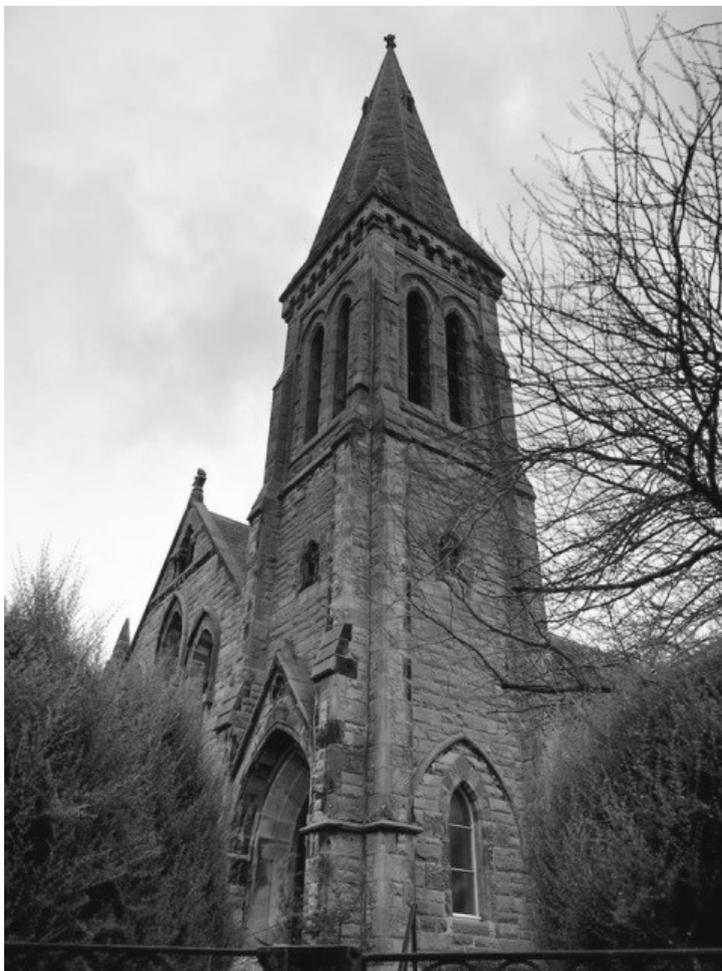


Liberton Northfield Church

March 2015 Newsletter



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Prepared by James Young. Edited by Ian Messer

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Lenten greetings from the Minister's desk here at Liberton Northfield Parish church, and welcome to the March edition of our Parish Newsletter!

For the past two months, we have been studying the greatest sermon that was ever preached on earth, The Sermon on the Mount! In January, we started with the 8 beatitudes in which Jesus paints a comprehensive picture of his followers: He calls us to be on our knees in humility before God acknowledging our spiritual poverty, mourning over our sins, ready for others to think of us what we say we are, and hungering and thirsting after righteousness. And then secondly, we are to see ourselves in relationship to other people, showing mercy to those troubled by sin and guilt, sincere in all our relationships, seeking to bring peace in contexts of conflict and strife, and patient in bearing opposition for the sake of Christ. These are characteristics of the citizens of the Kingdom of God, and such people are pronounced blessed by our Lord and master Jesus Christ. In February we entered into Jesus's ethical teachings where Jesus calls us to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth, why? Because Christians are radically different from non-Christians since the former have been redeemed why the latter hasn't! Secondly, Christians must penetrate the non-Christian society by letting their lights shine in the dark places of the earth, and as salt that needs to be rubbed into fish or meat, to penetrate non-Christian people with their Christian values. The light must shine into the darkness of our time and the salt must sock into the meat or societies in which we find ourselves.

During this month of March, we are learning how to give without counting the cost, how to pray as Jesus prayed and taught his disciples to pray, and how to fast in order to empty ourselves of ourselves so that we become spiritually strengthened. We are also studying about our treasures in heaven and how to stop worrying. What we as a church aim to learn from our series sermons is how to walk closely with God in our daily lives and how to influence the world around us with the teachings of that great teacher, Jesus. If you are not already fellowshiping with us and would like to visit us, you would be highly welcomed to join us every Sunday at 11am to 12pm for our morning services, 6:30 to 7:30pm for our evening services and other week day's activities which you would find on our church website or in this newsletter!

May our good Lord visit you during this Lenten season, with the richness of his grace!

Every Blessing,
Rev Amos Bongadu Chewachong,
Locum Minister.

Holy Week Services

Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday Family and Communion Service, starts at 11am

Evening service at Faith Mission, starts at 6.30pm

SEECAT: **Monday 30th March** - Passover Meal at St. John Vianney's. Tickets will soon be on sale in the churches, price £5.

SEECAT: **Wednesday 1st April** - Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Service at St. Catherines, starts at 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday 2nd April, service at Liberton Northfield starts at 7pm

SEECAT: **Good Friday 3rd April** - Prayer Walk from individual churches starting at 10am and meeting at Morrisons, Gilmerton Road, at 11am for an Open Air Service.

Joint Service in Gracemount High School at 3pm

Privacy Policy for Liberton Northfield Congregation

Liberton Northfield congregation comes under the Privacy Policy drawn up by Church of Scotland Law Department. This policy recognises the importance of privacy and personal information. It covers the way in which the congregation collects, uses, discloses, and protects personal information that members, employees, volunteers, donors and other associates may provide. . We are registered with the Information Commissioner through the umbrella registration of Edinburgh Presbytery and we are all required in our various roles within the church to comply with this Privacy Policy and with Data Protection law.

A copy of the Privacy Policy can be found on the church website, and on the notice board in the Halls, along with contact details if you require further information.

Spring Cleaning Surprise!

Clearing out old church documents I came across an order of service that you may find interesting, it was titled 'Liberton Northfield Parish Church 1869 – 1969, Service of Thanksgiving to mark the Centenary of the Foundation of the Church'. The service was conducted by the minister of the day, The Reverend R. S. Christie, B.D., TH.M., and the sermon was preached by The Reverend D. W. D. Shaw, B.D., LL.B., W.S. of New College, Edinburgh.

The hymns were:

Psalm 100, All people that on earth do dwell, (tune: Old 100th)

Hymn 29, Now thank we all our God, (tune: Nun Danket)

Hymn 22, Praise to the Lord, (tune: Lobe den Herren)

Hymn 7, Glory be to God the Father, (tune: Regent Square).

Inside the order of service, probably written by Rev. Christie, are three reminders that are as relevant today as they were in 1969. Mathematicians among us will know that it is only 4 years to our 150th anniversary! Here are the reminders:

A Reminder of how far We Have Come

As many know, our church's history can be traced back to 1843, when as a result of a basic disagreement with the established church, the minister of Gilmerton Parish, the Rev. Walter Fairlie, in common with many others throughout the length and breadth of Scotland, left the church "by law established," and in the name and for the sake of religious liberty, formed a congregation in the village of Stenhouse, (at Ellen's Glen), which was known as Liberton Free Church. Those were the days when the church held the community, often for its own good, in an iron grip. The Kirk Session minutes record many instances of deputations of Session being sent here and there, throughout the parish to investigate breaches of the moral code and of Sunday Observance, and in most cases the offending parties were persuaded to toe the line, or lose their membership. Those were also the days when the church was the main driving force in the community, with a finger in every pie. Consequently the action taken by Fairlie and his dissenters aroused much bitterness and acrimony in the parish and it was to be eighty-six years before unity and harmony were again restored to the national church. Without arguing the pros and cons of the matter, there is no doubt that the protest of 1843, was a shot in the arm for a church which had grown complacent, and blandly indifferent to much that was necessary for its continuing witness to the truths of the gospel. Indeed, even today, the church can learn well from these protesters, for they were men who not only fought for their principles, but also in an age when living was very frugal, were willing to suffer the hardship of living up to them. By their action, Fairlie and his people were left without a church, a manse and the means to come by them. In our own age when the church for so many is still the building and little else, the events of 1843 are a salutary reminder that the Word of God is more important than church buildings and people than property, and if it came to a choice, as indeed it did, the course of action was clear. Therefore, we remind ourselves also today of The One who has brought us on our way.

A Reminder of Who Has Brought Us on Our Way

Walter Fairlie and his people, by dint of rugged independence and hard work laid the foundations for the work and witness in this parish over the next hundred years, and we owe them an immense debt. It is of course, only too easy to view the past and the events that took place then, through rose tinted spectacles, and while it is right and proper to pay respect to, and honour the sacrifices of those in past days, we do well to remember that the recurring problems hamper the church today, were also their problems. Indifference, apathy an unwillingness to be involved were as prevalent then as now, and if you think that present day morals have taken a beating, then you only have to read the extracts from Kirk Session minutes of the old days, to know that in this sphere, as in so many others, there is "no new thing under the sun". In general, many folk felt no sense of responsibility to others, or to their church, and no doubt Dr Guthrie had this in mind, when in October 1869, on the occasion of the first sermon to be preached in this church, he took as his text "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." They had their money problems then as now, and yet, out of this admixture of sacrifice and sloth, enthusiasm and indifference, we recognise that God's purpose has prevailed, and that He has brought us on our way to this day and hour, not because we have been good and deserve it, but because in the words of the old paraphrase "He Lov'd us from the first of time, He loves us to the last." And, so, today we remind ourselves of our obligation to this love, and the care and concern of God over the years.

A Reminder of Our Obligation

Our obligation is, of course, to be God's church in the community which we are here to serve. There is no other reason for existence. The church is not buildings and Kirk Sessions and organisations, but people who recognise that other people matter, that they have needs like our own, hopes that clamour for fulfilment and fears that need to be allayed. At best, the welfare state can be nothing more than a poor substitute for the down to earth personal concern of God to man, and man to man. Today, we, as a congregation, have much for which to give thanks. We have cleared, as we firmly intended, the debt on our church premises, but we can never clear our debt to our fellow man, and only insofar as we recognise that, do we continue to be the church among the people. We are and always will be a people under obligation of whom much is demanded in terms of personal behaviour and service to the community.

We have no idea what will be demanded of us as a congregation as we go into the second century of our church's life. Indeed, we do not know if our church will still be here when the second century is completed. A few days ago I went to look at the Old Stenhouse Free Church in Ellen's Glen. Crumbling ruins, overgrown with weeds are all that remain. But the motive of the guiding Spirit of God which led men of an earlier generation to build is still with us. And it is of course, that Spirit of service and obligation to others which time's heavy hand can never erase, and which is the guarantee of the future of this church. With this confidence, and in this Spirit, let us worship God.

Ian Messer

Liberton Northfield Church - Sunday Duties

Month		Finance Member	Counting Room	Ramp Access
March	1	Norma Packham	Billy Grubb	Jean McIntyre
	8	Norma Packham	Kate Jackson	Irene Hoy
	15	Norma Packham	Jean McIntyre	Rachael Whyte
	22	Norma Packham	Rachael Whyte	Irene Hoy
	29	Norma Packham	Linda Brown	Kate Jackson
April	5	Evelyn Eadie	Billy Grubb	Irene Hoy
	12	Evelyn Eadie	Kate Jackson	Rachael Whyte
	19	Evelyn Eadie	Jean McIntyre	Kate Jackson
	26	Evelyn Eadie	Linda Brown	Jean McIntyre

Trailblazers Rota

8 th March	Bubbles 10 Hidden Treasure Matt 13:44	Linda	Kate Anne Snack
15 th March	Bubbles 11 A beautiful pearl Matt 13:45,46	Linda Snack	Debbie
22 nd March	Bubbles 12 Yeast Matt 13:33	Rona Snack	Sandra
29 th March	Bubbles 13 Jesus rides a donkey Luke 19:28-40:22:7-23	Rona	James Snack

	Edinburgh Door	Gilmerton Door	
	Rachael Whyte	Sandra Lynch	
	Nansai Whyte	Margo Ferguson	
	Jean McIntyre	Rebecca Akhigbe	
	Lenny	Shelia Corrigan	
	Margo Ferguson	Sandra Lynch	
	Shelia Corrigan	Rachael Whyte	
	Margo Ferguson	Rebecca Akhigbe	
	Lenny	Sandra Lynch	
	Rebecca Akhigbe	Irene Hoy	

Church Bus Rota

Month	Date	Ceremony / Anniversary	Driver
March	08 March 2015		John
	15 March 2015	Mothering Sunday	Ian
	22 March 2015		Ian
	29 March 2015	BST starts Palm Sunday Communion	John
	05 April 2015	Easter Sunday	Ian
April	12 April 2015		John
	19 April 2015		Ian
	26 April 2015		John

Trailblazers

During February, the Trailblazers have been learning about King David from 2 Samuel chapters 5 to 12. This included David becoming king, God's promise to David, David's kindness to Mephibosheth, and his "big mistake" with Bathsheba.

During March, the Trailblazers will be thinking about some of the parables Jesus told.

The children will be participating in the service on Sunday 29th March - and will be learning a new song. If possible, please could children come to the church hall at 10:45 on Sundays 22nd Feb to 29th March, so that they have time to practice their singing.,

Following the service on Easter Sunday (5th April), the children will be rolling Easter eggs down the hill in the church garden. Please decorate and bring a hard boiled egg if you would like to take part (although the trailblazer leaders will have a few spare eggs available).

Advance notice of dates for the diary: The Trailblazers summer outing is being planned for Saturday 13th June. There will be an "end of school year" family service on Sunday 21st June.

Margaret

Retiral Offering

Session has agreed that the Retiral offering at next Communion Service on Palm Sunday 29th March, 2015 should go to the Gideons, refer to their web site, <https://gideons.org.uk>, for information on their work. In future all Communion Service retiral offerings will be advertised in advance in the appropriate monthly church magazine.

Fancy learning how to operate the sound and projection systems?

As you know, Peter Austin and David Inglis do a great job every week operating the church sound and projection systems but what would happen if they were both away at the same time – the service quality would suffer. We are therefore looking for volunteers to learn how to operate these systems in order to act as emergency cover. Having an email address is essential and if you are interested, please talk to either Peter or David.

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is a 12 step Christ Centred Recovery programme which aims to encourage people to address their hurts, hang ups and habits - depression, low self esteem, anger, co-dependency, addictions.

We meet in the Hub - Gilmerton church, Ravenscroft Street (opposite the post office) every Thursday, 52 weeks a year with some adjustment for Christmas.

The teaching evenings always have the same format - doors open at 7 for welcome and a cup of tea or coffee, the session begins at 7.30. It's a 25 week cycle - people can come along any week, they do not have to begin at the beginning! Every session begins going through the 8 principles of Celebrate Recovery (see website or facebook) and focussing on the steps which embrace that principle, followed by a short teaching session. Then there is a short break after which the women go in to one group and the men another for a time of 'open-sharing'. This is not a place for 'fixing'. The programme encourages folk to work on or look towards writing up in some form a personal inventory which they can work on with an accountability partner or sponsor. Admittedly not many have reached this stage, but it is what we are hoping for so we can really begin to address our hurts, hang ups and habits. From my own experience, I would judge it to be a safe, supportive, unpressured, non judgemental environment. People drop in and out of CR. We have had as many as 35 attending - many more on testimony nights. But there is a regular core of 15-20. No formal referral is necessary - any one can walk through the door.

The last Thursday of every month we start with a shared meal at 7 followed by someone sharing the story of their journey to recovery. In May 2015 we are planning to offer food every Thursday.

Recently we started a new project in partnership with Teen Challenge. This is at the High Rises at Moredum/Little France with the Teen Challenge converted prison van and we will be there as a 'drop in' - folk can just drop in to the van for a cup of tea and a chat. Watch this space! Who knows the next step for some might be to come along to check out CR. Or they might want to come along to the community lunch that takes place in the Tron Church, run by Grow Stronger/Transition Edinburgh south on a Tuesday 11.30 to 2.30.

Date for you Diaries Thursday 26 March May Nicolson from Govan author of Miracles from Mayhem

It's all about Attitude

King Amaziah did all the right things, but he wasn't 'whole-hearted' about it. You can do the right thing and still not be blessed. Why? Because you did it with the wrong attitude. Take, for example, the subject of giving. The apostle Paul writes: 'I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything; more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it, "He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out." This most generous God, who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals, is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into fully-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing...great praise to God' (2 Corinthians 9:6-11 TM). Note two things:

1) Your level of giving determines the level at which you receive. 2) Your attitude in giving determines your abundance in receiving. So when you 'make up your...mind what you will give', consider God's goodness to you, decide what you should give, and do it with a heart of joy. It's all about attitude!

Courtesy UCB.co.uk

Recurring Diary

- * **Sunday Service** starts 11 am 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.