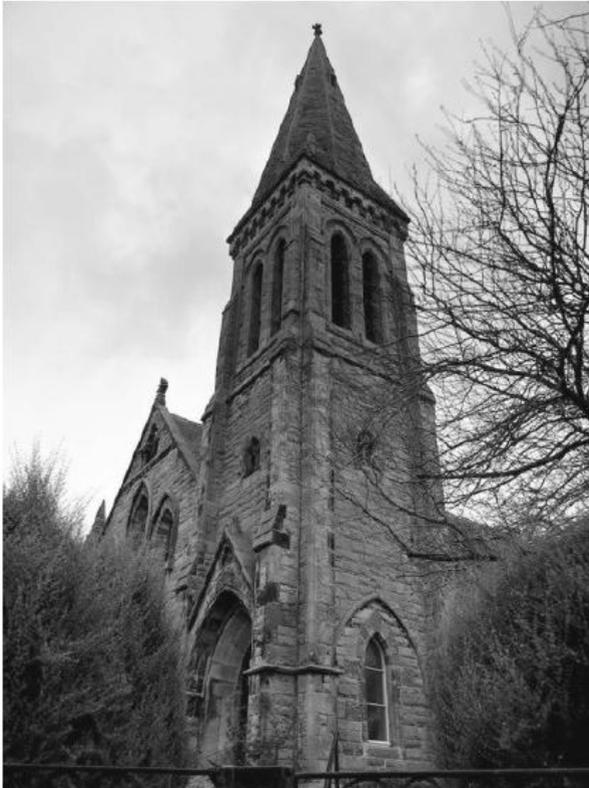


Liberton Northfield Church

December 2015

Monthly Newsletter



Visit libertonnorthfield.co.uk for the latest news during the month

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Dear Friends,

Last night I went to a Presbytery meeting in Edinburgh, and felt like a kid dazzled by all the lights. I love Christmas, the sights, the sounds, the smells. This year for the first time in my life, we will sing carols about snow and sleigh rides and it will actually be cold with the potential for real snow.

Last night I was deeply moved as I listened to a report about the first 50 refugees who have been welcomed to Edinburgh. The report said that about half of those people are children. I can only imagine the horror those poor people have experienced in their search for safety and a chance to live normal lives. We have provided them with homes, medical care and placed them in schools. It is planned that 50 more people will arrive in January.

Last night I was very proud, of you. I felt so honoured that you are my neighbours, my friends, my brothers and sisters in Jesus. I was so proud to live in a city where caring for refugees is not seen as a chore that needs to be accepted, but rather as a wonderful opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of real people.

Last night as I listened to that report, I heard an echo of Jesus from Matthew 25 where He said that when we feed the hungry and clothe the poor, we are actually feeding and clothing Him. I know that acts of kindness such as these are not without difficulties, and that they come at quite a high price. Our human nature is to ask, "What is in this for us?" Perhaps the cost of this expression of love with no immediate promise of reward is precisely what makes it so fantastic.

This Christmas, may God bless you as you have opened your city to others in the true spirit of Christmas.

Grace and peace.

Mike

Trailblazers

During November, the Trailblazers have been learning about three Old Testament kings – Hezekiah, Manasseh and Josiah and in December, the Trailblazers will be focussing on the Nativity story.

Advance notice of dates for the diary:

1. We are planning to hold a Christmas Party on Friday 11th December from 2:30 to 4:30pm in the church hall.
2. The family nativity service will be held on Sunday 20th December. There will be no Trailblazer classes, but the Sparklers room will be available for use by parents of younger children.

Parents please note that children should come to the church hall before the service (by 10:45 if possible), to change into nativity costumes.

3. Trailblazers will resume (after the Christmas / New Year break) on Sunday 10th January.

4. The next meeting of Trailblazer leaders and helpers has been scheduled for Tuesday 9th February at 7:30pm, in the home of Jan and Billy Grubb.

We would welcome any new additions to the team of leaders and helpers working with the Trailblazers. If this is something that you could get involved in then please contact Margaret Padfield for an informal chat about what this involves.

| Church Bus Rota | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--|---------------|
| Month | Date | Ceremony / Anniversary | Driver |
| December | 06 December 2015 | 2nd Advent Sunday | Ian |
| | 13 December 2015 | 3rd Advent Sunday, Gift Service | John |
| | 20 December 2015 | 4th Advent Sunday, Family Nativity Service | John |
| | 27 December 2015 | | No bus |

Merry Christmas

Christmas is a joy that we all behold
The Bible story which is for ever told.
Of how our Saviour was born as a child
With features of a babe so meek and mild.

An event that triumphed over the years
That still brings to us love and good cheers.

Born in a manger which was in a stable
A real true story and never was a fable.

This day we rejoice for the birth of God's Son
Came to earth to save everyone.
May all believers their voices loudly raise
Give to the Father thanks and great praise.

Try to remember on this very special day
That God's child Jesus did prevail come what may.
Extol your love to your earthly brother
More so on this Day which is like no other.

Alex Drysdale

| Liberton Northfield Church - Sunday Duties | | | | |
|---|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Month | | Finance Member | Counting Room | Ramp Access |
| December | 6 | Evelyn Eadie | Billy Grubb | Kate Jackson |
| | 13 | Evelyn Eadie | Kate Jackson | Irene Hoy |
| | 20 | Evelyn Eadie | Jean McIntyre | Rachael Whyte |
| | 27 | Evelyn Eadie | Linda Brown | Jean McIntyre |
| | | | | |
| | | Edinburgh Door | Gilmerton Door | |
| December | 6 | Lenny | Sandra Lynch | |
| | 13 | Nancai Whyte | Shelia Corrigan | |
| | 20 | Margo Ferguson | Rebecca Akhigbe | |
| | 27 | Shelia Corrigan | Sandra Lynch | |

Services in December

| Date | Service |
|---------------------------|--|
| 6 th December | Advent services at 11am and 6.30pm |
| 13 th December | Gift Day Service at 11am, Carol Service at Tressilian Gardens at 3.30pm |
| 20 th December | Family Nativity Service at 11am, Carols by Candlelight Service at 6.30pm |
| 25 th December | Christmas Day Family Service at 10.30am |
| 27 th December | Family Service at 11am |

Gift Day Service

As we have done for the last two years, for the Gilmerton Family Centre, gifts should be suitable for children and for Bethany its gifts suitable to adults.

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

Yield of Fellowship Coffee Morning and Stalls, 7th November, 2015

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Tickets | £105 |
| Books | £22 |
| Bric-a-Brac | £162 |
| Donation | £10 |
| Bakery | £133.50 |
| Total | £432.50 |

Many thanks to all who supported us by donating, attending, purchasing and helping with setting up and cleaning away.

Diary Date: 16th December is our Christmas lunch at Liberton Golf Club.
Shelia Corrigan

Getting to know the Elders

Alisdair McLeod, Jan Grubb and Margaret Padfield



Margaret Padfield – Margaret came to Liberton Northfield when she moved to the area in 2001. Having sat quietly at the back of the church for many years, the arrival of Molly in 2011 brought her into contact with many more members of the congregation, including the Trailblazer leaders. This led to her helping in Trailblazers, and then becoming a leader. Margaret has now taken on the responsibilities of being Trailblazers Co-ordinator.

Jan Grubb – Jan came to Liberton Northfield in June 2005 and did an Alpha course which changed her life. Four years ago, she started leading New Life Tots on a Friday morning, and also leads Sparklers once a month. Jan is also on the rota for tea and coffee duties, which is a great way to get to know people.

Alisdair McLeod – Alasdair first came to Liberton Northfield shortly before the Rev. Bill Thomson retired. He cleans the church and helps tidy the grounds along with others. He leads the Saturday morning prayer group that prays for the church, the nation and the world - to which any others interested in coming would be very welcome.

A Christmas Prayer

I don't know why I kept the newsletter for 30th December 2007, but I do think this article's message is timeless, just change the places mentioned in the 'joy' paragraph for the many places plagued by war, terror, famine and natural disasters in 2015.

At our Christmas Day Service (2007) the following thought was shared with us regarding what we wanted for Christmas, and as we prepare to start a New Year, it would be good to hold on to these thoughts.

What do I want for Christmas?

Lord, the list is endless; so many things I wish for, so much my heart cries out for.

Here is my list, Lord.

First is hope.

I want hope to be reborn in so many weary souls, in a community sunk in apathy. I want hope in the holding centres of Zimbabwe, in the terrorised refugee camps of Darfur, on the winter slopes of the shattered mountains of Pakistan, on the fear-stalked streets of Baghdad, in the forgotten famine of Niger, in all places of despair – I want hope.

Next on my list is joy.

It's a scarce commodity, Lord, but I want it to bubble up from way beneath the depths of the anguish, pain and grief that shape the stories of so many lives. I want joy for children who never have had cause to celebrate, and joy for those grown old and lonely. In place of sadness, grief and mourning – I want joy.

And then there's peace, the most sought after and perhaps the most elusive gift of all, peace that is the healing balm for broken hearts and troubled minds, peace for countries torn apart by civil strife, peace between nations, a decommissioning of minds and hearts, so bridges may be built and new communities based on trust, respect and friendship may herald the dawn of a new day for our world. I all places of discord – I want peace.

You ask me what I want for Christmas, Lord. I want hope and joy and peace, but most of all it's love I want, love for myself, for others and for You. Without it, all other gifts are rendered impotent.

I pause in my requests and in the stillness hear a voice,
“Why do you ask for what already has been given?
For Love was born at Christmas, and is forever present in my world, but you
must first receive it before you pass it on. It is a gift that grows by sharing.”

At last I understand – I no longer have a list, just one request.

‘All I want for Christmas, Lord, is YOU.’

(Prepared by Rev. Doctor Ruth Patterson OBE)

Ian Messer

Louise follows in dad’s footsteps as trainee minister

If you thought the news on St Andrew’s Day would be all about the Murray brothers and Team GB’s Davis Cup victory, well you were wrong – the McPake family knocked them of the headlines in the Edinburgh Evening News and Scotsman newspapers. Wonderful news, Louise (Purden) is following in her dad’s footsteps as she has just been accepted as a trainee minister and is one of 27 new recruits selected for Church of Scotland training this year.

The Liberton Northfield Church family wish Louise God’s strength and wisdom in this exciting phase in her Christian journey.