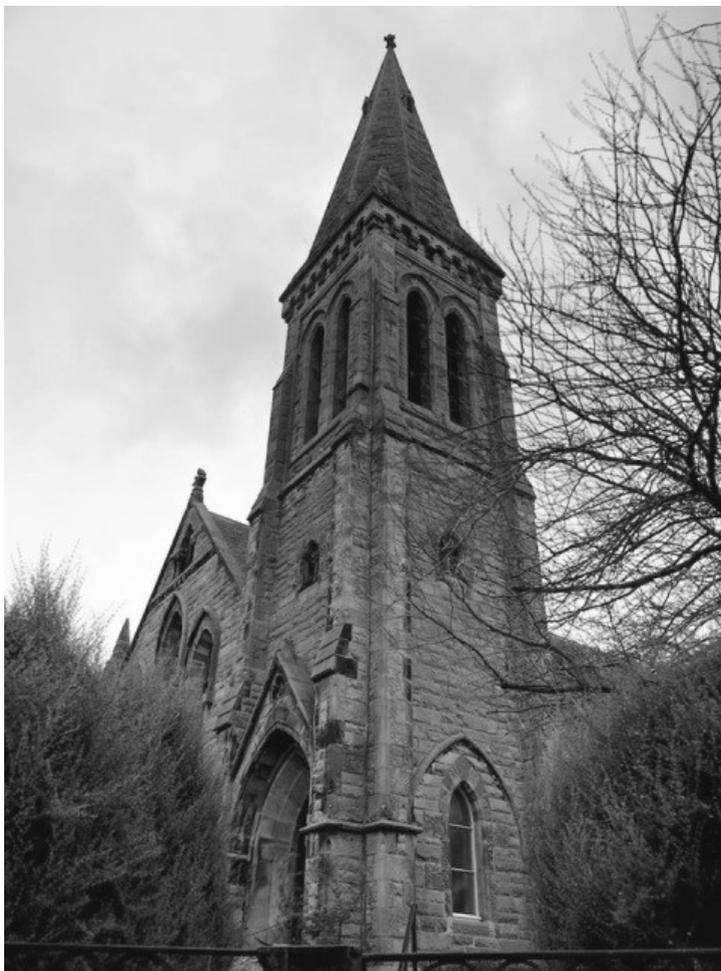


Liberton Northfield Church

January 2015 Newsletter



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Prepared by James Young. Edited by Ian Messer

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New Year Message

OUR HOPE IS IN GOD

The Christian hymnologist Isaac Watts (1674-1748) wrote these lines: 'O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home'. That hymn remains one of the most prominent songs that remind us of our dependence on God and strengthens us to face both the seen and the unseen! In Cameroon where I come from, most congregations of the Presbyterian Church will sing that song on the 31st of December 2014, during an end of year night service, and again on the 1st of January 2015 during a new year's day morning service. This means that there will be two services, one to mark the end of the year and another to celebrate the beginning of the new year. Both services provide an opportunity for Christians to affirm in worship that God has been our help in the past year to acknowledge their dependence on Him for every need during the next year. Back in the various homes, there would be plenty of eating and drinking, mostly of left over provisions from Christmas celebrations. But the celebration of New Year's Day is almost always less festive than that of Christmas in Cameroon.

Our hope is in God! Here in Liberton Northfield Parish Church, we need to thank God for sustaining us through the year 2014. While many people might be celebrating some great achievement in the course of the year, there are many others who can only remember 2014 as a year of enormous challenges! It might have been the loss of a loved one, poor health, redundancy, troubling financial circumstances, broken relationships and many other things besides! But I am sure that all of us have secret sorrows and things which we must have thought, said and done in the past year, of which in our better moments we are deeply ashamed! Yet through all the challenges and bewildering circumstances, God has brought us to the end of 2014 and is leading us into 2015. Our hope is in God!

As a church, we can celebrate the life and love of Christ which I have

personally seen manifested amongst us and by extension in the parish. We have been one another's keeper, praying for each other, and showing on many occasions solidarity with some who have been in any form of trouble! In all these things, we have glorified God in whom we live and move and have our being!

How shall we face the coming year? We must begin by remembering that God is always with us and unfolds great possibilities for us to take advantage of. Let us commit ourselves to God anew and pray for a year full of new possibilities and abundance of warm people around us.

May God Almighty who led us through 2014 remain our hope for 2015 and beyond, and may the gentle touch of His grace bring us lasting happiness. Our hope is in God!

Every Blessing,

Rev Amos Chewachong.

The December 2014 newsletter was the first monthly newsletter for several years and we are looking for 2015 contributions from members and regular adherents. Contributions for the newsletters can take the form of items such as poems, articles, hymns or testimonies. To inspire contributions, here are two items from previous newsletters from two church members who will be fondly remembered by 'mature' members – Bette Genever and Helen Dunbar. Bette and Helen were active members within the church and both were members of the choir. The traditional 'welcome' at the beginning of our church services was actually Helen's idea.

Firstly here is hymn by Bette:

Blessed Lord we'll walk beside Thee
Guide our footsteps day by day
To Thy side we'll always hasten
And from Thee we'll never stray.

*Alleluia, walk with Jesus
Alleluia, with Him stay
Follow closely all His teachings
Walking on the King's highway.*

We delight in treading pastures
Laid before us bright and new
Blossoms springing all around us
Fairer than the morning new.

Alleluia, walk with Jesus

Extolling all Thy glorious wonders
Far and wide Thy radiance shines
Over all the world You reach us
And Your love our hearts entwine.

Alleluia, walk with Jesus

(Music by John Hughes, *Calon Lân*)

Helen wrote the following poem at the age of 15 when she was ill in hospital with scarlet fever.

I walked within a garden
I heard the tread of feet
I turned and walked toward them
And Jesus I did meet.

I said unto Him 'Master'
He answered 'Yes, My child!'
I said 'I am not worthy,
I'm cruel, thoughtless, wild.'

'Of the Cross I'm not worthy
Of the great suffering there.
Oh, can You give salvation
Oh, can You answer prayer?'

He said 'I did it for thee.
With love I took thy place,
And thou canst have salvation
If thou accept My Grace.'

I took that gracious offer
His power it entered me,
And, now I'll tell forever
The tale of Calvary's Tree.

If you have anything to submit for the monthly newsletter, please contact Ian Messer after church, or by email (ian@imesser.wanadoo.co.uk) or phone 657 1041.

SEECAT

SEECAT dates

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2015, 19th - 23rd January

Theme: Give me a drink

Short Church Services: Monday 19th Jan, 2pm at St. Barnabas' Church

Tuesday 20th Jan, 7pm at St Catherine's Church

Wednesday 21st Jan, 2pm at St Gregory's Church

Thursday 22nd Jan, 7pm at Liberton Kirk Main Service, followed by refreshments

Thank You

Jean MacIntyre would like to thank all who helped praise the Lord in the Family Service 21st December.

NEXT STEP EASTER!

Any who wish to sing in the group, please see me.

Jean

Guild News

The first Guild meeting of 2015 is on Wednesday 21st January at 2pm with the Rev. Dr. Jared Hay as the speaker. His topic is - Taizé': Life is a Tabouret.

Visitation Team

If you notice the person who usually sits near you, in front or behind you and has not been to church for a week or two please let us know. Hopefully we would be able to contact them and arrange a visit.

If you would like a visit from one of the visitation team please see Irene or Rachael.

IRENE HOY 664 8413 RACHAEL WHYTE 664 5974

Church Bus Rota

Month	Date	Ceremony / Anniversary	Driver
	18 January 2015		Ian
	25 January 2015	Communion	Ian
February	01 February 2015		John
	08 February 2015		Ian
	15 February 2015	1st Sunday of Lent	John
	22 February 2015		Ian

Our Flower Ministry

Every week flowers brighten up our church because we have a flower ministry. Some people new to our church and also not so new may not know how it operates. Briefly here is how it works, there's a Flower List in the Hall of Friendship (that's the name for the area between the sanctuary and the church hall), simply write your name beside the date on which you want to donate the church flowers. Most people donate church flowers to commemorate dates special to them, such as a birthday, anniversary or the passing of a loved one. Typical donations are around £20 and the money should be given to Evelyn Eadie, usually on the Sunday before the date in question or on the particular Sunday. Evelyn purchases and expertly arranges the flowers in the church. After the service, you'll see several ladies arrange the flowers into bundles. These flowers are then distributed to people, mainly within our parish but this is not a prerequisite, who are ill, house-bound or just in need of encouragement. There's also a 'flower box' for donations, located in the middle of the rear pew.

Thanks for continuing to support this very important ministry.

Treasurer

Helen Palmer, our current treasurer, would like to end her term March/April 2015 and we are now advertising this very important and essential position. This is a voluntary, unpaid position.' To help you find out if this may be for you, here are the basic skill requirements for the position:

Requirements

The person needs to be comfortable using computers and programs (there is one specifically designed for the book keeping that we use called Finance co-ordinator). There is a church PC and several files for reference that go with the position. An eye for detail and accuracy is needed and it is also important to meet regular deadlines. An overlap training period of at least 3 months is envisaged. You will never be without assistance in this position as help and advice will always be available from ex-treasurers.

Cleansing Your Life

To perform baptisms God appointed John,
By the River Jordan this ritual he carried on.
People flocked to be immersed and cleansed from
sin,

These baptisms allowed Jesus teachings to begin.
Jesus himself was baptised in God's glorious light,
To untie Jesus laces John said he had no right.
No matter what sin or evil the wrongdoer enacted
This was all forgiven when baptism was contracted.

The baptisms carried out by John are to this very
day

The most important conversion in the Christian way.
To be baptised and forgiven was in our Lord's plan,
Live like Jesus following God's laws the best you can.

Author: Alex Drysdale

Get to know God this Year

God says: 'Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows Me' (vv. 23-24 NIV). The truth is, if you don't know God it doesn't matter how much money you have in your bank account, or what diplomas hang on your wall, or what position you hold in the company. Until you have a relationship with God, you haven't really begun to live! And part of getting to know Him is learning the truth about yourself. After witnessing the miracle-working power of Christ, Peter acknowledged, 'I am a sinful man!' (Luke 5:8 NIV). When the prophet Isaiah saw the Lord sitting upon His throne, he cried, 'Woe is me!' (Isaiah 6:5 NKJV). But God doesn't tell you the truth about yourself and then leave you that way. No, like a good doctor, He tells you you're sick so that you can get the proper treatment. And the proper treatment for sin is salvation through the blood of Jesus. You will never know God until you are related to Him through Jesus Christ. So if you've never accepted Him as your Saviour, start this New Year by praying: 'Lord, I repent and turn from my sin. I place my life in Your hands, trusting You as my Lord and Saviour. By faith I receive the gift of eternal life. Starting today, I ask You to lead and guide me and fulfil Your will through me. In Jesus' name I pray: Amen.' Happy New Year!

You must exercise Faith

God answers prayer in a manner directly related to our level of faith. 'According to your faith be it unto you' (Matthew 9:29 KJV). Yet sometimes in spite of our doubts and human reasoning, He comes through for us anyway. The believers praying for Peter's release from prison were amazed when he suddenly appeared on their doorstep (Acts 12). When Jesus returned to His home town and began to teach in the local synagogue, the people were amazed by His wisdom. Because He lacked formal education and credentials they wrote Him off as 'just a carpenter' (Mark 6:3 NLT). And the result? 'Because of their unbelief, He couldn't do any miracles among them except to place His hands on a few sick people and heal them.' Question: How often

does your unbelief tie God's hands? The truth is: a) sometimes our faith is so weak that we don't expect Him to answer at all; b) we fail to pray with confidence; c) we don't prepare ourselves for what He wants to do for us. You can't ask God for forgiveness, then continue to live under condemnation over sins He has put under the blood. Or pray about your financial situation, then worry yourself sick about how He's going to meet your needs. You can choose to live by your feelings, or in a way that reflects total trust in God. The Bible says, 'Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He...is a rewarder' (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV). So you must exercise faith.

It's Time to Move on

No matter how bad things look, always remember the words, 'it came to pass', not 'to stay'. Life doesn't stand still; there will always be challenges. Don't let them destroy your confidence; instead, use them as opportunities to grow. Once you've grown in the areas where God thinks you need additional maturity, the season you're in will pass. Nothing lasts forever. Although it's hard to believe at the time, 'You will forget your trouble and remember it... as water gone by.' One author writes: 'To forget isn't to develop amnesia. It's to reach a place where the misery is pulled from the memory like poison is removed from an insect bite. Once it's gone, healing is inevitable. The memory will become as "water gone by". When the water that's flowing around your ankles today passes, you'll never see it again.' Kristin Armstrong says: 'When someone died in Old Testament times, those who were in mourning marked their faces with ashes. They allotted a specified season, after which they scrubbed up and moved on. How much healthier is that than our society? We put on make-up, or a happy or stoic face, and prohibit people from having compassion and respecting the limits of where we are. We're so busy hiding, we're buried under ashes on the inside. God will call us to arise and shine when our light has come (Isaiah 60:1). Ask Him to set your time limit, and be ready to wash your face.' Then move on.

Source: UCB—The Word for Today. Free issues of the daily devotional are available online.

Recurring Diary

- * **Sunday Service** starts 11am every Sunday with Children's groups commencing after a short period in the main service. Tea and coffee is served in the Friendship hall after the service.
- * **Bible study** on Monday mornings take place at Rebecca Akhigbe house from 10.30-12.30.
- * **Mums and Tots** runs during term time in the Falconer Hall from 2pm till 3:30pm every Monday
- * Wednesday sees **bible study** at 7:30pm.
- * **New Life Tots** is held every Friday in the Falconer Hall, 9.30 - 11.30am and is organised by Jan.
- * **'Prayers in the Church'** is held:
Wednesdays: 10.30 - 11.30am
Saturdays: 10.00 - 11.00am
Sundays: start at 10.30am

The contents of the Liberton Northfield Church newsletter do not necessarily express the opinions of the editor, minister or congregation however all submitted items are subject to editorial scrutiny.