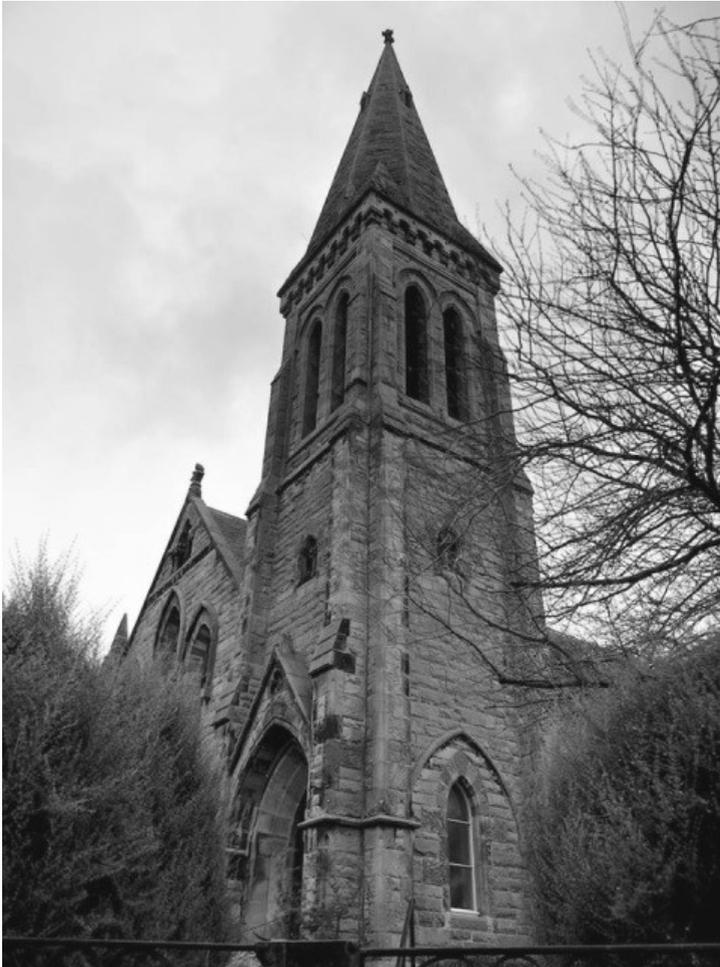


Liberton Northfield Church

May 2015 Newsletter



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Prepared by James Young. Edited by Ian Messer

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MESSAGE FROM THE MINSTER'S DESK

John 20: 10-18

Why are you crying?

The title of this message 'why are you crying', reflects our every day mood especially as we are committed to face all kinds of challenges through life. Some of these challenges may so heart breaking that we want to hide in our little corners and cry! But in the context of John 20:10-18, It is a post-resurrection question, which was first asked by the angels and then by the risen Christ to Mary Magdalene on that first Easter morning at Jesus's graveside. Mary had come to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus and when she failed to find it, she concluded that some unknown persons might have taken it away and so she burst into tears, crying!

But why was Mary crying? May be because she had observed the brutality with which Jesus had been handled and then crucified, or because she had been denied the opportunity to pay her last respect to the body of Jesus. She wept because she feared that the grave robbers might have done some sacrilege to the sacred body of Jesus, she wept because she was alone! Above all else, I think Mary wept because she thought she had lost the only man who had ever truly understood and loved her, the Saviour who had delivered her from bondage and given her a new life. She wept because she couldn't face the future without this Almighty Saviour, the light had gone out of her life and she was in deep darkness of grief and even of despair. But of course, Jesus had not left her as she thought! Jesus had risen, he was there by her very side, and if only she knew who it was then her tears would quickly

have been dried.

Now I don't know why you may be crying even as you read this message, I wonder if some of us may see ourselves in *Mary Magdalene*! Surely there is a great deal to weep about in this dark world! Think of the massive destruction in terms of property and human life that is going on in parts of the world: The brutal killings of human beings by so called Islamic state fanatics in the Middle East and the boko haram insurgency in West Africa. Think of the recent Xenophobic attacks in South Africa, the drowning of desperate Africans in the Mediterranean travelling to Europe in quest of the golden fleece! Think of natural disasters like the Ebola virus and the recent earthquake in Nepal, the emaciated bodies of people in parts of the world who are suffering from poverty and malnutrition, no doubt we cry!

But some of us may be crying because of our past, our failures, and our sense of shame over what we have been and done, our guilt. And there are biblical suggestions for us to weep over our sense of sin and shame (James 4:9-11). But our grief over sin also touches the heart of our heavenly father and attracts his compassion over us! Charles Spurgeon would have been right when he commented that:

A child's cry touches a father's heart, and our King is the father of his people. If we can do no more than cry it will bring omnipotence to our aid. A cry is the native language of a spiritually needy soul, it has done with fine phrases and long orations, and it takes to sobs and moans, and so, indeed, it grasps the most

Continued.....

potent of all weapons, for heaven always yields to such artillery.

May be some of us are weeping over our savage temptations and heavy responsibilities, or maybe it is our fears and anxieties about the unknown future that makes us want to cry! No doubt we weep and we shall go on weeping until the risen Lord says to us, why are you weeping, stop weeping, there is no need to weep, be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid!

What I personally learn from Mary's encounter with the risen Christ is that Christianity is a personal relationship with Christ. Without a personal relationship with Christ, we go on our way weeping through life and nothing could dry our tears if he was dead and gone and never risen. So let us try to develop this special relationship with our Lord by studying the word of God daily and seeking to know Christ more closely, so that we can shout with Thomas, 'my lord and my God'!

May God lead us peacefully throughout this month and let us hear the echo of his voice in our different situations, woman, man why are you crying'. Oh stop crying because he is alive and standing beside you!

Shalom!

Rev Amos Bongadu Chewachong

Locum Minister

Charles H. Spurgeon, The Treasure of David: Spurgeon's Classic Work on the Psalms, (edited) by David O. Fuller, 2004.

Retiral Offerings July 2014 to March 2015

Here are the amounts we raised at retiral offerings for various charities in the second half of last year and up to March this year:

Occasion	Charity	Amount
August	Tearfund Iraq Crisis	£219.00
October (Harvest)	Blythwood Food bank	£52.70
October (Communion)	Healthlink 360	£45.71
December	Blythwood Foodbank	£30.00
January (Communion)	Tearfund Ebola Crisis	£71.35
March (Communion)	Gideons	£65.09

Information sent to us from these charities is left on the table in the friendship hall for you to read. Here is an excerpt from the latest letter from Tearfund:

'Thank you so much for your gift, your support is offering a lifeline to families devastated by the recent deadly outbreak. Before Ebola, Oritha, aged 28 from Liberia, was training to be a nurse, living with her parents, brother and sisters. Oritha had lost so much – most of her family, her home and possessions. An outcast in her community, Oritha felt desperate and without hope but, thanks to generous people like you, churches in Liberia and Sierra Leone are reaching out with the love of God to Oritha and many others whose lives have been devastated by Ebola. Our church partners in the community are helping Oritha to put her life back together by giving her counselling to cope with her loss, and supplying Oritha and her sister with food and other daily essentials.'

In God's Holy House (Our Church)

God is in our Church, this we all know
He will help our faith in Him, to grow and grow
Though He is invisible, His spirit we will feel
Knowing that His love for us, is forever real.

Our Church will know the benefit of His love
Everything He promises comes from Heaven above
Never be in doubt that He knows us one by one
He guards us with Jesus, His one and only son.

When on high or in a state of low
God knows everything of each person down below
All we have to do is recognise God's presence
His love for us is of the highest essence.

Never be afraid when you're in His House of Prayer
He will watch over you with the greatest care
Nothing in our daily lives will He ever miss
His kindness and thoughtfulness will never be remiss.

Author: Alex Drysdale

42nd Annual Book Sale

At St Andrew's and St George's West Church, 13 George Street, Edinburgh there is the 42nd Annual Book Sale with Art and Collectables on Saturday 9th May, 10am to 4pm, Monday 11th May to Friday 15th May, 10am to 3.30pm with late night opening to 7pm on Thursday 14th May.

The Undercroft Café is open all day, with prayers at 1pm each day.

Trailblazers

During April, the Trailblazers have been learning about Easter, and how Jesus met with the disciples after He had risen. They are currently learning about King Solomon building a temple for God From 1 Kings chapters 5-13. Later in May, the Trailblazers will be learning some of the things Jesus said about himself in John chapters 14-16.

There will be a Trailblazer leaders meeting after the service on Sunday 10th May to make plans for the summer picnic and summer trailblazers. All Trailblazer leaders and helpers are welcome to attend this short meeting in the Sparklers room.

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.

Training for leaders and helpers involved in children's work

We are planning a training morning for all the leaders and helpers involved in the children's work at Liberton Northfield. It will be held in the church hall on *Saturday 9th May, from 9:30am to 1:45pm and will include lunch.* We are aiming to make the event fairly practical, and tailored to our needs, including topics such as "storytelling for children" and "food handling awareness".

If you are able to attend then please sign your name on the registration sheet on the notice board in the Friendship Hall, or email Margaret Padfield (Margaret.macleod@gmail.com) so that we can get an idea of the numbers for catering.

June Communion Retiral Offering

The June 28th 2015 Communion retiral offering will go to the Barnabas Fund. The Barnabas Fund website at <https://barnabasfund.org> provides the following information:

We give: The main ministry of Barnabas Fund is to send financial support to projects which help Christians where they suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith. The projects aim to strengthen Christian individuals, churches and their communities by providing material and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders.

Encourage prayer: We seek to encourage and facilitate prayer by providing prayer information, prayer requests and resources in many different forms and formats.

Raise awareness: This ministry makes known the plight of the persecuted Church, particularly in the Muslim world, by a wide variety of means, in order to educate Christians and others about the current situation and needs as well as the background and causal factors.

Contest injustice: When requested by Christians in the contexts concerned, we engage in speaking on their behalf. This can be by public petitions and letter-writing campaigns or discreet contacts behind the scenes.

Church Hall Polling Station

As you probably know, there is a General Election on Thursday 7th May. Our church hall is being used as a polling station and we are looking for volunteers on Election Day to be on duty. The duties are in two-hour timeslots between 6.30am and 10.30pm and there is a sheet pinned on the church noticeboard in the Hall of Friendship just waiting to be populated with names. Your help representing our church on Election Day is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ian Messer.

Church Bus Rota

Month	Date	Ceremony / Anniversary	Driver
May	03 May 2015	May bank holiday weekend	John
	10 May 2015		Ian
	17 May 2015		Ian
	24 May 2015	Pentecost	John
	31 May 2015	Trinity Sunday	John
June	07 June 2015		Ian
	14 June 2015		Ian
	21 June 2015	Fathers day	John
	28 June 2015	Communion	John

Liberton Northfield Church - Sunday Duties

Month		Finance Member	Counting Room	Ramp Access
May	3	Norma Packham	Billy Grubb	Irene Hoy
	10	Marion Messer	Irene Hoy	Jean McIntyre
	17	Marion Messer	Kate Jackson	Irene Hoy
	24	Marion Messer	Rachael Whyte	Rachael Whyte
	31	Marion Messer	Linda Brown	Jean McIntyre
June	7	Marion Messer	Billy Grubb	Kate Jackson
	14	Norma Packham	Kate Jackson	Irene Hoy
	21	Norma Packham	Jean McIntyre	Rachael Whyte
	28	Norma Packham	Linda Brown	Jean McIntyre

Month		Edinburgh Door	Gilmerton Door
May	3	Lenny	Sandra Lynch
	10	Margo Ferguson	Nancai Whyte
	17	Rachael Whyte	Rebecca Akhigbe
	24	Margo Ferguson	Shelia Corrigan
	31	Lenny	Irene Hoy
June	7	Lenny	Sandra Lynch
	14	Nancai Whyte	Shelia Corrigan
	21	Margo Ferguson	Rebecca Akhigbe
	28	Shelia Corrigan	Sandra Lynch

What happens when we place £10 in the offering plate on Sunday?

I thought the content in a Church of Scotland information leaflet titled 'What happens when we place £10 in the offering plate on Sunday?' would be of interest, as follows:

It provides a powerful ministry, locally, nationally and globally:

£4.20 is kept by the local church

£5.00 pays for our Ministers and

£0.80 goes to important help for congregations and supports the mission of the Church.

Let's look at this in more detail:

> **About £4.20** is kept by the local church for all sorts of costs including maintaining the building, mission, worship and supporting church groups.

> **About £5.00** goes to the Parish Ministries Fund. This ensures we have ministries in every part of the country.

> **About 80p** supports congregations with services such as Safeguarding, Law Department, General Trustees, and Stewardship and Finance. Some of this money also ensures the mission of the Church is strengthened through the work of Councils.

7p Mission Discipleship

4p Church and Society

6p Social Care (CrossReach)

11p World Mission

40p Support and Services to your church (legal advice, accounting, safeguarding)

5p General Assembly and Moderator

7p Special Contributions

Some interesting facts:

In 2015, the cost of a Minister at the top of the stipend scale is £41,048.

If your Ministries and Mission contribution is £47,730 or more, you are meeting your costs in full.

If it is less than £47,730 you are receiving financial support from other congregations. (Liberton Northfield Church receives financial support.)

In 2015, the Church of Scotland will spend £110 million.

Congregations will contribute £47 million of this.

Ian Messer

VISITATION MEETING

There will be a meeting for all visitors on Monday 11th May at 7pm. Looking forward to seeing you.

Irene Hoy/Rachael Whyte

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

Another Spring Cleaning Surprise

The first surprise was the Liberton Northfield Parish Church 1869 – 1969, Service of Thanksgiving in the March newsletter, well it's not that I'm busy cleaning all the time but hiding at the bottom of my bedroom unit drawer for almost exactly 46 years was my copy of the Liberton Northfield Church Youth Fellowship Summer Syllabus, May to September 1969. The Youth Fellowship was a church organisation of teenagers (minimum age was 15) and young adults, I think the maximum age was mid-twenties. The catchment was mainly boys and girls from the Guides, Girls Guildry and Boys Brigade plus their friends. There was a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, along with a four-person committee.

In the syllabus the first Sunday of the month was always a visit to Southfield Hospital where we would sing a few old favourite hymns for the patients in 3 or 4 wards. Hikes in the Pentland Hills were always popular; the 25th May was a day hike from West Linton to Balerno. The 6th September was a midnight hike; two volunteers would setup a base camp comprising two tents if you were lucky and the hikers would set off around 10.30pm and navigate to the campsite by torch, map and stars. If the weather was good, you'd sleep out under the stars, looking forward to a hearty fried breakfast – great fun.

Day trips in the syllabus included:

8th June: Visit to Stirling Castle

22nd June: Day at the seaside – Silverknowes

29th June: Ten-pin Bowling at the Alma Bowl in Kirkcaldy – a train journey. This was the nearest ten-pin bowling hall to Edinburgh in 1969!!

13th July: Visit to a Fire Station (Lauriston Place) – the Vice-President was a Fireman.

26/27th July was a week-end away to Gean House, Alloa. Gean House was owned by the Scottish Temperance Alliance and used as a conference and study centre.

It must have been easy to get tickets for the Tattoo as we were there on Saturday 23rd August.

Quizzes, social nights with other Youth Fellowships, sausage sizzles and film nights were also popular events in the syllabus. We had a 'night-in' when Apollo 11 was about to land on the Moon, much more exciting.

Here's a photo of some members circa 1968 in our church hall located in Walter Scott Avenue, now St. Gregory's RC Church. There is one member of our congregation today in this photo.



The Youth Fellowship spawned lots of romances as it was a great meeting place, I can think of at least six marriages including Marion and I – it's got a lot to answer for!

Ian Messer

- * **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.