



Parish News

Ferryhill Parish Church Magazine

Spring 2022

Minister's Message

If you are the kind of person who likes things to remain just the way they are, happy with the status quo, then you must be dizzy with all that is going on at the moment! Even for those of us who like a bit of change and reform (the Church of Scotland is historically part of that challenge to the status quo), the whirlwind of upheaval and challenge is breathtaking. Not always in a good way.



We will, I have no doubt, have looked with horror at the devastation inflicted by Vladimir Putin's regime on the people and infrastructure of Ukraine. It is a reminder that conflict so often in recent years that seemed distant from us can come knocking far closer to home.

The violence unleashed reveals just how challenging it is to build consensus and a sense of belonging, and to work towards community life. One man can prompt horrifying damage in a few weeks that will take generations to heal and repair. We take living well with each other for granted so much of the time, but this is something that requires our work and effort. It is always so much easier to destroy than it is to build.

In the chase for money and wealth, for status in objects and possessions, it is worth asking if we have lost the ability to build what matters?

With global challenges around us from climate change to how we produce energy, from inequality to injustice, we can only meet the challenge when we work together,



building consensus and community.

Jesus knew this as he challenged the powers-that-be in his own time. He built a small team of disciples to share through word and action what an alternative vision for the world might look like.

Into that great endeavour of community building we still find ourselves striving (within and beyond any church's walls).

Perhaps it is an endeavour that might capture your imagination?

Welcome to Julie!

At the beginning of March we welcomed Julie Mackie as our new Church Administrator. She follows Julie Thompson who did a marvellous job for us and we thank her for the contribution she made to the church and community.

The new post that Julie Mackie has taken on is now a joint post with South Holburn Parish Church

and Julie will be sharing her time between both churches. She will be in Ferryhill on Monday and Wednesday mornings, all day Thursday, and Friday afternoon.

Hello, I would just like to introduce myself, my name is Julie Mackie and I am your new church administrator. I started work on 1 March and I work between Ferryhill and South Holburn.

I used to work for John Lewis (Aberdeen) in the customer service department, I was there for 7 years, and, like most people, I was very sad when it closed its doors, and not just because it meant the loss of my job!

I applied for the job of church administrator as I have always wanted to work somewhere, where I feel I can make a difference and help people.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone I have met so far for making me feel so welcome, especially Peter, Lorna and Julie Thompson. I look forward to meeting you all in due course, but in the meantime if there is anything I can help you with, please feel free to contact me.

CHURCH NEWS



THE AWAKENING OF HOPE:
WHY WE PRACTICE A COMMON FAITH

Lent Study Series

Throughout the season of Lent we have been gathering on Sunday evenings, online via Zoom, for a discussion series titled "The Awakening of Hope". This continues through to Palm Sunday, 10 April.

In each evening we hear from someone who is involved in bringing some hope into their communities in different ways and living out one's faith in a way that brings blessing and joy into the lives of others.

Each evening is a self-contained discussion so please do feel free to join us even if just for one of the final sessions. We meet online at 7 p.m.

In the Zoom client you can use meeting ID: 865 7937 8248 and passcode: 474405.

Please do check the church website for up to date information.

Instant Neighbour

Please remember that you can drop off items for the Instant Neighbour Foodbank on a Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday morning at the church.

Non-perishable items are always required, such as UHT milk, tinned soup, tinned meats, tinned vegetables, rice/pasta, sauce jars, cereals, tinned fruit, biscuits, teabags/coffee, sugar, diluting juice, dog/cat food, toiletries.

Fundraising Update

Unfortunately, due to the Covid rules and regulations, our 2021 Christmas Fair had to be held virtually again, the second year in a row. Obviously the social, festive atmosphere was missing but it was a very successful event which brought in some much needed income to the church.

A huge thank you to the many folk who spent hours crafting and making the large selection of Christmas gifts donated, to Peter for photographing each item and adding them to the website and to those who bought these gifts. A magnificent £1,834.92 was raised.

We look forward to holding an in-person fundraising event once the work on the Large Hall is complete. Meanwhile handmade greetings cards, books, face masks and other gifts are for sale on a Sunday morning and at the coffee shop.



Hall Ventilation Upgrades

By the time this issue is published work to add a ventilation system to the Large Hall at the church should be complete. It has been a long haul to get that work completed. We thank those who use the hall for their patience, those who have contributed financially to the work (including a grant from Adapt and Thrive), and to the team who planned the work.

This means that we can mitigate against the risks of an airborne pathogen like Coronavirus far better than we could before and we look forward to being able to welcome groups back to the use of that space in a safer way.

Living Well Café

The Living Well Café team have been working hard to find a way to reopen the cafés safely. The intention is to try this in April in Newhills Parish Church and thereafter to try reopening the other cafés in other churches, including Ferryhill. With the new ventilation system in the Large Hall, that should be possible relatively soon.

The Living Well Cafés are for people with dementia and other memory issues and their carers. Please check the church website for news of when the Ferryhill Living Well Café will be reopening.

Pandemic Guidance

While we anticipated the removal of some of the regulations around the pandemic in March, this is rightly being slowed down with the increasing transmission of the latest variant.

We are no longer required to keep a note of those attending the church for Test & Protect, but for any other changes please do keep an eye on the email newsletters from the Church or the website/Facebook page.

www.ferryhillparishchurch.org

Ukraine Appeal

The situation in Ukraine continues to be dire and the plight of refugees seeking to escape the war is desperate. It is heartening to see so many people across Europe welcome those in need at this time.

Following retiring collections in early March at the church, £578 was contributed to the Church of Scotland's appeal which will provide funding to the Reformed Church in Hungary, with which the Church of Scotland has good links, to enable them to purchase resources to assist their efforts in aiding refugees.

If you have not done so already, we would encourage you to contribute to this massive need across our continent at the moment. There are many appeals which could be supported such as Christian Aid or DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee).

www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal

Presbytery Mission Plan

Over the past two years the Kirk Session of Ferryhill Parish Church has been working towards the creation of a Riverside Parish Grouping comprising ourselves, Ruthrieston West and South Holburn. Nothing stands still, however, and we have had to change our focus and future plans.

This is due to further changes that the Presbytery of Aberdeen and Shetland needs to make within the city. On our Kirk Session's suggestion, we are instead in discussions now, as is South Holburn, with the City Centre and West End group of congregations.

The Kirk Session believes this to be a more sustainable partnership to be entering for the longer-term future. A new Presbytery Mission Plan which will outline the new arrangements and how these will develop over the next five years will be discussed in May.



Ferryhill Kirk Coffee Shop

We are pleased to say that the Coffee Shop is operating on both a Saturday and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Every Wednesday you can choose a great value freshly cooked breakfast including toast and a hot or cold drink.

On Saturdays you will find breakfast rolls with bacon/egg/black pudding/Lorne sausage, pancakes, butteries, toasted tea cakes, and a wide range of hot and cold drinks to accompany your snack.

You will also find a weekly special on a Saturday which may be assorted muffins, fruit toast, mini French pastries, or warm fruit pies.

We also have a menu with vegan choices and a menu for children.

And if you are on the go, remember that a Take Away menu is also available just for you!

There are also fresh bakery items and delicious toffee available on Saturdays, plus Fairtrade goodies, handmade face masks and greetings cards, broaches, fit tags and pre-loved books available.

We look forward to welcoming you into the Coffee Shop.

Chigodi CCAP, Malawi

After three years in post, Rev ADuncan Kananji is moving on to Zambia for doctoral studies and the congregation of Chigodi CCAP will be welcoming Rev Frank Mkwezalamba. We wish Duncan and his family well and every blessing on their future and look forward to getting to know Mr Mkwezalamba. £400 has been forwarded from our congregation's Malawi Fund to assist in the continuing building programme at Chigodi CCAP, our partner church in Malawi.

Diary

April Services

Sunday 3 April 2022

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Perfume and Poverty"

Palm Sunday 10 April

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Palms and Provocation"
19:00 The Awakening of Hope
Lent Discussion Series

Monday 11 April

19:00 Short act of worship
"Grace and Giving"
South Holburn Church

Tuesday 12 April

19:00 Short act of worship
"Grain and Glory"
Ferryhill Church

Monday 11 April

19:00 Short act of worship
St Mark's Church

Thursday 14 April

19:00 Maundy Thursday Service
"Remember and Retell"
in Ferryhill Church
includes Lord's Supper

Friday 15 April

19:00 Good Friday Service
"Tried and Crucified"
in South Holburn Church

Saturday 16 April

14:00 Holy Saturday Short Service
in Allenvale Cemetery

Easter Sunday 17 April

07:30 Sunrise Service in Duthie
Park followed by breakfast
and decorating of church
with Easter crafts
11:00 Worship for all ages
"Risen and Rejoicing"

Sunday 24 April

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Thomas and Trust"

Thoughts From Lockdown



My name is William Rae and I am 34. I am studying animal care in Aberdeen.

I have been going to church all my life and in 2004 I became a member and then an elder at Garthdee Parish Church before moving to Ruthrieston West when Garthdee closed. But I am writing this to say thank you to all of you at Ferryhill.

As we all know, two years ago, we saw our church doors closing and I wondered how I would still be able to be at church on Sunday mornings. Then I remembered that Ferryhill streamed all their services. So, on the first Sunday of lockdown in 2019, I watched the service and continued to do so week after week. When Peter, the minister, started the Zoom coffee and chat on Sunday afternoons, I

would pop along and meet some of the members of the church and I got know you a bit more.

Then when we went back to in person church services, I came long when I could and was able to meet some of you face to face and even had cup of tea with you all. I have also been able to take part in some events like doing the readings online or in person, singing with the Virtual Choir and taking part in reflections during Holy Week and Easter.

I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for making me feel so welcome online and face to face. Even though things within the churches are changing, I will not stop working with you or having a relationship with all of you.

Thank you!

Christian Aid Week 2022

15-21 May

For the first time in a generation, global hunger and poverty are rising. Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing vulnerable communities into a struggle for survival.

For Jessica, drought means every day is a struggle for survival. Like many women in rural Zimbabwe—7 out of 10 rely on farming for income and food—she toils on her farm, but nothing can grow on her ashen, dry land.

Drought starves, and intensified by the climate crisis, drives families into hunger. Jessica recalls that “One year, we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and



disheartening.”

She can only give her children one bowl of porridge to eat in a day. “My children crave a decent meal, but I can’t provide. We often go to bed on an empty stomach. It pains me to send them to bed hungry.”

It’s unjust that drought robs Jessica of the power to provide for her family. Her husband is unwell, so she’s the only breadwinner. Her children look up to her, but she has nothing left to give.

But Jessica is anything but helpless. In the face of drought, her love for her family gives her

courage to stand strong—and we can stand with Jessica and work to restore justice to our world.

We will have envelopes available at the church into which you can place a donation during Christian Aid Week, on the Sundays before and around, plus when the Coffee Shop is open.

You can also make an online donation directly to Christian Aid Week on their website:

www.christianaid.org.uk



**christian
aid**

EASTER CREATIVITY



The Worship Team at Ferryhill invites you over the next weeks to get creative! If you enjoy making things, knitting, crocheting, or some other technique, you might like to get involved in our Easter decoration and gift project.

We are not designating a single particular item, but rather anything connected with Easter day. So, it could be eggs, crosses, chicks, bunnies, daffodils, creme egg covers, finger puppets, or whatever else gives you some hopeful and joyful inspiration for Easter.

The team has been scouring the web and has collected some patterns and instructions which may be helpful. You can find these on the church website at www.ferryhillparishchurch.org. Note that some of these links go to patterns that need to be purchased. Or browse the web for other ideas. There are lots!

In the atrium at the church there is a massive box full of wool and material for stuffing that is available in case you run out and need some more. There are also some printed copies of patterns available to take away.

Items can be handed in to the church on Wednesday or Saturday mornings when the Coffee Shop is open or on a Sunday morning. We plan to decorate the church and grounds with these symbols of Easter on Easter Sunday morning, so get crafting.

Holy Week Services

This year we are planning to have in-person services throughout Holy Week between Ferryhill, South Holburn and St Mark's Parish Churches.

We do encourage you to find the time during this most important of weeks in the church's calendar to join together as we accompany Jesus in his journey through this last week of his life in Jerusalem.

The details of the services for Holy Week can be found on the rear page of this issue of Parish News.

We will also be providing short video readings and prayers each day of Holy Week online for those unable to attend in person. These you will be able to find on our YouTube channel or Facebook page.

Diary

May Services

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

Sunday 1 May 2022

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Fire and Fish"
includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 8 May

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Belief and Belonging"

Sunday 15 May

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Love and Longing"

Sunday 22 May

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Promise and Peace"

Sunday 29 May

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Unity and Understanding"

SPRING TRAIDCRAFT

The Spring Traidcraft catalogue is available in the church foyer and contains lots of Easter eggs, cards and crafts as well as the usual range of food, drinks, homeware, fashion, health and beauty and household essentials. Do take a look at the variety of items available, giving your support to producers around the world through fair trade.

But it is much more than just a catalogue. Throughout the pages you will find inspirational stories about real people who are, with the help of Traidcraft funded projects, transforming their lives and lifting themselves and their families out of poverty. Women and girls are very often featured in these stories as they have often been held back by cultural values which see them as unimportant and yet when given the help they need, they are showing themselves capable of setting up and running amazing businesses and enterprises which benefit whole communities.

At the heart of all that Traidcraft does is a strong desire to care for the planet as well as its people. The items you will find in the catalogue are not only Fairtrade but also ethical,



organic, recycled, reusable and socially conscious. At the back of the catalogue, you will find detailed information about over 70 producers Traidcraft works with. How many supermarkets are that transparent?

You can also see all the available products on the Traidcraft website (www.traidcraftshop.co.uk). For more information or to place an order, contact Shelagh Bain either via email, shebain@hotmail.co.uk, or 01224

588744. You will not have to pay any postage and your order can be collected from the church or delivered to your home.

Unfortunately, during the COVID pandemic we were unable to use our Traidcraft stall on Sunday mornings but we do have a Treats Box in the foyer which contains a selection of sweets and chocolate. Help yourself to anything you fancy and pop the money in the box.

Community Activities

With the addition of the ventilation system to the Large Hall that is nearing completion we anticipate being able to reopen the Large Hall soon.

In the meantime some other groups are using the Small Hall including Phoenix Theatre, Kids at Ferryhill and both Zumba and Pilates classes.

ZUMBA

Zumba Gold for seniors takes place on Wednesday 10–11 a.m.



Zumba Wednesday 11 a.m.–12 noon and Thursday with two classes from 6–7 p.m. and 7–8 p.m.

Contact Mailen Vasquez +447946287114.

PILATES

Beginners

Monday
9.30–10.30 a.m.

Mixed Ability

Monday
10.45–11.45 a.m.

Classes can also be joined online.

Contact Caroline on 07455 577543 or by email at caroline@pilatestogether.co.uk.

www.pilatestogether.co.uk



Ferryhill School's Poetry Competition

In celebration of Rabbe Burns, Scotland's National Poet, Ferryhill School recently held their annual Scottish poetry recital competition where keen performers battled it out for a place in their special Rabbe Burns Assembly. Poems ranged from Tam o' Shanter in Primary 7, To a Mouse in Primary 5 and J K Annand's delightful poem 'My Wee Doggie' in Primary 1.

A highpoint to this event is choosing an overall winner to be awarded the Ferryhill 'quaich' in recognition of an outstanding performance. We are delighted to share that this year's winner is Harvey Young of Primary 7, who wowed us with his lively rendition of an extract from Tam o' Shanter, by Rabbe Burns himself. Harvey also proved himself to be an excellent judge, demonstrating a high level of commitment when supporting teachers to identify their three best poetry recitals.

The UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) lies at the heart of organising and facilitating such events where pupils are given the opportunity to participate and excel in the Arts and talent nurtured. Ferryhill School recognises the importance of



'wider achievement' and the positive impact this can have for future success and life satisfaction.

- *Article 29: Education should develop all personalities, talents and abilities to the full...*
- *Article 31: The right to take part in a wide range of cultural activities...*



Annual Concert

Our friends at the Aberdeen Strathspey & Reel Society are planning their annual concert for Saturday 30 April 2022 at Ferryhill Parish Church.

This is always a fun and joyful evening with traditional Scottish music played with enthusiasm and passion.

Please check the website of the Society for more details of the concert and ticket sales nearer the time. You will



Aberdeen
Strathspey &
Reel Society

also find more information about their activities and how you can participate.

aberdeenstrathspey.org.uk

Diary

June Services

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

Sunday 5 June 2022

11:00 Worship for all ages
"Amazed and Astonished"
including the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 12 June

11:00 Worship for all ages
Baptism of the Lord

Sunday 19 June

11:00 Worship for all ages

Sunday 26 June

11:00 Worship for all ages

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.

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Holy Week & Easter

Sunday 10 April 2022

- 11 a.m. **Morning Worship on Palm Sunday**
"Palms and Provocation", suitable for all ages
- 7 p.m. **The Awakening of Hope**
Final session of our Lent Discussion Series which is open to all whether or not you have attended one of the previous weeks

Monday 11 April

- 7 p.m. **Short Act of Worship**
"Grace and Giving"
South Holburn Parish Church

Tuesday 12 April

- 7 p.m. **Short Act of Worship**
"Grain and Glory"
Ferryhill Parish Church

Wednesday 13 April

- 7 p.m. **Short Act of Worship**
"Bread and Betrayal"
St Mark's Parish Church

Thursday 14 April

- 7 p.m. **Maundy Thursday Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion**
"Remember and Retell"
Ferryhill Parish Church Foyer

Friday 15 April

- 7 p.m. **Good Friday Service**
"Tried and Crucified"
South Holburn Parish Church

Saturday 16 April

- 2 p.m. **Holy Saturday Short Service**
Meeting in Allenvale Cemetery by the main entrance

Sunday 17 April

- 7:30 a.m. **Sunrise Service for Easter Day**
Duthie Park
(meet near Polmuir Road entrance)
followed by breakfast in Ferryhill Church Hall and an opportunity to participate in decorating the church and grounds with hand-knitted Easter crafts
- 11 a.m. **Morning Worship for Easter Sunday**
"Risen and Rejoicing"
All age service suitable for families
Ferryhill Parish Church
includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion

A Kirk for All
at Ferryhill

