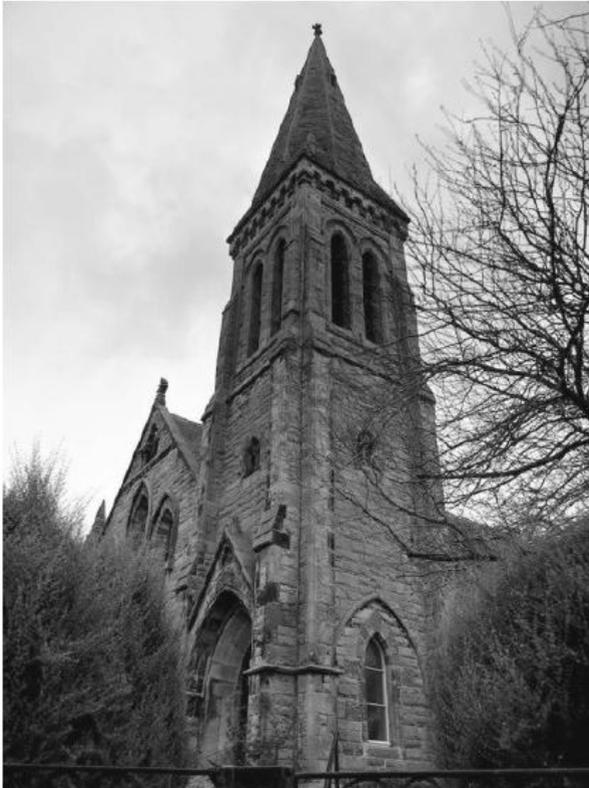


Liberton Northfield Church

November 2015

Monthly Newsletter



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

Manse phone number: 0131 664 5490

Church address: 280 Gilmerton Rd, Edinburgh EH16 5TT

Contact email: ian@imesser.wanadoo.co.uk

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Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of October and into November there are a number of major commemorations in the Christian calendar. By the time you read this, we will have just celebrated Thanksgiving (Harvest). In a few days we will be silent as we vow that “At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them”. All Saints Day is tucked in between Thanksgiving and Remembrance Sunday. So why do we have all these commemorative Sundays?

If you drive a few minutes out of the city you will see that the wheat and barley farmers have all harvested their crops. For months they have been investing their money and labour into their fields with no return. For some farmers, it's a time when they face bankruptcy as they reach the end of their savings. But now their crops are in silos or bags, all their investment has come back with profit and it is time to celebrate. The Christian celebration of Thanksgiving goes back to the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles (Booths), one of the three early Jewish festivals (Exodus 34:22 & Leviticus 23:42-43). As a harvest festival, it was time for people to celebrate the abundance while specifically focusing on the source of that abundance: God. But in another sense, it was a time for them to remember the Exodus from Egypt, when they were wanderers with nowhere to call home. Even today, many orthodox Jews move out of their houses and spend the week dwelling in “booths” made of reeds. Jewish farmers were legally obligated to leave some of the crops so that peasants in their community could also be blessed by what they gleaned from the fringes (Leviticus 23:22, Deuteronomy 24:19-21 & Ruth 2). For us today, Thanksgiving should still focus us on God as the provider of all the blessings we receive, including the basics of food, water and shelter. It should also focus us on those who have less than us, those who are still wanderers, homeless, poor, widowed or orphaned.

The next festival Sunday we celebrate is Remembrance Sunday, which is the second Sunday of November. This festival has a more recent origin, initially commemorating the signing of the Armistice which ended hostilities on the western front in WW1 at 11am on the 11th of November, 1918. After WW2, many countries changed the name to Remembrance Day. Today we remember all who have sacrificed in war, including recent wars. On this day we should not glorify war, but we should remember those who gave their lives, and those who gave their health, in the pursuit of peace. We should remember

the children who lost a parent or grandparent. We should remember those who lost a spouse. We should remember those who lost a sibling. We should remember those who have lost sons or daughters. We should consider the cost of greed, prejudice, bigotry, nationalist pride, corruption and revenge, and commit ourselves to peace so that our loved ones did not sacrifice in vain.

The commemorative day we will possibly ignore is All Saints Day, possibly because in our minds we link it to Halloween. It is the day we remember all those who have faithfully served God and have left this earthly body to await the resurrection. There is only one Church, visible and invisible, the living and dead. On All Saints Day we remember and honour all those who have died in Christ, renewing our hope that in time, like Jesus, we too will be resurrected. As Paul said to the Corinthians, if our hope is only for this lifetime, then we are to be pitied.

Practise without understanding is probably just superstition. So as we commemorate these special days, let us commit to understanding why we celebrate them. Let us care for the poor, the widow, the orphan and the alien living amongst us. Let us actively work for peace as we remember those who paid a great price for peace. Let us hold on to hope, sure in the knowledge that Jesus lived, Jesus died, Jesus rose again.

God bless you.

Mike

Coffee Morning

Don't forget the coffee morning on Saturday 7th November, 10 – 12 noon, in the church hall; stalls with home baking, DVDs, books, bric-a-brac and many other items. All welcome.

Trailblazers

During October, the Trailblazers have been thinking about people who met Jesus in John chapters 3-5. This included Nicodemus, the official whose son was healed, and the lame man who was healed.

During November, the Trailblazers will be learning about three Old Testament kings – Hezekiah, Manasseh and Josiah.

Advance notice of dates for the diary:

1. We are planning to hold a Christmas Party on Friday 11th December.
2. The family nativity service will be held on Sunday 20th December.
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.

Life and Work

I'd like to promote Life and Work, the official magazine of the Church of Scotland and if you'd like to subscribe for 2016 please see Ian Messer.

Life and Work is the second oldest magazine still printed in Scotland, and the second best-selling with a current circulation of around 20,000, making it the best-selling Christian monthly in the UK.

It was founded in 1879 by Archibald Charteris, who was also instrumental in setting up the Guild and the Diaconate. It is editorially independent, meaning that the editor is answerable only to the General Assembly and not to anyone Church of Scotland Headquarters at 121 George Street.

Over the past decade, it has raised over a million pounds for the Church of Scotland's mission work. With the mainstream media now almost entirely secular, Life and Work is the best way to keep in touch with what's happening in the Church of Scotland as well as churches worldwide.

A review of Life and Work presented to this year's General Assembly stated: "Life and Work has served the Church of Scotland well for more than a century. It has brought the church alive to members across Scotland, and further afield. It has been a forum for debate about important issues affecting the church and society; it has been a source of news, often dealing with difficult and emotionally-charged stories; it has challenged the church and the members about their faith, and how they live it; and it has given us a laugh too through the wry observations of its commentators. Over the years, the magazine has changed and developed in response to changing times – it has embraced new technology and it has updated its look to meet the needs of readers."

An Opportunity to Share God's Word – feedback from the Holiday Club

I'd like to share with you, something that happened on Friday (16th October) at the bible exploration for the polar bears.

During the teaching section, Lauren asked the group if they had a bible. Some of the children told the group they did not have a bible – this resulted in an opportunity to give five children Bibles for the first time in their lives.

The Faith Mission bookshop recommended the Jesus Storybook Bible and these were purchased by the church and given to the children. The Jesus Storybook Bible is very bright and colourful, with short easy to read bible stories.

There was a chance to talk to some of the parents when we gave the children their bibles as there was a very positive response to the gift. One of the children was in the polar bear group, she was given a bible and I spoke to her dad. They all left the church and then a few minutes later returned. Her sister who was in the younger penguin group wanted to come and ask for her own copy of the bible. We thanked her for returning and got address details; a bible was delivered to her later in the day. At the visit I was able to talk to their mum and there were positive comments about the Holiday Club.

I'm sure there are more great stories from the Holiday Club week; I just wanted to share this one with you all.

Kirsty Forsyth

Church Bus Rota			
Month	Date	Ceremony / Anniversary	Driver
November	01 November 2015		Ian
	08 November 2015	Remembrance Sunday (10 minutes early)	John
	15 November 2015		Ian
	22 November 2015		John
	29 November 2015	1st Advent Sunday	John
December	06 December 2015	2nd Advent Sunday	Ian
	13 December 2015	3rd Advent Sunday	John
	20 December 2015	4th Advent Sunday	John
	27 December 2015		No bus

Fellowship Syllabus		
Month	Date	
November	07 November 2015	Coffee Morning – usual stalls, 10am to 12noon
	11 November 2015	The Rock Trust – Heather Zajac
	25 November 2015	Rev. Frank Parker

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

Special Services in November

Date	Service
1 st November	Harvest Thanksgiving
8 th November	Remembrance Sunday; service will start sharp 11am for minute silence.
15 th November	New Elders Ordination
29 th November	1 st Sunday of Advent; Informal Communion

Remembrance Day Poem

The following poem is by Walter Jarvie, a good friend of Kathleen Munroe. Walter has kindly given us permission to publish his poem in our church magazine and I'm delighted to include it in this issue. He was a Telegram Boy during WWII. One of many teenage boys, as young as 14 years old, whose important task was - if you were unfortunate enough to lose a loved one during the war, as so many tragically did - to deliver the telegram message to your home.

Remembrance day.

Oh ye who come from near and far, to place flowers beneath our name,
remember in life, we were content, with no desire for fame,
It may be that you stand and weep, while in mother earth we lie asleep,
for we were part of God's great plan, involving earth, and fellowman,
Did your teardrop fall on arid ground, where lay the dormant seed,
a breath of wind, a ray of shine, did your tear fulfil a need,
For are we not that breath of wind, that guided that fallen tear,
to germinate that little seed, to give reminders year by year.
And in the darkness of the night, do we look down from afar,
Are we the cloud that drifts above, or part of that twinkling star,
Or maybe the diamond in the snow, or the scent of numerous flowers,
remember though we are at rest, we're still part of God's great powers.
We have known the joys of life, and walked the paths of peace and strife,
till God old father time did send, and brought our good life's to an end.
And we now dwell in the presence of that power,
That dopped the tear, - - and grew the flower.

"Good people are taken away, but no one understands. Those who do right are being taken away from evil and are given peace. Those who live as God wants finds rest in death."

(Isaiah 57 1-2.) W Jarvie. Telegram Boy World War Two.

World War II Memories from Members and Regular Attenders

It's very common for children to be given projects at school to find out what their relatives, usually great-grandparents, did during World War II. Here are some memories from some of our senior members and regular attenders, lest we forget.

World War II Memories
Name: Flo Lancashire
Which service and rank: The Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and Leading Aircraftwoman, working as a cook.
Number: 433977 (I still have shoe brushes with my number engraved into them)
Where stationed: My 'square-bashing' was in Bridgenorth Shropshire, a town split into two - High Town and Low Town due to their elevations above the River Severn. After my training I was posted to RAF Kinloss on the Moray Firth. I travelled there on my own and it took nearly two days by train. It was really awkward catching trains during the war.
Memories: It wasn't uncommon to meet your future husband when you were in military service and that's what happened to me. WAAF's were invited to a local dance and at the end of the night our transport back to barracks arrived. I needed a bit help to get up onto the back of the lorry and that person was Tom. He climbed on after me and we got chatting on the way back. We kept in touch when Tom was posted to Iceland and ended up getting married.

World War II Memories
Name: Lily Grinton
Which service and rank: The Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS; popularly and officially known as the Wrens); Leading WREN
Number: 73555
Where stationed: 1943: Training at Tulliechawn Castle, near Loch Lomond and it rained non-stop for 5 weeks. 1943 – 46 at Westfield College, London. Released in 1946 at Burghfield Camp, near Reading; then home with mixed feelings.
Memories: Meeting people from all walks of life and making lifelong friendships. Meeting all nationalities, such as Canadians, Americans and Polish in London. The British fighting spirit. Managed to get to see Bob Hope at the Royal Albert Hall and Stefan Grappelli came to our college to entertain us. I remember the Doodlebug flying bombs and families bedding down for the night in tube stations. Travelling home on leave on a packed train with no seats and sitting on some soldier's kit bags all the way from London to Edinburgh. It was an experience I'm glad I did not miss.
World War II Memories
Name: Euphemia (Fay) Malcolm
Which service and rank: The Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) for 5 years; Leading WREN working as a cook.
Number: 14549
Where stationed: Dunfermline and Donibristle in Fife; Arbroath, Portsmouth and Edinburgh. I got the posting to Edinburgh when my father was unwell near the end of the war in Europe.
Memories: While posted in Dunfermline I remember the German planes passing overhead on the way to bomb Clydebank. Arbroath was a base for the Fleet Air Arm where young men were taught to be pilots. At Donibristle they were looking for one volunteer from each section to go to Portsmouth, I volunteered. A few months later at Portsmouth just before D-Day, we were told not to go up a particular hill beside our camp. I went up the hill on the 5 th June 1944 and the sight was wonderful - the D-Day landing armada. I will always remember this sight. I got kept confined to camp on 6 th June but it was well worth it.

During the six years of war (1939 – 45) that Great Britain and the Allies fought against Germany, from the age of 6 years to 11 years, I have vivid memories of most of the events that did occur, and the times and suffering lived through by the people of the world. My parents, who had lived through the Great War (1914 – 18), were aghast at the thought of another conflict of that dimension.

As safety was the prime object of parents thoughts for their children, some mums and dads sent their children to what was recognised as safe homes in the countryside (evacuation). My parents' opinion was to keep me by their side during the conflict.

Everyone from the elderly to babes were issued with gas masks in case there was the threat of poison gas attacks. All forms of rationing was introduced e.g. meat, butter, marg, sugar, bread and milk. All windows had to be blacked out during the hours of darkness to prevent enemy aircraft recognising lights from the sky above. Police boxes were fitted with warning sirens which were sounded if there was an imminent air attack. When these incidents happened, when danger was over, an 'all clear' siren was sounded. Life in the morning resumed as normal, and if the raid did not last long, children went to school. On the occasions when the raids were lengthy, it was not essential to attend classes. Only these districts in Edinburgh were ever bombed: Leith, Dalry and Marchmont (no fatalities).

During these episodes when the sirens were heard, my parents would rouse the household and dress quickly. My mum would ensure that warm clothing was at hand for me, and her next task was to lift an old biscuit tin box which contained their marriage certificate, birth lines and insurance policies. The shelter that had been built in the early days of the war was in the back green of our tenement; our house was on the top flat (3-storeys). The shelter had been improvised by the residents and had seating, stove fires and bunks for the children. All the families had torches which were essential.

At 9.00pm every night, all ears were tuned into the radio, when news of the war was given out. Hearts fell when the news was bad (Dunkirk), and moments of joy when the news was good. Mr. Churchill would at times inspire us with his speeches of defiance against Hitler.

My brother and sister were called up to serve in the forces, much to the dismay and fear of our parents. They both came to no harm and were demobbed in 1946. As children, life was much the same and after the episodes described earlier we continued to play and attend school, although aware that a war was being waged.

In December 1941, Japan attacked the American naval base at Pearl

Harbour, and America joined us in the fight against aggression. 1942 saw the war start to turn in our favour. The battle for North Africa was being won, and Britain's development of war machinery was now quite vast.

In June 1944, the Allies landed in France to liberate Europe's conquered countries. The defeated German nation surrendered in May 1945. Victory over Japan was in August 1945.

The day that war ceased, bonfires were lit all over Britain and the people rejoiced and thanked God. I hope that some of these memories allow you to imagine what life in war created for the people who lived during that period.

Alex Drysdale

In the autumn of 1939 I was 13 years of age and had no idea what war would mean for our family life. The first I recall was the issue of corrugated iron Anderson air raid shelters which had to be erected and partly submerged in the back garden. My father fitted the shelter out with seats and lights. In addition, blackout frames had to be made for the house windows. Allowing light to shine outside could result in a fire. Car headlights had to be dimmed and meshed.

On the morning of Saturday 2nd September 1939, school children assembled with a parent in the school playground. We were each issued with a gas mask, a tin of corned beef and a tin of Carnation Milk (no tin opener). A label with our particulars was attached to our clothing.

We were marched to Duddingston Railway Station where we boarded a train, having no prior knowledge where our ultimate destination might be. However, after what seemed like an eternity we arrived in Inverness. Families were then dispersed to various locations. My mum, myself and three siblings, together with three other families boarded a bus and were taken to a large house/shooting lodge near the village of Errogie, some 17 miles south of Inverness. This was a completely new world for us.

On the following morning, Sunday 3rd September, exploring our new surroundings, I met an old gentlemen gamekeeper who informed me that war had been declared. In the lodge we had no radio or telephone so news was at a premium. We had to subsequently communicate by letter with my father.

The lodge was over-run by rats and cages used to be set in the passageways to trap them. During the night, shoes used to be thrown at walls to scare them off.

It was an extremely cold winter that year and heating was by peat fires.

Our family stuck this out for approximately six months. We then returned to Edinburgh, due mainly to no facilities for schooling.

Whilst at home, it was a new experience for us with sirens warning of possible air raids. We would all scuttle to the air raid shelter until the 'all clear' was sounded. It was usually for a short period, however when Glasgow/Clydebank was bombed we spent the whole night in the shelter listening to the German bombers flying to and from Glasgow. It was a very sobering experience.

On the 1st December 1941 ration books were introduced with a number of coupons allocated depending on the size of the family. During the ensuing months food was scarce; a sample of weekly rations per person was: 10d meat, 2oz bacon, 1 egg, 2 oz butter and sugar was also rationed. Despite the food shortages and the hard times, people were very resilient. The cohesion and fellowship was quite amazing.

Edinburgh escaped heavy bombing, however bombs were dropped on the site of new Royal Infirmary, Marchmont, Leith and Gorgie. No great damage was done.

On the 24th July 1944, aged 18, I was conscripted into the army. I served the next 31/2 years with the 1st Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders. Three years of this period was served in India, Japan and Malaya.

In May 1945 the war in Europe ended. On the 6th August, the U.S.A. dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima and then later on Nagasaki; Japan surrendered on 14th August. At this time I was in India and a Brigade was formed, comprising 1st Camerons, 1st Dorsets, 1st Royal Welsh and a company of Ghurkhas (marvellous soldiers), to travel to Japan as part of the Occupation Force. The Force landed at Kure in Japan which is in close proximity to Hiroshima. Together with others I was allowed to visit Hiroshima.

The devastation and carnage was unbelievable; you could stand at the outskirts of the city (population: 240,000), nothing was standing. Everything was demolished or burned to the ground by the intense heat. The survivors were still walking around in a daze with face masks on. I must admit it had a profound effect on me and highlighted the utter futility of war. It takes one bullet to kill one person; it took one atom bomb to kill thousands.

I found that the local population bore no animosity towards us as an occupation force. The Camerons were eventually sent to Malaya where I was demobbed on 7th November 1947.

Gavin Kemp

Getting to know the Elders

Shelia Corrigan



Shelia is the Convenor of the Fellowship (previously called The Guild) and a member of the Visitation Team and Door Duty/Welcome Team, as you can see in the photo.

Shelia's other duties include producing the Tea and Coffee rota and is our church representative on the committee that arranges the World Day of Prayer.

Bereavement visits that are referred to her by the minister are faithfully carried out by Shelia.

Norma Packham



I became a member in Liberton Northfield Church in 1982 and some of the things that I am involved in are:

- Mums and Tots on Mondays
- The Prayer Ministry
- Finance Committee
- Member of SEECAT, the Big Idea, Parish Grouping in South East Edinburgh
- Member of our church Fellowship, Visitation Team and Choir and
- Part of Tressilian Gardens Service team.

Don't be Inflexible

'...Naaman...went away in a rage.' 2 Kings 5:12 NLT

As a general in the Syrian army, Naaman was accustomed to having things his own way. So when Elisha told him to dip seven times in the muddy Jordan River to be healed of leprosy, he 'went away in a rage'. He said, 'Aren't there cleaner rivers? Couldn't the prophet just lay hands on me and heal me?'

Fortunately, he listened to his servants, swallowed his pride and received a miracle. There are important lessons here. Since all progress calls for adapting to change and overcoming obstacles, ask yourself:

1) What's at the core of my fear and anger over this situation? Am I afraid of the unknown and the changes it may bring?

2) Am I being inflexible and trying to impose my will and wishes in this situation? Am I willing to forfeit God's perfect will by resisting a change He's orchestrating? Many of us miss God's best. Why? Like Naaman, we are accustomed to being waited on and having our ego stroked. E.G.O. means Edging God Out! Are you doing that?

3) Am I being lazy or incompetent, not wanting to invest the necessary time and effort into the change? Unless you're willing to change, you won't grow. And if you don't grow, you won't position yourself to receive the blessing God has in mind for you. Charles Franklin Kettering said, 'The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress.' Today ask God for the emotional and spiritual strength to embrace the changes He's bringing into your life, and to help you to see them as being for your good (Romans 8:28).

United Christian Broadcaster
Hanchurch Christian Centre
Hanchurch Lane
Hanchurch
Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 8RY

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 10.30-12.30pm.

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

Non Church of Scotland Events:

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

Bible Study: The Redeemed Christian Church of God hold a Bible Study on Friday evenings, 7.00 – 9.00pm.

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.