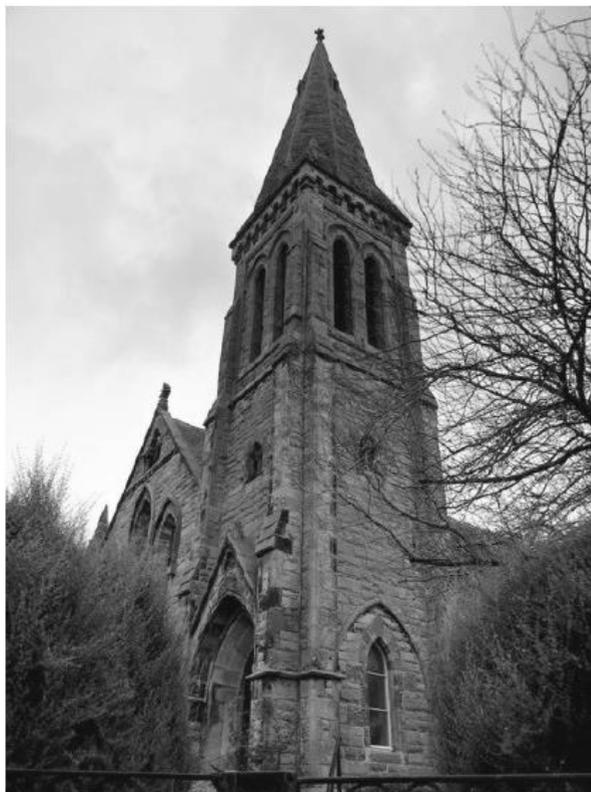


# Liberton Northfield Church

April 2016

Monthly Newsletter



Visit [libertonnorthfield.co.uk](http://libertonnorthfield.co.uk) for the latest news during the month

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# Dear Friends,

On Easter Sunday we shared the greeting, “Jesus is risen” with the response “He is risen indeed”.

How blessed we have been throughout Lent and especially through Holy Week. What a wonderful witness to the world as we worshipped together as sisters and brothers, taking hands across denominational lines.

As a parent, I strongly dislike my children bickering, and I guess God feels the same. I have no doubt that God smiles when he sees his children getting along and enjoying each other’s company. While we may have theological differences, we share the foundational belief that God loves us so much that God came to earth in the person of Jesus, that he died and rose again to give us life to the full.

In the season of Easter, as we travel towards Ascension Thursday and Pentecost, we are reminded that together we are the body of Christ on Earth. As the Holy Spirit filled Jesus, anointing him to reveal the Father to humanity, so the Holy Spirit fills us and anoints us to continue with the mission of Jesus. In our very individualistic culture, it is good to remember that God calls us together and works through us together.

One of the greatest sources of security for me as a minister is knowing that we are Presbyterian in polity. As Presbyterians we trust in the plurality of leadership. That means that I get to share the privilege and responsibility for the leadership of Liberton Northfield with the Elders on the Kirk Session. Because we believe in the priesthood of all believers, Presbyterian ministers are not singled out as priests, but are recognised as Teaching Elders who lead shoulder to shoulder with all the Elders on the Kirk Session. As the Kirk Session, we try to discern the guidance of God for the parish and congregation as a team.

In the day to day leadership of the congregation, all Elders, including the Teaching Elder, have equal sway. The only area where this differs is that the Teaching Elder has oversight of the conduct and content of church services and other forms of ministry (e.g. Bible studies, prayer meetings, prayer ministry), and administering the sacraments.

Being Presbyterian also means that we are not Congregationalists. We believe the biblical model is that leaders are called by God and ordained to the office of Elder and then discharge their responsibilities under God's guidance for the blessing of the parish and congregation. The most difficult thing about leadership is that sometimes you need to lead people where they do not choose to go. The Kirk Session often has to ensure the needs of minority groups.

The Kirk Session also has to consider the needs of people who do not even attend the church. As a parish church, often the Kirk Session is called to make decisions that favour people we pray will one day become active members of the Liberton Northfield family. Elders try to be aware of the needs and preferences of the folk who already worship here, and to balance those with our calling to go beyond the church walls with the fantastic news that Jesus is alive.

In this season of Easter, may we celebrate that together we are the body of Christ. Until Jesus returns at the end of the age, God has chosen us, together as one body, to be the jars of clay that carry the most precious treasure of the Holy Spirit. Our family, friends and neighbours will know that Jesus has risen from the dead and conquered sin when they see Jesus alive and living through us.

Grace and peace.

Mike

## Trailblazers

During March, the Trailblazers learnt about Ruth from Ruth chapters 1 to 4 and then focussed on the Easter story as told in Matthew chapters 21 to 28.

During April, the Trailblazers will be learning about Daniel and Esther.

Advance notice of dates for the diary:

1. There will be a "Spring crafts and games" event on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2-4pm at the church.
2. On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, there will be a "training and fellowship lunch" session for Trailblazer leaders and helpers in the church hall from 10am to 1pm.

3. The next school year seems very far away, but we have made the decision to repeat our “back to school barbecue” on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August.
4. The next meeting of Trailblazer leaders and helpers has been scheduled for Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm, in the home of Jan and Billy Grubb.



## Wedding Notice

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 3pm in our church, Jaime, the daughter of Sandra Lynch is getting married to John. The wedding ceremony will be performed by Rev. John McPake and all the church family are invited to attend the service.

## Fellowship April Programme

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April - Kate Jackson (Talk)  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April - AGM and BRING & BUY

Date	3/4/2016	10/4/2016	17/4/2016	24/4/2016
Gilmerton Door	Rachael Whyte	Lenny Feng	Sandra Lynch	Rebecca Akhigbe
Edinburgh Door	Sheila Corrigan	Margo Ferguson	Irene Hoy	Rachael Whyte
Ramp Door	Irene Hoy	Rachael Whyte	Kate Jackson	Lenny Feng
Counting 1	Irene Hoy	Rachael Whyte	Kate Jackson	Rachael Whyte
Counting 2	Billy Grubb	Kate Jackson	Jean McIntyre	Linda Brown
Counting 3	Marion Messer	Marion Messer	Marion Messer	Marion Messer
Sparklers	Jan Grubb Linda Brown	Rona Lawson Linda Brown	Rona Lawson Kate Ann Shirran	Margaret Padfield Sandra Lynch
All stars	Margaret Padfield Debbie Walker	Helen Palmer Billy Grubb	Helen Palmer Billy Grubb	Pauline Austin Debbie Walker
Explorers		Jean MacIntyre Lenny Feng	Jean MacIntyre Lenny Feng	
Prayers	Alasdair McLeod	Rebecca Akhigbe	Norma Packham	Kate Jackson
Children's talk				
Readings				
Tea & Coffee 1	Michelle Bryant	Jan Grubb	Kirsty Forsyth	Sheila Corrigan
Tea & Coffee 2	Sam Taylor	Gail	Emma Onwe	Liz Stewart
Communion 1				Alasdair / Ian (Wine)
Communion 2				S Corrigan / Jan (Bread)
Audio visual	Dave / Daryl	Dave / Daryl	Dave / Daryl	Dave / Daryl

Music Lead	Judith Oguguo	Judith away	Judith Oguguo	Judith Oguguo
Morning Sermon		Fiona Devoy		
Evening Sermon		Kate Jackson	Fiona Devoy	
Tres Sermon	Fiona Devoy			

## Kirk Session Planning Morning

On the 19<sup>th</sup> March the Kirk Session spent the morning seeking God's guidance in fulfilling our God given mission to the people of our parish and congregation.

As a parish church under the care and discipline of Edinburgh Presbytery, the Elders receive the Presbytery Basis of Reviewable Charge as an objective voice helping us to discern God's calling, (see next page).

As we reflected on the five areas of ministry, we celebrated the successes, and we took ownership of the areas in which we can grow and mature. With a cautious optimism, we realised that we have some way to go in many areas if we are to become more effective in sharing the Kingdom of God in our parish.

A significant part of the morning was spent considering how we can serve people from their first contact with Liberton Northfield, to making this their home where we share together in the privileges and responsibilities of church family life (2b).

As we reflected on the life we share at Liberton Northfield, we identified and celebrated instances where God's Kingdom is coming to earth.

But with sadness we had to admit that we have the unhealthy habit of overloading people who show willingness. We took some time to repent before God for overburdening some people and would like to apologise if you have been hurt in this way.

We also realised that there are instances where people who are eager to help have been frustrated, and that we need to have more open and honest conversations. In many instances we need to plan training or mentoring to help, where possible, for people to develop in their calling to serve God and God's people.

As we measured our current trajectory against the goal, we had to acknowledge that we need to lift our eyes to Jesus and to boldly step out in faith if we are to find the target.

## Presbytery Basis of Reviewable Charge

- 1) The Presbytery shall review the appointment five years from the induction of the minister.
- 2) At the review the Presbytery shall consider with the Kirk Session:
  - a) whether the life of the congregation exhibits the five purposes of the church, i.e. worship, service, discipleship, fellowship and evangelism and whether these are in a healthy balance;
  - b) the extent to which a strategy has been developed and its effectiveness in moving people from contact to engagement, to involvement, to leadership;
  - c) the extent to which the congregation has addressed the needs of the community by understanding and engaging with the diversity of the parish population including young families, the unchurched, the elderly and isolated;
  - d) the continued involvement in, and the development of, the South East Edinburgh Parish Grouping and the local ecumenical grouping focusing on areas of common interest and concern; and
  - e) such other matters as may be relevant by that time
- 3) Following such review, the Presbytery shall take a further decision on the future arrangements for ministry to the congregation and parish of Liberton Northfield recognising that one of the options available to it is the termination of the tenure of the minister on giving him or her six months' notice in writing.

# The Ministry of Flowers

As Spring is really starting to break through we only need to go outside to see the beautiful display of flowers on show. Many have commented on how pretty the church looks with the flowers all out in bloom. Inside the church there too, is an ever changing arrangement of flowers on display. These are put in fresh each week to not only decorate the church but to also serve the wider church community.

Week by week, these flowers make up the Ministry of Flowers, whereby at the end of the service, the flowers are taken out and made up into bouquets to be distributed to members of the church parish and beyond. You can help with this ministerial work by making a donation to the flower fund in the church shaped collection box at the rear of the church. Otherwise perhaps you would like to dedicate a particular day to someone or a particular anniversary by signing up using the calendar on the notice board in the hall of Friendship and passing your contribution to this to Evelyn Eadie.

## Spring Arousal (by Alex Drysdale)

Spring is nature's waking season  
Showing why there is a reason  
For all life begins to bloom  
Following Winter's bleak and gloom.

Flowers blossom o'er all the world  
Glowing colours from buds unfurled  
Aromas that begin to hatch  
Scents man-made cannot match.

Creation of species bring great love  
Concept of the Lord above  
Such a beauty Earth will behold  
Hues that nature will unfold.

As the universe has come alive  
And vitality starts to thrive  
Life's cycle will once more  
Produce a culture Thy populace adore.

The church grounds are looking great this early spring. Thanks from the congregation to all those who tend the church garden.

# Finance submission – for Jan/Feb 2016

Hi All

It's now a few weeks after the ACM (AGM) when we discussed the 2015 accounts and highlighted the fact that on a monthly basis we generally spend more than we bring in through our normal offerings. The following highlights the position for the first two months of the year where this trend continues.

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Difference</b>
January	£3,382	£ 4,732	<b>(-£1,350)</b>
February	£5,210	£4,912	£298

February includes a one off tax rebate for small gift aid claims of £1,250. If this wasn't received our expenditure would have been £952 more than our income. This is something that over time will continue to erode the balance in the bank account and may mean at some point in the future we cannot continue to support what we currently offer the community or do new things. There are a number of ways everyone can continue to support the good work we do:

1. Review your contribution and see if it can be increased in any way. Remember "Every little helps"
2. If you are a UK tax payer, ensure you have completed a gift aid form. Forms are on the noticeboard in the Friendship Hall. Once completed please return to Marion Messer.
3. Set up a standing order to come direct from your bank account. It saves you the hassle of scrambling about for change on a weekly basis.

I will be starting to share more on the financial position as we move through the year. Any questions let me know. Thanks for your continued support

Debbie

# 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 Falconer Hall after the service.

**Bible Study** on Monday mornings take place at Rebecca Akhigbe house from 10.30-12.30pm.

**Mums and Tots** runs during term time in the Falconer Hall from 2.00 - 3:30pm every Monday

Wednesday sees **Bible Study** start 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

## **Non Church of Scotland Events:**

**Zumba Fitness:** is held on Mondays, 6.30 – 7.30pm

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