



# W e l c o m e   t o   L i b e r t o n   N o r t h f i e l d

## S u n d a y   2 9 t h   D e c e m b e r   2 0 1 3

We extend a warm welcome to any visitors who have joined us today, and our prayer for all who gather is that each one of us may meet with the Living God in our time of worship together.

Hymn CMP 307 'I will enter His Gates.'

LUKE 2; 21 – 40.

'Saviour For All.'

Dear Friends,

I write this final Pastoral letter with mixed emotions.

Clearly I will miss the regular contact with my many friends at Liberton Northfield, but I recognise that these friendships are not being lost as within the Christian Family we are bound together by cords that CANNOT BE BROKEN.

On the other hand, along with my wife Janice I look forward to what God has for us next in our journey of faith, and I have a sense of excitement for what God has planned next for the work and witness of Liberton Northfield.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve God at Liberton Northfield from January 2000 up to the present time, and I could not have done this effectively without the support of my family, and the many committed individuals that God placed within the Fellowship of the Church.

When Christine and I began the ministry it was a team effort and together God helped us to develop the ministry across the whole age span, with Christine being involved at the New Life Nursery in the Inch and myself working in the schools and in Braeside House. (Nursing home for the blind).

My daughter Louise got involved in youth work within the church and was well known for the 'bag' that she used to bring to the children's talks in the service. My elder daughter Gayle mainly got involved in doing the Bible reading in Church.

The passing of Christine on 27<sup>th</sup> of December 2005 was a great loss to me and my family, and to the Church family, but I give thanks for the love and support of others which carried me through that challenging time.

The Bible teaches us that we can use the hardships of life to support others in their time of need, and I know that through my own loss God has allowed me to use that to connect with those who are suffering loss, and I believe that was a very important part of my ministry.

God is a God of surprises and brought Janice into my life, and gave me a support for my final years of ministry at Liberton Northfield.

There are so many positive memories over the years – The Alpha Courses – The Bible Studies - The Joint Services with our neighbouring Churches – The Student placements who brought such blessing to the Church – The children's work including our SU Holiday Club in October of this year. The list goes on. GOD IS AMAZING... And the exciting thing is that there is still more to come for all of us.

I thank God for the ministry of my predecessor Rev Bill Thomson and I pray that I have been able to leave a legacy which can be built upon in the years that lie ahead.

My daily reading for today led me to Jeremiah 29 v11 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,' – And I believe that these words are appropriate for each one of us as we look to all that lies ahead.

Thanks you for all your love and care and may you know God's richest blessing in the future,

Your minister and friend John.

**\*\*\* JOHN AND JANICE'S LUNCH—TODAY \*\*\***

Due to numbers, it has been decided to change the venue for John and Janice's lunch on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December at 1 o'clock, to the Faith Mission Conference Hall.

We trust that this does not cause too much inconvenience, and would appreciate if those who are still able to attend could put their names on the sheets at the two doors.

It would be helpful if folks could share any spare places in respect of transport in order to get everyone up to the Faith Mission as quickly and simply as possible.

A buffet will be provided, and we simply invite you to come along and share in this special lunch. Thank you for your support in this matter.

If you have any questions then please speak to Jan Grubb who is part of the Organising Committee.

**Hogmanay Get Together—31<sup>ST</sup> of December**

We are once again planning to 'see in' the New Year by sharing together in a time of fellowship and food.

8.00pm Gather at the manse for a savoury buffet.

9.00pm. Arrive at the Church for pudding, ceilidh, and reflection.

11.50 Move out into Church garden to view the fireworks.

12.05 Skip home with a smile on our faces.

All will be made most welcome, but for catering purposes it would be greatly appreciated if you could advise the minister if you are planning to attend.

**Weekly Calendar**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of December.  
10.30am 'Prayer time in vestry. (All welcome)  
11.00am 'Family Service.'  
NO EVENING SERVICE.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of January.  
10.30am 'Prayer time in vestry. (All welcome)  
11.00am 'Morning Worship.'  
6.30pm 'Joint Evening Service' (See notice)

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

If you are aware of anyone who requires or may benefit from a visit then please contact:  
Irene Hoy (664 8413) or  
Rachael Whyte (664 5974)



***"He knows your  
name"***

**A joint service to launch the New Year**

A time for praise, reflection, prayer & fellowship  
Liberton Northfield Church  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January @ 6.30pm

**Speaker: Ivor Forrest**

