations for Christianity such as the islands of Iona or Lindisfarne. For me, my special place is Monsal Dale, in the Derbyshire Peak District where I have spent very happy days walking with my dog.

Perhaps during Lent, we should take some 'time out', some space to think, to recharge and to recuperate. Even if we can't travel anywhere as the ancient pilgrims did, we can allocate even a short time every day to be quiet and contemplate on Lent, the sorrow of Holy Week and the joy of Easter and the resurrection to come.

Elsbeth Mckay

WORLD DAY of PRAYER, 1st March 2013, will be held at South St. Nicholas Church, Kincorth at 7.30 p.m. This service is open to all, and it is hoped that as many as possible will attend. A warm welcome will be given to all. Churches throughout the city, indeed throughout the world, will be meeting on 1st March to hold these services.

The **Christmas Offerings** taken at the services over the festive period amounted to £1,102. This extremely generous sum will be divided equally between **Instant Neighbour** and **Traidcraft**. Also the Presbytery **Lifestraw Appeal** has raised over £10,000 to date, of which Ferryhill donated £584. Your big-hearted response to all these charities is really appreciated. Please continue to bring gifts of non-perishable foods to the Instant Neighbour trolley.

On Sunday 3rd February, Abi Knowles from **Traidcraft** will take part in the service and will tell the congregation about the work of Traidcraft and how our money will be used. She will also present the congregation with a certificate to thank us for our donation.

In February the **Fairtrade Stall** will be selling beautiful handmade Valentine's cards and other heart shaped gifts such as handbag mirrors, notebooks and trinket boxes. And, of course, there will be lots of chocolate! Treat your Valentine to a special gift which not only declares your love for him/her but also extends that love to struggling producers in other parts of the world.

This is the first opportunity there has been to announce the result of the **Christmas Fair**. A total of £1438 was raised for the Tower and Spire Fund - a remarkable sum in the space of just two hours, and the Fundraising Taskgroup would like to thank all who helped bring this about. There was tremendous support from the congregation and community and it went "like a fair!" Thank you all.

It is difficult to imagine the summer as we freeze in this snow and ice but plans for the annual **Summer Club** are already in place. The first Summer Club planning meeting of 2013 will be held after the service on Sunday 3rd February, in the Upper Room. All those interested in helping are very welcome.