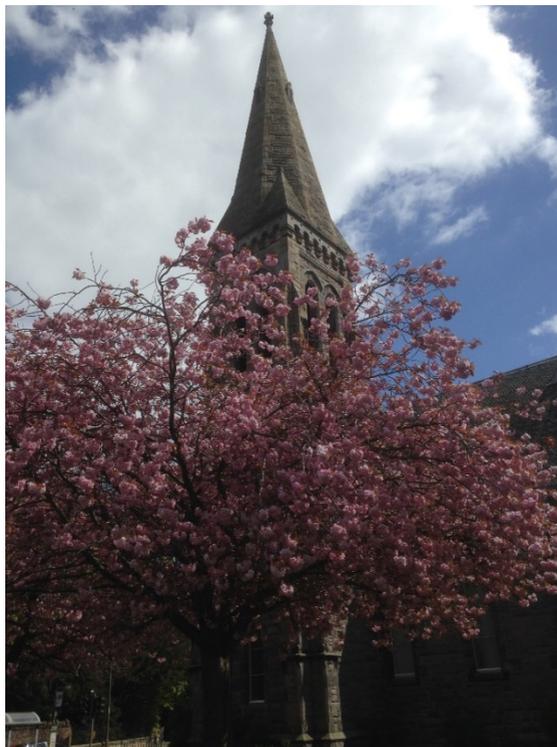


Liberton Northfield Church

June 2018

Monthly Newsletter



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

Church address: 280 Gilmerton Rd, Edinburgh EH16 5UR

Contact email: ianmesser36@gmail.com

Facebook: Liberton Northfield Church

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Welcome to Liberton Northfield

We extend a warm welcome to any visitors who have joined us for worship, and our prayer for all who gather is that each one of us may meet with the living God in our time of worship together.



After our church service tea and coffee is served in the large hall and all will be made most welcome.

Prayer Ministry

Prayer ministry is held directly after the Sunday morning service in the south (Mount Vernon Road) transept. Contact Eddie Munro for information on this ministry.

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

Dear Friends,

Three months ago I was asked by Presbytery to be Interim Moderator for the three months that your minister, Rev Mike Taylor was signed off for. Those three months are now coming to an end.

Sadly, your minister has been signed off for another three months and so the Presbytery has appointed the Rev Gordon Kennedy as your new Interim moderator. Gordon is currently minister at Craiglockhart Parish Church and is an experienced and gracious minister whom I am sure will serve you well.

During my short time with you I have chaired a Stated Annual Meeting and various Kirk Session meetings. I have taken a parish wedding and a parish funeral and visited some of the congregation in hospital. I have worked closely with your Session Clerk and enjoyed getting to know some of you. In my own church (Palmerston Place) we will continue to pray for you all.

During this last week I found myself unexpectedly as a Commissioner at the General Assembly. I sat through every session and discovered how exhausting sitting and listening can be. I have a new sympathy for what my congregation have to go through every time I preach!

If there was one message that came out of the General Assembly last week it is that, like it or not, things are changing at an increasing rate and every year the challenges facing the Church are growing. We face the problem of too few ministers, too many buildings, a declining membership and many good folk who are tired or discouraged. However, we do not lose heart. God has not changed, the gospel still changes lives and our faith is able to help us in our hour of need.

None of the above is surprising and like all congregations you have tried to adapt. However, we will all have to adjust even more in the years to come. I have no doubt that, with God's help, we can get

ready for whatever tomorrow may bring, but only if we are willing to make the commitment that is necessary, and each one of us plays our full part. Whether we pray, welcome, encourage, invite others or serve, we can all do something.

Never forget we live on the right side of Easter, we are the resurrection people of God. We live on the right side of the Ascension and know that our Lord reigns. We live on the right side of Pentecost and know that we have not been abandoned. The God who is for us in Jesus is the God who is with us by his Spirit. "I will be with you" is the great promise repeated throughout the Bible. It is still true today for you and for me.

Every blessing to you all in the days ahead,

Colin

Church News

Following on from Colin's article, here is a summary of the ongoing situation:

- a) The Presbytery Clerk has received a sick line which extends Mike's sickness absence for a further 3 months.
- b) The Rev. Gordon Kennedy from Craiglockhart Parish Church will take over from Colin as Interim Moderator on Friday 15th June.
- c) We have pulpit cover already in place for the first 3 weeks in June:
Sunday 3rd June - Robin Taylor
Sunday 10th June - Robin Taylor
Sunday 17th June - Mike Frew
- d) Arrangements are being made for a locum to start on 24th June

Let us Build a House: A Visit to Nepal

In April 2018 I was part of a group of 18 people from congregations throughout Scotland who visited our partner organisation, the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) to see life in communities affected by the 2015 earthquake and how they are responding and rebuilding their lives and their communities.

At 11.55 on 25 April 2015 people in Nepal were getting on with their lives. In rural areas families were working in fields, in the towns and cities people were working and shopping. Many Christians were in church as that is the normal day for worship in the Himalayan country.

A minute later a devastating earthquake struck the centre of the country. The initial quake lasted 45 seconds. Buildings shook, walls cracked, thick dust rose from mountains, roads and bridges were destroyed. In some areas almost every building was damaged or destroyed – thousands of houses, schools, and clinics reduced to rubble.

Nine thousand people died, another 22,000 were injured in the worst natural disaster in Nepal for over 80 years.

A month later Rev Ram Kumar Budhatokhi was a delegate at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He spoke about how he was leading worship at a church in Kathmandu when the building started shaking and everyone fled in fear. Moved by Ram Kumar's testimony the General Assembly instructed the World Mission Council to assist our partners in Nepal respond to the emergency.

Each of the Kirk's 42 presbyteries was challenged to raise £500, the nominal cost of rebuilding a house. World Mission Council hoped to raise maybe £25-30,000. The response was overwhelming. Presbyteries and congregations responded with the largest ever amount of money ever raised for a single project, an astonishing £310,000.

The Church of Scotland was one of the founders of United Mission to Nepal (UMN) in 1954 and is still a partner. UMN quickly swung into action with a relief effort that delivered food, shelter and medical supplies to 12,000 families communities in Dhading District, about a three-hour drive from Kathmandu. UMN has worked there since 2005 so was already well known, even in the more remote parts of the district. During our visit we saw some of the amazing work being done by UMN and its local partners Prayas and HIMS.

After an orientation session with UMN staff in their Cluster Office eleven of us piled into 4 x 4 vehicles. It took four hours on dirt roads and river beds to travel 45 KM to Dundure where the road ended.

We adjusted our walking poles and set off for Kalangmarang, a small hillside village where we would spend our first night. We walked for four hours. A torrential downpour meant we couldn't visit a drinking water scheme as the path would be too muddy and slippery. We were relieved to reach Kalangmarang just as it got dark as we had been walking up steep paths for most of the afternoon.



Next morning, we saw around the village – even that was hard going as the village was on the side of a steep hill so visiting the two new schools, drinking water scheme and church was tiring. We were introduced to Menja Tamang, a village elder who had donated land for the new Middle School. He was delighted with the smart new building, calling it “a palace” in comparison to the previous building which collapsed in the earthquake. We met a young woman whose leg was crushed when the church wall collapsed on her. She still hobbles around on crutches.

For four days we trekked up and down steep paths, several kilometres of them rebuilt by UMN and their local partner HIMS. We crossed the Mankhu River three times on rebuilt footbridges. We passed a rehabilitated micro hydro power plant that powered a sawmill and rice mills. The government of Nepal has asked UMN to rebuild 55 schools and we saw several buildings and classroom blocks, each built with an earthquake resistant designed. Each school also had a new latrine block to improve hygiene.



In villages we stayed in and passed through we saw more evidence of UMN's work to improve the lives of the communities in north Dhading. New cash crops like cardamom had been introduced, each household was encouraged to build their own hygienic latrine, safe drinking water supplies had been installed – we always took the chance to fill up our water bottles when we passed a tap.

One highlight was the church service in Eve. There was a real sense of fellowship as we joined the local congregation in the rebuilt, if not quite finished church building. One of the ministers in our group, Stuart Duff, was asked to preach. We were asked to sing a song and we gave a rendition of Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart. Immediately we finished the congregation sang the same song in Nepali! Although we couldn't understand each other very well we knew we shared the same faith and worshipped the same Lord.



Eve Church Service

Our accommodation on the trek was basic by Scottish standards. We slept on mats on the upper floors of houses, used outdoor Asian squat latrines, maybe managed a wash in cold water in the morning. We ate simple Nepali food – rice, lentils, vegetables – served to us by our hosts. We experienced a little of what life is like in isolated communities in Nepal. The trekking was arduous at times, some of the group struggled with the limited diet, but we were always aware of the immense privilege of being able to visit these communities.

Most of the places we visited are not even on the map. Yet in Kalangmarang, Tawal, and Ewe we saw churches and schools, families and farmers. We saw resilience and resourcefulness. We saw people rebuilding their lives and their communities. We saw United Mission to Nepal and HIMS using money sent from Scotland to train people, to rebuild infrastructure and communities.



The View North Towards Ganesh Himal

Sandy Sneddon

Diary Date: The Young Life Fundraising Lunch

The date is now confirmed for the Young Life Fundraising Lunch and it's Sunday 17th June. The purpose of the lunch is to raise money to pay for local teens to attend a Young Life camp over the summer.



Young Life is a youth ministry that is focused on showing kids the living gospel for the outrageous, exciting and exhilarating reality that it is. It's about bringing hope to the tough lives of teens.

The congregation will remember that we participated in a similar event last year and it was really successful. Young Life prepared a barbecue for us to enjoy at the end of the morning Sunday service, and the teens who came to serve us also participated in our Pioneers group. Please give generously.



Trailblazers

During June, Trailblazers will be looking at the book of Joshua:

- * Sunday 3rd June Joshua 1:1-9, Joshua leads the way
- * Sunday 10th June Joshua 2, Joshua makes plans
- * Sunday 17th June Joshua 3:1-4:9, Over the river
- * Sunday 24th June Joshua 6, The wall of Jericho.

Summer Trailblazers

The plan for the Summer school holidays is a little bit different to our term Trailblazers to allow the Leaders and Helpers to take some well-deserved time off. With the reduced numbers of children attending each Sunday, there will be one big group with All Stars and Explorers combined (P1-P7, children must have already been in P1). For Sparklers the room will be unlocked to allow parents to take them through if they become unsettled during the service. Pioneers (High School) are being invited to stay in the church and listen to the sermons. Term Trailblazers will recommence on Sunday 19th August.

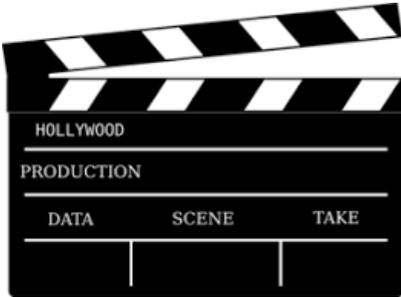
If you have questions regarding Summer Trailblazers I will be happy to answer them.

God Bless

Jenny Thomasi

Trailblazer Coordinator

Film Club



These nights are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the Falconer Hall. We begin at 7.00pm with tea/coffee to get settled for the film which commences at 7.15pm; there is no charge for the evening event and you can bring a friend, or as many friends as you like. **If you have any suggestions for a film, talk to Sandy or Marie Sneddon, December is still to be decided!**

The June film is:

Tuesday 12th June, Alone in Berlin (12A)

Alone in Berlin is a 2016 war drama film directed by Vincent Pérez and written by Pérez and Achim von Borries, based on the 1947 fictionalized novel *Every Man Dies Alone* by Hans Fallada. The novel's characters Otto and Anna Quangel are based on the real lives of Otto and Elise Hampel. When their son dies in France, the couple start writing postcards to urge people to protest against Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime. The film stars Emma Thompson, Brendan Gleeson, and Daniel Brühl.

COMING SOON:

Tuesday 10th July, Terms of Endearment (PG)

Terms of Endearment is a 1983 American comedy-drama film adapted from Larry McMurtry's 1975 novel, directed, written, and produced by James L. Brooks and starring Shirley MacLaine, Debra Winger, Jack Nicholson, Danny DeVito, Jeff Daniels, and John Lithgow. The film covers 30 years of the relationship between Aurora Greenway (MacLaine) and her daughter Emma (Winger).

Tuesday 14th August, Gran Torino

Gran Torino is a 2008 American drama film directed and produced by Clint Eastwood, who also starred in the film. The film co-stars Christopher Carley, Bee Vang and Ahney Her. This was Eastwood's first starring role since 2004's *Million Dollar Baby*. The film features a large Hmong American cast, as well as one of Eastwood's younger sons, Scott. Eastwood's oldest son, Kyle, provided the score. *Gran Torino* opened via a limited theatrical release in North America on December 12, 2008, and later to a worldwide release on January 9, 2009. Set in Detroit, Michigan, it is the first mainstream American film to feature Hmong Americans. Many Lao Hmong war refugees resettled in the U.S. following the communist takeover of Laos in 1975.

FUTHER OUT:

11th September, God is not Dead (2014)

9th October, War Room

13th November, Journey's End

11th December, TBC

8th January 2019, 2001 A Space Odyssey – 50th Anniversary

Life and Work now in Hall of Friendship

Back issues are now kept on the table in the Hall of Friendship for members to read and return when finished.

The June issue has many interesting articles, three of which are:

- **Abstinence and Addiction** – Jackie Macadam charts the history of abstinence in the Church of Scotland and examines the continuing work with addicts at home and overseas.
- **General Assembly 2018** - Thomas Baldwin rounds up the reports to this year's General Assembly.
- **Somebody's Child** – Stewart Lowe reflects on his volunteer work with the Care Van of the Bethany Christian Trust on the streets of Edinburgh.

Our Flower Ministry

Every week flowers brighten up our church because we have a flower ministry. Some people new to our church and not so new may not know how it operates. Briefly here is how it works, there's a Flower List in the Hall of Friendship (that's the name for the area between the sanctuary and the church hall), simply write your name beside the date on which you want to donate the church flowers. Most people donate church flowers to commemorate dates special to them, such as a birthday, anniversary or the passing of a loved one. Donations of any amount should be given to Evelyn Eadie. Evelyn purchases and expertly arranges the flowers in the church. After the service, the flowers are arranged into bundles. These flowers are then distributed to people, mainly within our parish but this is not a prerequisite, who are ill, house-bound or just in need of encouragement. There's also a 'flower box' for donations, located in the middle of the rear pew. Thanks for continuing to support this very important ministry.

Newsletter cut-off date for July articles

During Mike's absence we are using a local print company and as a consequence of this, an earlier cut-off date for articles is required as follows:

July newsletter cut-off date: Monday 25th June.

Church Roll

As at 1st June, the church roll is 168 comprising 162 members and 6 adherents.

Communicants removed:

By Death: Mrs. Jean Thoms

By Certificate of Transference: Mr. Peter Austin is now in connection with St. John's & King's Park, Dalkeith.

Presbytery News

Induction on 12th June at Priestfield Church

The Presbytery will meet pro re nata on 12th June 2018 at 6.45pm for a service at 7pm in Priestfield Church for the Induction of Rev Donald Scott.

Rev James Dewar

Moderator of Presbytery (pro tem.)

Fellowship Maytime Tea

The Maytime Tea on Wednesday 9th May was a great evening of fellowship, music and song, accompanied by a great spread of sandwiches and home baking.



The Falconer Hall tables beautifully laid out and decorated



Music and songs from Elvis Pressley to Robert Burns expertly performed by Anne and the Clean Shaven (John Young)

Recurring Diary

Sunday:

Morning Service starts 11am 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. **Evening Service** is held at 6.30pm in the Falconer Hall.

Monday:

Mums and Tots runs during term time in the Falconer Hall from 2.00 - 3:30pm. Note the Mums and Tots don't meet during school holidays.

Tuesday:

Toastie Tuesday takes place from 12.15 till 13.30, during school terms, for Liberton High School pupils.

Film Club is on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Falconer Hall.

Wednesday:

The 38th Rainbows & 38th Brownies meet in the Falconer Hall from 5.15pm till 8pm.

Bible Study starts at 7:30pm and runs until 9pm. All welcome.

Thursday:

Ladies' Bible Study meets at Norma Packham's home from 10.00 until 12.30.

Friday:

New Life Tots is during term time in the Falconer Hall, 9.30 - 11.30am and is organised by Jan Grubb. Note the New Life Tots don't meet during the school holidays.

'Prayers in the Church' are held:

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 express the opinions of the editor, minister or congregation however all submitted items are subject to editorial scrutiny.