

Liberton Northfield Church

May 2016

Monthly Newsletter



Visit libertonnorthfield.co.uk for the latest news during the month
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Dear Friends,

Greetings from the manse family. We are often asked how well we are settling in, and while settling in is always quite a long process, we all agree that we feel very blessed to be where we are today.

Facebook has been reminding us that it was towards the end of April two years ago that Sam and I first visited Scotland to catch up with family members who live here. Apart from having a holiday, Sam and I were hoping to discern whether God was calling us to immigrate. It was only about two months later that we conclusively felt that this move was the right way to go.

The following months were taken up with passport and visa applications, and my application to the Church of Scotland. It took some time to sell our belongings, re-home our pets and prepare to leave our jobs. Of all the “things” we left behind, our dogs and cats (and parrot and snake) are undoubtedly the ones we miss the most.

It's amazing to think we came to live in Scotland almost 17 months ago, and began to share our lives with Liberton Northfield about 7 months ago. I am often left speechless at the kindness we receive from members of the congregation and public. Thank you for your warm smiles and gentle words. Thank you for the way you so generously share time, talents and treasures for the life and work of your church.

As a celebration of how wonderfully settled we feel, a few weeks ago we decided it was time to add a bouncy, furry friend to our family. Adopting Skye has rooted us and filled our home with laughter.

The past month has had some sadness as we all said goodbye to Daphne McCaffery. I have been involved with more funerals than normal in April, and with each family I share their pain as I try to help them share in Christ's hope.

There has also been great celebration with the wedding of



Jaime and John. Congratulations to Sandra Lynch on gaining such a wonderful son. May God bless John and Jaime with love and joy every day.

A highlight of the past few months has been the three evenings where a team from Liberton Northfield provided meals for the Bethany Night Shelter. There was jubilation in the air when we served in April, as we heard of a young man who had secured a job and was making significant strides forward in life. There was also sombreness, knowing that the 24th of April was the last night shelter until October. 45 people have slept at the shelter, and more than 50 people have been fed each night for the past 7 months. Please pray for these folk as they adapt to life for the next few months without this support.

Please remember to pray for all those who will soon be writing exams. Pray also for all the students who will be making course or career choices, and those who will leave school or university.

If I can also ask that you pray for the Church of Scotland General Assembly that will take place in May. As Christ's body in the world, we look to Jesus for leadership so that the reign of God may truly come to earth. Let's pray for unity at this year's General Assembly, as we trust Jesus to continue to build his Church.

Once again, thank you for all your warmth and kindness to us as a family. Thank you for caring for one another and the people of our parish. May Jesus' love continue to shine through this congregation.

Grace and peace.

Mike

Trailblazers

During April, the Trailblazers learnt about two well-known Old Testament characters – Daniel, including his new life in Babylon in Daniel chapter 1 and the Lion's Den in Daniel chapter 6 - and Esther, from Esther chapters 1-9.

During May, the Trailblazers will be learning about the Holy Spirit, and characters from Paul's epistles.

Advance notice of dates for the diary:

1. On Saturday 14th May, there will be a "training and fellowship lunch" session for Trailblazer leaders and helpers in the church hall from 10am to 1pm.

2. The “back to school barbecue” (with bouncy castle) will be held on Saturday 20th August.
3. There will be a “back to school” family service on Sunday 21st August.
4. The next meeting of Trailblazer leaders and helpers has been scheduled for Tuesday 13th September at 7:30pm, in the home of Jan and Billy Grubb.

Thanks Judith - from the Congregation

Judith's last Sunday as Organist will be on 8th May and we, the congregation of Liberton Northfield, are most grateful for her playing of the organ and keyboard over the last year and a half, whilst she has been a medical student at the University of Edinburgh. We'll miss Judith but wish her well as she moves on to the next stage of training to become a medical doctor.

Fellowship May Programme

The Fellowship meetings for May are as below:-

4th May - Mrs. Shirley Fraser (Talk)

18th May - Special Tea (in support of Fellowship funds)

Scottish Parliament Election

As our church hall is being used as polling station for the Scottish Parliament election on Thursday 5th May, we are looking for volunteers to represent our church. Duties are in 2-hour slots throughout the day and include courteously showing people into hall and, if asked, showing where our toilets are located – nothing difficult. If you feel able to do this, then please sign-up on the election sheet on the notice board in the Hall of Friendship.

Date	1/5/2016	8/5/2016	15/5/2016 Pentecost	22/5/2016	29/5/2016
Gilmerton Door	Sandra Lynch	Rachael Whyte	Rebecca Akhigbe	Sheila Corrigan	Irene Hoy
Edinburgh Door	Lenny Feng	Irene Hoy	Rachael Whyte	Margo Ferguson	Lenny Feng
Ramp Door	Irene Hoy	Margo Ferguson	Irene Hoy	Rachael Whyte	Rachael Whyte
Counting 1	Irene Hoy	Rachael Whyte	Irene Hoy	Rachael Whyte	Rachael Whyte
Counting 2	Billy Grubb	Irene Hoy	Kate Jackson	Jean McIntyre	Linda Brown
Counting 3	Norma Packham Cover	Norma Packham Cover	Norma Packham Cover	Norma Packham	Norma Packham
Sparklers	Jan Grubb Linda Brown	Rona Lawson Linda Brown	Rona Lawson Kate Ann Shirran	Margaret Padfield Sandra Lynch	Rona Lawson Linda Brown Cover
All stars	Pauline Austin Billy Grubb	Helen Palmer Billy Grubb	Helen Palmer Billy Grubb	Pauline Austin Debbie Walker	Helen Palmer Debbie Walker
Explorers		Jean MacIntyre Lenny Feng	Jean MacIntyre Lenny Feng		
Prayers	Sheila Corrigan	Kate Jackson	Garry Brown	Lenny Feng	Nansai Whyte
Children's talk					
Readings					
Tea & Coffee 1	Michelle Bryant	Kirsty Forsyth		Jan Grubb	Sheila Corrigan
Tea & Coffee 2	Sam Taylor	Gail Jefferson	Emma Onwe		Liz Stewart
Communion 1					Irene / Jan (Wine)
Communion 2					Rachael / S Connor (Bread)

Date	1/5/2016	8/5/2016	15/5/2016 Pentecost	22/5/2016	29/5/2016
Audio visual	Dave / Daryl	Dave / Daryl	Dave / Daryl	Dave / Daryl	Dave / Daryl
Music Lead	Judith Oguguo	Judith Oguguo			
Morning Sermon	Mike Taylor	John Young	Mike Taylor	Mike Taylor	Mike Taylor
Evening Sermon	Mike Taylor	Mike Taylor	Fiona Devoy	Mike Taylor	Mike Taylor
Tres Sermon	Fiona Devoy				

Finance submission – April 2016

Hi All,

We are now 3 months into the new financial year and so far expenditure is in line with our original forecast but we do have some big expenses this year, not least a series of repairs to the church spire. More to follow on this work and how we propose to fund it.

	Income	Expenditure	Difference
January	£3,382	£4,732	-£1,350
February	£5,210*	£4,912	£298
(*includes gift aid £1,250)			
March	£3,609	£4,982	-£1,373

March continues the trend outlined last month with more expenditure than income. One of our largest payments on a monthly basis is to the Church of Scotland for £2,623. The first three months also include some large costs for heating (gas and oil). This is not unexpected for the time of year. Pray for the sunshine.

It's also great to see some increases in the value of your regular standing orders. Thank you for reviewing – it all helps immensely. Remember gift aid as well; speak to Marion Messer if not already registered.

Thanks for your continued support

Debbie

Two New Exciting Outreaches

South East Edinburgh (SEE) Artisans

A group of folk from Liberton Kirk and Liberton Northfield have formed a team to carry out small jobs in the churches and homes of people in the parishes.

We are aware that for many people, even the smaller jobs can be challenging. While we can't take on large pieces of work or any new installations there will be many things that we might be able to help people with. Please note that we do not charge for our services.

Some examples of recent jobs are: Sink drainer sealed (Liberton); Light bulbs changed (Liberton); New casters fitted to settee (Gracemount); Shelf refitted after it came loose and fell off (Gracemount), Conservatory door adjusted to prevent jamming (Gilmerton); airing cupboard shelves fixed and extra shelf fitted (Liberton); Fence repainted and gate repaired (Gilmerton). The (SEE) Artisans also recently painted the sheds at the nursery attached to Liberton Primary School.

Liberton Northfield Kirk Session have approved to clear out the garage at the church to create an Artisans' Shed where the Artisans can meet to share advice and help each other with odd jobs, or to prepare for work in people's homes. Of course, work will be punctuated with frequent cups of tea and many a blether.

If we could be of help to you, please contact the (SEE) Artisans on: **0131 664-8264** and leave your name and contact number so that one of our team can get in touch.



Perhaps you might like to join our team of Artisans? If you have some skills to share or would like to come along to help out, you will be most welcome. You do not need to be a member of a local church, just have a desire to serve the wider community.

The (SEE) Artisans meet for coffee on the first Saturday morning of each month. Contact Derek Jardine, 07913265912, for more details should you like to join us.

Toastie Tuesdays

On the 31st May and the 14th June, we are planning to run two pilot events called Toastie Tuesdays. A combined team from Liberton Northfield and Young Life International will prepare tons of tasty toasties (did you see that alliteration?) for Liberton High Pupils who want to escape the cafeteria during their lunch break. (If you prepare meals in the cafeteria and are reading this, we are really appreciative of your care for our children).

If the pilot projects prove to be positive (I did it again), we hope to run Toastie Tuesday every Tuesday during school terms from September. Some funding has been applied for, some already approved and by and large the food will be self-funding.

We hope over time for the church to become a comfortable place for teenagers to come to, and that we can build rapport with the youngsters who live nearby.

The Toastie Tuesday Team would really appreciate your prayers for this outreach to our community.



Genesis 19 – a modernisation

Two Croatians arrived at Waverley Station one Tuesday evening in February. An Irishman named Eion was sitting at the bus stop. He saw them and got up to welcome them, bowing before them and said, “Please, my friends, come to my house and stay the night. Wash up. You can rise early and be on your way refreshed.”

They said, “No, we’ll sleep in the street.”

³ But Eion insisted, he wouldn’t take no for an answer; and so they relented and went home with him. Eion’s wife, fixed a hot meal for them and they ate.

⁴⁻⁵ Before they went to bed, men from all over Edinburgh, young and old, descended on the house from all sides and boxed them in. They yelled to

Eion, “Where are the men who are staying with you for the night? Bring them out so we can have our sport with them!”

⁶⁻⁸ Eion went out of his small Council house, barring the door behind him, and said, “Brothers, please, don’t be vile! Look, I have two daughters, virgins; let me bring them out; you can take your pleasure with them, but don’t touch these men—they’re my guests.”

⁹ They said, “Get lost! You drop in from nowhere and now you’re going to tell us how to run our lives. Where are you from anyway, Blackpool? Or are you actually a travelling gypsy? We’ll treat you worse than them!” And they charged past Eion to break down the door.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ But the two men reached out and pulled Eion inside the house, locking the door. Then they struck blind the men who were trying to break down the door, both leaders and followers, leaving them groping in the dark.

¹²⁻¹³ The two foreigners said to Eion, “Do you have any other family here? Sons, daughters—anybody in the city? Get them out of here, and now! We’re going to destroy this place. The outcries of victims here to God are deafening; we’ve been sent to blast this place into oblivion.”

¹⁴ Eion went out and warned the fiancés of his daughters, “Evacuate this place; God is about to destroy this city!” But his daughters’ would-be husbands treated it as a joke.

¹⁵ At break of day, the angels pushed Eion to get going, “Hurry. Get your wife and two daughters out of here before it’s too late and you’re caught in the punishment of the city.”

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ Eion was dragging his feet. The men grabbed his arm, and the arms of his wife and daughters—God was so merciful to them! —and dragged them to safety outside the city. When they had them safely outside, Eion was told, “Now run for your life! Don’t look back! Don’t stop anywhere around here—run for Germany or France or you’ll be swept away.”

¹⁸⁻²⁰ But Eion protested, “No, pal, you can’t mean it! I know that you’ve taken a liking to me and have done me an immense favour in saving my life, but I can’t run away from Scotland—who knows what terrible thing might happen to me and people will beat us and leave me for dead. Look over there—Harthill is close enough to get to. It’s a small town, hardly anything to it. Let me escape there and save my life—it’s a mere wide place in the road.”

²¹⁻²² “All right, Eion. If you insist, I’ll let you have your way. And I won’t stamp out the village you’ve spotted. But hurry up. Run for it! I can’t do anything until you get there.”

²³ The sun was high in the sky when Eion arrived at the town.

^{24–25} Then God rained brimstone and fire down on Edinburgh—a river of lava from God out of the sky! —and destroyed the city and the entire plain and everyone who lived in the city and everything that grew from the ground.

²⁶ But Eion's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt.

To show our love and respect, exerts from church family member's funeral is a new topic that when appropriate we will be adding to the monthly church magazine.

Funeral for Daphne Flora McCaffery

11th October 1927 – 31 March 2016

Tribute (by Nikki, granddaughter)

Our gran was one of the most loving, caring, generous women I know. She would do anything for anyone, always there when you needed her and so full of life. She was the heart of our family and involved in so many happy memories with us all.

She loved doing fun things with us, particularly if we went on a wee day out somewhere she either hadn't been in a while or somewhere she hadn't visited before. We would do things like this with her quite a lot. She loved spur of the moment plans that meant she was going out for lunch and a wander as it was an afternoon with some of the people she loved the most. Her favourite line when we went for lunch was always "just get me a small portion, I can't eat a lot" however when the adult portion arrived she always found a way to finish the lot and surprise herself much to the amusement of us all!

There are so many funny moments we could mention with gran but I'd be here all day, there are however a few that stick in our minds! The time dairy milk brought out the advert with the gorilla playing the drums to Phil Collins.....gran watched it and said "it's amazing the things they can teach animals these days"! I also told her I was going back to my spinning classes recently as I wanted to lose some weight, she thought this was ridiculous and couldn't see how I'd lose weight spinning, I asked her what exactly she thought the class was and she told me it was spinning wool on a loom! We all rolled about laughing as I explained it's actually an exercise bike! Or all the times she would call mums house and if ever Lauren or I was there, we would answer

the phone and pretend gran had called us by mistake, she used to get so annoyed as she'd always say "it says Lesley on my phone so how has it called you"!! She'd then try over and over again till eventually we couldn't keep up the joke any longer and our laugh would give it away!

My daughter Freya and gran had a particularly close bond, it was actually one of the first names she started saying.....'Nana'. Freya loved going to visit Nana, mostly for the copious amounts of biscuits she was always given but also because they always had such fun together. Watching them interact and play was one of the things I loved most.

Family meals and occasions were always a laugh, Daphers (as Gran was named over the years) was always the centre of jokes and laughs and she absolutely loved it! Gavin and Andrew would wind her up something rotten and always try and find a subject she knew nothing about, I still think to this day they never won, Gran was like a book of endless knowledge, always trying to learn new things to add to her already extended wisdom.

Gran loved the little things in life, like feeding the ducks, which she recently did with Lauren, Andrew and Freya although there wasn't much bread left by the time they got to be pond as Freya had ate most of the loaf!

She also enjoyed a stroll round the shops or Beijing banquet!!!! For a while I think we were there with her at least once a week as every time you offered to take her out that was top of her list. We all used to laugh that she got taxis there without us to get her Chinese Buffett fix!

Last year Gran got to do something she had always wanted to when the Borders railway opened back up. We booked the tickets and planned our day trip to Galashiels. Gav and I needed a week's holiday afterwards as looking after Gran, as well as 2 toddlers was hard work, all 3 going in different directions! Was a great day out though and something I'm so glad she got to do.

Lauren and Andrew would also take her a drive round Arthur's Seat, stopping at points for Gran that would bring back memories of grandad whilst also getting fresh air and a bit of exercise.

These are the memories our family will hold onto forevermore. Although we now have a huge hole in our family where Gran used to be, I speak on behalf of us all that we are all so extremely proud that she was ours. That we had so many happy years, that we have great photos to look back on and memories that we will treasure forever. This also includes meeting her newest great granddaughter Chloe just a week before she went into hospital.

We won't be sad about what we've lost, but instead we will laugh about the great times we had. I'm sure the next few weeks and months will be the hardest as we come to terms with life without Gran but I know she will always be looking down on us. I'm going to finish with a short poem that I think sums up everything she would want us to do...

Look for me in rainbows

“You can shed tears that she is gone,
or you can smile because she has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her,
or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember her only that she is gone,
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind,
be empty and turn your back.
Or you can do what she'd want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

Pastoral Address (by Mike)

I am really going to miss seeing Daphne, especially when she would walk into church on a Sunday morning. Daphne had an air about her, the way she walked and the way she spoke, she was easy to respect. And when you heard her words, she was easy to love.

The Apostle Paul said, “I don't want you to be naïve about what happens when a person dies, because if we are uncertain we will mourn and grieve like people who have no hope”.

Even for Christians, when a loved one passes away, we are meant to grieve, we are meant to cry and be sad and feel a hole where the person used to be. But we are not meant to grieve like people who have no hope. And the reason for our hope is that death is not the end. Paul says death is only a time of being absent from our bodies, while we are present with the Lord. He speaks of those who have died as asleep, because when a person sleeps there is the confidence that when morning comes they will wake up and rise from their bed and continue with life.

When someone we love goes to bed earlier than us, we may miss them while we are still awake, but we know that it is for a short while and then we get to share life together again.

Our example of what we are to expect is Jesus Himself, who died and rose from the dead. We would be wrong to think Daphne has just disappeared or vanished forever. Scripture tells us that while she is absent from her body, she is alive and well with Jesus. Daphne's spirit and her soul are safe with Jesus today, but it doesn't end there. Paul goes on to say that a day is coming when Jesus will return, and He will bring with Him the spirits and the souls of those who have died.

A day is coming when Jesus will return, and He will bring with Him Daphne and all those who died believing in Jesus, and at that time Daphne will receive a resurrected body.

Because Jesus died for us, that is the hope of Christians that changes the way we grieve.

The question often comes to mind, **"But what will those resurrected bodies look like?"**

When Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, they were asking that same question. And Paul's answer was that this body is like a seed which is sown, but the shape of our new bodies is hard to tell by just looking at the seed.

I am not much of a gardener and I am unsure by looking at a seed what the plant or tree will look like. If you take a little white bean and plant it, you get a bean stalk a few feet tall. But if you take a large bulb and plant it, it grows into a small daffodil plant. Just as the size and shape of a seed are a poor indication of what the plant will look like, so it is impossible to establish by looking at Daphne's physical body what her resurrected body will look like. What we do know though, is that when Jesus returns, Daphne will receive her resurrected body, and this body is only the seed which is sown. Daphne's resurrected body will not be like this body which is tired, often falling and bruised. It will be a body that reflects her heart and her soul. Perhaps it will be the body of young ballroom dancer. That is our hope. That doesn't mean we don't grieve today, but it means we grieve like those who have hope.

If you were to ask Daphne if she wanted to spend the rest of time in this body, you would be at risk of her leaning in and asking if you are a little crazy. This body was tired, it had journeyed around the world and it was struggling to keep up with Daphne's unstoppable love for life. On the Thursday after Easter, Daphne swapped her tired, weary body and is waiting for Jesus to give her a new one. The body that she traded in was tired, mortal and corruptible. The one she will receive is strong and fresh, immortal and incorruptible.

A few weeks ago Daphne went to meet her Lord and her saviour. Life does not end with our final breath, but it continues into eternity. So what was that experience like for her.

In 1 Thessalonians Paul speaks of those who have died as having fallen asleep. When my daughter was younger, she would fall asleep almost anywhere. She would fold up her arms and fall asleep while eating dinner. When she did, I would catch her up in my arms, and take her to her bed. Sometimes she would stir on the way, but would then doze off again knowing she was safe in my arms. The next morning she would open her eyes and she was already there.

Our hope is in the grace of Jesus, that is what happened to Daphne. She dozed off, and when she awoke, she was surrounded by the glory of heaven, warmed by the love of Jesus. Friends, today a seed is planted which will be watered by your tears, but if we believe in Jesus, even though we die we will live forever. Friends, we need to grieve the loss of Daphne because she is precious to us. But do not grieve like those who have no hope, because in Jesus there is hope.

Save the Inch House Community Centre

The Inch House has been operational in the local community as a community centre for over 30 years and hosts everything from lunch clubs for the elderly to rehearsal space for bands. Council Officers will report to the next full council meeting in May recommending that the Inch Community Centre should be closed. If you think it should be saved, please sign the petition located in the Hall of Friendship.

Getting to know the Elders

Alistair Lawson: Elder and Session Clerk



My wife Rona and I moved to the Liberton area of Edinburgh around 18 years ago, and settled into Liberton Northfield after being drawn in by the warm welcome and fellowship. Since then our family has grown to include 3 children and one puppy. I have been an Elder for about 11 years, and I was invited to become Session Clerk nearly 4 years ago. In theory the role of Session Clerk is just that - someone who takes the minutes of Session meetings, and liaises with Presbytery on behalf of Session. In practice however the role involves supporting all aspects of Session providing spiritual oversight of the congregation, plus supporting Session in being Trustees with responsibilities that include safeguarding, health and safety, data protection, duty of care to employees and volunteers, and a whole raft of other legislation. As well as the usual Session Clerk duties there have been a number of additional tasks including the Parish Review (formally known as the Quinquennial Review), and of course the recent Vacancy. The part of being Session Clerk that I enjoy most is my role in supporting and encouraging the Elders, other folk in key leadership roles, and the employees of the church.

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.