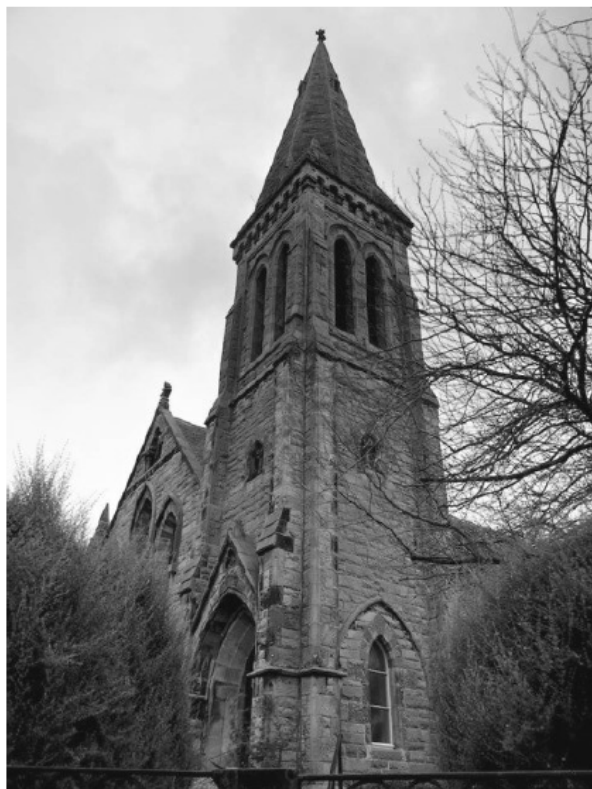


Liberton Northfield Church

March 2016

Monthly Newsletter



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

As the crocuses push their stems through the soil to point their small flowers skywards, I find myself longing for the longer, sunny days of summer. There is something very comforting to know that the frosty mornings will gradually give way to warmer weather.

Just as the seasons roll around each year, so on the Christian calendar Advent leads us up the road to Christmas, followed by the season of Epiphany, then Lent leads us down the soul searching path towards the Easter garden. The regularity of Easter can make it seem familiar, and we can get complacent with the old, old story.

As members of the Church of Scotland, we are of the Reformed Tradition. The Reformers were faithful church members who realised that maybe, just maybe, the Church could be making mistakes. Church leaders, like other leaders, were (and are) vulnerable to temptation and selfish ambition, capable of misunderstanding God and going astray.

The Reformers led the Church through an era of repentance, stripping away false doctrines and warped images of God in pursuit of purer faithfulness to God. In critiquing the practices of the Church, the Reformers acknowledged that they could also make mistakes, and that others who came after them may need to reform and correct their foibles. This sentiment was best expressed by Karl Barth who said that the Church is Reformed and is continuously in need of reforming. Some recent theologians have proposed that maybe rather than calling ourselves Reformed, perhaps we should call ourselves 'Reforming'.

The season of Lent challenges us to continue reforming with the goal of becoming more like Jesus. Lent challenges us to hold loosely to the comfortable, familiar ways we have always viewed God, our neighbours and ourselves. Lent also challenges us to continuously reform the way we worship and serve God, tearing down the idols we construct and re-centring on glorifying Jesus. As a Reformed congregation we celebrate our heritage and the legacy left by previous generations, and as Christ's living body we build on our past without being imprisoned by it.

Lent does not end on Good Friday with Jesus' death, but the season changes with Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning. The reforming process of Lent leads past death to resurrection life.

My prayer this Lent is that God will continue to reform us. May the sins that ensnare, the shame, guilt and fear that hold us back, become less and less. And may the grace, love peace and joy of Christ become more and more.

May God bless you and your loved ones today and always.

Mike Taylor

Trailblazers

During February, the Trailblazers have been learning about events in the life of the prophet Jeremiah, from Jeremiah chapters 18 to 38. This included his visit to the potter, his buying of a field, him writing God's words in a scroll that was burnt by King Jehoiakim and him being imprisoned in a well.

During March, the Trailblazers will be learning about Ruth, and starting to consider the Easter story.

Advance notice of dates for the diary:

1. The Easter Family Service will be on Sunday 20th March (Palm Sunday).
2. On Easter Sunday (27th March), we will be rolling eggs down the slope in the church garden after the service, so please remember to bring a (decorated) hard-boiled egg.
3. There will be a "Spring crafts and games" event on Saturday 16th April 2-4pm at the church.
4. On Saturday 14th May, there will be a "training and fellowship lunch" for Trailblazer leaders and helpers in the church hall from 10am to 1pm.
5. The next school year seems very far away, but we have made the decision to repeat our "back to school barbecue" on Saturday 20th August.
6. 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.

Date	6/3/2016	13/3/2016	20/3/2016	27/3/2016 Easter
Gilmerton Door	Rachael Whyte	Rebecca Akhigbe	Sheila Corrigan	Sandra Lynch
Edinburgh Door	Margo Ferguson	Lenny Feng Li	Rachael Whyte	Margo Ferguson
Ramp Door	Irene Hoy	Rachael Whyte	Irene Hoy	Kate Jackson
Counting 1	Irene Hoy	Rachael Whyte	Irene Hoy	Kate Jackson
Counting 2	Billy Grubb	Jean McIntyre	Jean McIntyre	Linda Brown
Counting 3	Evelyn Eadie	Evelyn Eadie	Evelyn Eadie	Evelyn Eadie
Sparklers	Jan Grubb Linda Brown	Rona Lawson Kate Ann Shirran	Parents	Margaret Padfield tbc
All stars	Helen Palmer Debbie Walker	Helen Palmer Billy Grubb	Family Service	Margaret Padfield tbc
Explorers	-	Jean MacIntyre Lenny Feng Li	-	-
Tea & Coffee 1	Nansai	Jan	Kirsty	Liz
Tea & Coffee 2	Sheila	Margaret	Emma	Michelle
Morning Sermon				
Evening Sermon			Fiona Devoy	
Tres Sermon	Fiona Devoy			

Holy Communion Rota

Date	Set up and clear	Bread	Bread	Wine	Wine
27/03/16 Formal	Rachael & Irene	Rachael	Irene	Alistair	Norma

The retiral collection will go to our Flower Ministry.

Scripture Cake

Is there anyone skilled and brave enough to make this cake for Easter?

Ingredient	Book	Chapter	Verse
4.5 cups	I Kings	4	22
1.5 cups	Judges	5	25
2 cups	Jeremiah	6	20
2 cups	I Samuel	30	12
2 cups	Nahum	3	12
1 cup	Numbers	17	8
2 x 15ml	I Samuel	14	25
Season to taste with	II Chronicle	9	9
6 x 15ml	Jeremiah	17	11
A pinch of	Leviticus	2	13
Half cup	Judges	4	19
2 x 5ml	Amos	4	5

Add citron and follow Solomon's advice for making a good boy – Proverbs, Chapter 23, Verse 14, and you have a great cake.

Wedding Notice

On Saturday 23rd April at 3pm in our church, Jaime, the daughter of Sandra Lynch is getting married to John. The wedding ceremony will be performed by Rev. John McPake and all the church family are invited to attend the service.

Fellowship March Programme

Wednesday 9th March: Social Day

Wednesday 23rd March: Diana - vocalist

A Prayer for Families Affected by Cancer

Loving God, You are our Creator, the one who knitted us together and who knows us so well. We confess that we don't always turn to you. Help us to trust you and to keep you central in our lives.

We thank you for your grace and for your endless mercy, for our daily bread and for family and friends. We bring before you our great anxiety for our loved one, who has been diagnosed with cancer and we are devastated Lord. It is so difficult waiting for the results of endless scans, sometimes bringing yet more bad news. It is just so much to deal with.

Lord, we don't know how this journey will go, but we pray that you will direct and enable the oncology and medical teams to make the right decisions. Keep your healing hands on us all, Lord, but especially draw near to all most affected by worry of this illness. Most of all, dear Lord, we pray for peace and stillness for us all.

We pray in the precious name of your son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is about preventing harm and abuse, also making a timely and appropriate response if it occurs. We have a duty to **Ensure a Safe Church** for **All**. The Church aims to minimise the risk of harm occurring. If harm or abuse does occur, with appropriate support and training, it will be **RECOGNISED** and **REPORTED**.

If it occurs, we as a church can act with Church of Scotland's help. They will work with police and social services if appropriate.

There is a poster in the Falconer Hall detailing more information about Safeguarding. If you have any questions, please speak to me.

Kirsty Forsyth; Safeguarding Co-ordinator

kirstyforsyth@hotmail.com or 0131 664 8147

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.