

# Liberton Northfield Church

August 2018

## Monthly Newsletter



Visit [libertonnorthfield.co.uk](http://libertonnorthfield.co.uk) for the latest news during the month

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**SC008891**

## 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,

These past few weeks have been some of the hottest on record. We have been baking as a country. Either you will have loved the weather and enjoyed being outdoors, or you have struggled with the excessive heat and retreated indoors. We as a family have been enjoying the weather. We have opened our lounge doors and gained a whole new room to the house as we have let the outside in. Andrew and Maria have particularly enjoyed playing with water pistols and running through the sprinkler to cool off.

Yet there is cost to all this heat isn't there? As lovely as it is, it is far from normal for us as a nation and certainly not this far north in Scotland. Humanity is having an effect on the planet and we are not taking care of it, as seen in our recent heatwave.

The psalmist wrote:

**The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. Psalm 24:1**

I sometimes wonder how well we look after His creation. We just have to go for a walk in our own neighbourhood and we will find crisp packets, cigarette boxes, cans, paper and who knows what else. Head to the beach and see what has been washed up! Or how about the provoking images from Blue Planet recently that showed us the devastation in our oceans caused by humanity? How are we following Jesus' commandment to:

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Matthew 22:37**

if we don't take care of His creation and respect all that He gave us? Dropping our litter and ignoring His creation is not loving Him. To love God with all our heart calls us to witness against the destruction of God's good creation. This planet is not ours, but as the Psalmist writes it is our loving Fathers. We are left to care for it. I know that we can't stop climate change tomorrow, nor can we change the whole world, however we can change our own little worlds. Why not when we go

out for a walk on the beach, along the canal to the shops or even on our way to church, pick up just three pieces of litter? If we all did that, can you imagine the impact we could have especially if three of our friends joined us? As you do it know that you are loving God and caring for His creation with your whole heart! In doing so we will be turning our hearts towards God as we care for His creation and remind ourselves and those around us that:

**The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.  
Psalm 24:1**

With every blessing,  
Iain

## Life and Work 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. Life and Work is now available as a digital edition at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org)

The August issue has many interesting articles, four of which are:

- **70 Years of walking together** – Thomas Baldwin reports on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Council of Churches.
- **Aiding life as 'full citizens in society'** - Thomas Baldwin reports on a Glasgow church which has signed up to a powerful charter to help people living with dementia.
- **I feel blessed to be part of all this** – Jackie Macadam meets the BBC health editor Hugh Pym, a church of Scotland elder.
- **The Churches and The Festival** – Thomas Baldwin and Jackie Macadam take a look at the churches' contributions to Edinburgh's festival season.

## Summer Trailblazers

Summer trailblazers is currently running for children in P1 – P7 (the children should have already been in P1) until Sunday 12th August, finishing with the family back to school service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August where we will be working through the Fruit of the Spirit with the children.

Due to the Trailblazer leaders having a well-earned rest, we are not running Sparklers or Pioneers over the summer. The Sparklers room will be open for any parents needing to take the pre-schoolers out if needed and the toys will be available. This year we have added a Sparklers corner in the church, on the left-hand side in the main church there will be a place with quiet toys, book and colouring in sheets. As the room and Sparklers corner will not have a leader present, could we please ask that parents using the room/corner tidy up and clear away after themselves. Pioneers while just remain in the service to enjoy the sermon with the rest of the congregation.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August – Theme Faithfulness

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August – Theme Gentleness

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August – Back to school family service – Theme Self Control

### For your diaries

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August – Back to school event: 11.30-1.30pm**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August – Back to school family service: 11.00-12.15pm**

### Trailblazers Re-organisation

For the autumn term in new format is as follows:

**Sparklers** will remain the same for under 5's and in the Sparklers room. The team is Jenny, Jan, Sandra, Kate Ann and Marion.

**All Stars** will now be for P1-4 and in the upper room as before. The team will be Rona, Ian, Debbie and Helen.

The older group will be P5 - High School and will be in the vestry. The team will be Alasdair, Pauline, Billy and Kate Ann. As we are combining two groups together it was decided that we would let the children in the group choose a new name.

If you think being a Leader or a Helper at Trailblazers is something you would be interested in, then we would love to hear from you. The more people willing to help, the bigger opportunity for the Trailblazer team to attend services. Whether it's once a month, twice a month or even once every six weeks, every little helps. If you would like to chat about it more, then I would love to hear from you, my email is: [jenthomasi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jenthomasi@yahoo.co.uk) or my mobile number is 07894056216.

We hope you all have a great summer whether it is a stay vacation or an adventure further afield.

God Bless

Jenny Thomasi and all the Trailblazer Leaders

## Forian - to go, to journey; to set out

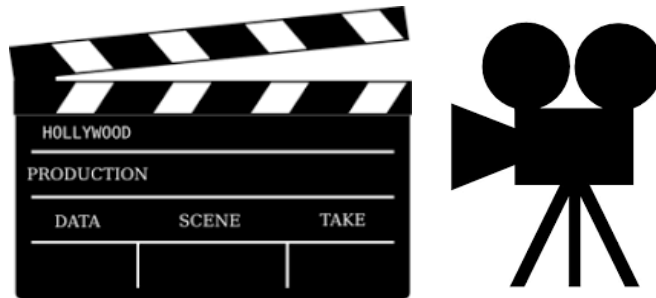
In October 2015 I was 'set apart' as a Reader in the Church of Scotland. During my training I was involved in ministry in several churches where I gained a broad range of experience leading services, organising worship, running Bible studies, visiting schools and doing pastoral care. Readers are usually attached to a charge, working regularly with one congregation but they can also engage in chaplaincy work or act as a locum during vacancies.

Earlier this year I approached Fiona Mathison, the chair of the Ministry Committee for Edinburgh Presbytery, to seek her advice as to how I could consolidate and build on the experience I had gained during my training. She suggested one option was to be attached to a church for a period of time. She approached the Reverend Dr Karen Campbell, the Minister at Marchmont/St Giles, and she agreed to take me for ten

hours a week for four months. Since I started in May I have been involved in the Sunday morning services, the Thursday Mother and Toddler group, pastoral visiting, leading the Bible study and taking services at St Raphaels' Care Home. I've also provided Pulpit Supply at St Michael's Slatford and Carrick Knowe Parish Church. The experience has given me the opportunity to see how different churches approach things, especially the Sunday morning service. Karen Campbell has been very encouraging, and I appreciate all the advice and support she has given me as I seek the Lord's will as to what my next step should be.

Kate Jackson

## 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 August film is:

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

COMING SOON:

### **11<sup>th</sup> September, God's not Dead (2014)**

**God's Not Dead** is a 2014 American Christian drama film directed by Harold Cronk, it was released theatrically on March 21, 2014. Written by Cary Solomon and Chuck Konzelman, and based on Rice Broocks' book *God's Not Dead: Evidence for God in an Age of Uncertainty*, it received mostly negative reviews, but grossed over \$62 million on a \$2 million budget.

#### **The Plot:**

Josh Wheaton (Shane Harper), an evangelical college student, enrolls in a philosophy class taught by Professor Jeffrey Radisson (Kevin Sorbo), an atheist, who demands his students sign a declaration that "God is dead" to pass. Josh is the only student who refuses to sign. Radisson requires Josh to debate the topic with him but agrees to let the class members decide the winner. Josh's girlfriend Kara (Cassidy Gifford) demands Josh either sign the statement "God is dead" or drop Radisson's class, because standing up to Radisson will jeopardize their academic future. Kara breaks up with Josh for insisting on confessing his belief in God. Radisson gives Josh twenty minutes at the end of the first three lecture sessions to argue that God exists.... Come and see how Josh gets on!



## Being a Business Woman in Zimbabwe Today

by Bidy Railton

*Editor's Note: Bidy Railton is a sister to Kathleen Munroe, a regular contributor to our newsletter. The below article gives us an insight to everyday life in Zimbabwe today from a Christian perspective.*

*There are two words in the article that require explanation:*

**Jacarandas:** *A type of tree that in Zimbabwe flowers around September. They provide a magnificent sight along the avenues, where they drop their flowers, producing a thick carpet of blue-purple flower.*

**Kombis:** *the word comes from VW Transporter Kombi – these vehicles are used to squeeze in people to maximise the takings of taxi drivers who have no idea of the highway code!*

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as if working for the Lord, not for men i' (Colossians 3:23-24)

How often have you heard, "Well, if she's a Christian I'd rather not be one"? Sadly, it is often said in 'my world' where I am surrounded by the loveliest people who are not declared Christians (I always say "non-Christians" with extreme reticence!). Their joy, their generosity and kindness - not to mention their integrity and business ethic - would often provide a better witness than some Christians do!

I have been in the estate agency business for 19 years now. We have been through very tough times with hyperinflation and the final crash of the Zimbabwe dollar, so what we are going through now is not altogether new. There are a lot of struggling people out there - hunger is often very visible, depression is possibly the norm and generally there is an air of hopelessness. How tragic for such a wonderfully diverse and vibrant people, but what a perfect environment to witness in, shining your light and bringing hope to the hopeless.

Selling a house is an incredibly stressful experience for most as it is often an individual's greatest asset - no matter how humble. Sellers need to know that you are 'there' for them - that you are doing your utmost to get them the best price the market has to offer. They need to trust you.

It's the Wild West out there! Purchasers dealing with sellers directly behind your back when you have shown them a property they like; other agencies touting your properties by promising your sellers that they will get them a much higher price. Satan is alive and well, especially where money is the big prize.

It is absolutely essential as a Christian businesswoman not to compromise your integrity. Don't make any suggestions or promises you would not make if you knew our Lord was sitting in on that meeting. Be utterly transparent, completely honest and don't compromise your Christian beliefs in any way.

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." (Colossians 4:5-6)

One thing I learned many years ago from the lovely wife of a minister of ours, Margaret Neaum, is that it is not necessary to be a 'ninnie' or a 'pushover' just because you are a Christian. It is correct to stand up for what you believe but be gentle and non-confrontational.

In this very difficult environment it is so easy to be drawn into negative talk - the potholes, the kombis, the 'money thing'. It is very difficult for some who stand daily in endless queues under a fierce sun, sometimes sleeping outside banks to ensure they are able to get some cash (or Bond notes) because avaricious landlords demand it. But there is so much good and beauty out there. We only have to look around at the glorious jacarandas against a pink sky at dusk or be assured of His faithfulness each morning at dawn with the chorus of birdsong welcoming a new day. We have to constantly remind ourselves of what we tend to take for granted.

It is not easy being in business in Zimbabwe today, but it is not that easy being in business anywhere in the world. Adversity always brings with it opportunities. Let's find those opportunities and prayerfully pursue them, helping the many who are less fortunate than ourselves along the way. This is the perfect time to witness. Let's get out there and shine our light.

"...let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven." Matthew 5:16

## 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.

## Church Key Audit

Will church key holders please contact Ian Messer to let him know what keys you have - access to the church via the side door, the sanctuary or Sparkler's Room.

Contact at church or via email on [ianmesser36@gmail.com](mailto:ianmesser36@gmail.com),

home phone: 657 1041

mobile phone: 07854 664414

## Immersion, Cleansing Sin

To Perform baptisms, God appointed John  
By the River Jordan, this ritual he carried on.  
People flocked to be immersed and cleansed from sin  
These baptisms allowed Jesus' teachings to begin.

Jesus Himself was baptised in God's glorious light  
To untie Jesus' laces, John said he had no right.  
No matter what sin or evil the wrongdoer enacted  
This was all forgiven when baptism was contracted.

The baptism carried out by John are to this very day  
The most important conversion in the Christian way.  
To be baptised and forgiven was in our Lord's plan  
Live like Jesus and obey God's laws the best you can.

Alex Drysdale

## Gift Aid

As I am about to claim the church gift aid for financial year 2017-18, I would greatly appreciate it if gift aid contributors would ensure that they paid income tax in that financial year. The personal tax allowance for 2017-18 was £11,500. If you didn't pay sufficient income tax to cover your offerings, please inform Marion Messer (Gift Aid Convener). Also, if you are stopping paying basic rate income tax in the 2018-19 financial year, again let me know. Your personal tax allowance for 2018-19 is £11,850.

### **So what is gift aid?**

If you're a UK taxpayer, you can increase the value of your offering (charity donations) by choosing to donate through 'Gift Aid' as Liberton Northfield Church is a registered charity.

### **How it works**

As a taxpayer, you will already have paid tax on any money you donate to the church, this allows us to claim back the tax you originally paid.

Gift Aid increases the value of your donations and means that the church can benefit even more at no extra cost to you. The extra money you give makes a significant difference to the annual income of our church and allows us to continue and grow our outreach activities. UK taxpaying members and non-members alike can make a difference. If you want to sign-up your offerings for gift aid, please contact Marion Messer for more information.

## Getting to know you....

We have been married 6 years and yes, we have 5 adorable children under 5! Andrew (4.5), Maria (2) and Lily, Richard and William (9 weeks). We met in Amsterdam at a youth church event with the Church of Scotland. We moved back to the UK 4 years ago this month so that we could pursue Iain's calling for ministry within the Church of Scotland.

Celeste has an Honours degree in Psychology and having worked as a youth worker and then a care worker, is taking a break to work as a full-time mum! Iain is currently in his last year at New College studying Divinity and training to be a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Before that he worked as part of the management team for a drop-in centre for the homeless in Amsterdam and ran a gap year program for the Protestant Church in The Netherlands in Amsterdam.

### **Q. What is a favourite hymn, and why?**

**Iain:** There are probably two hymns for me. The first is Be Still. It was the first hymn we had at our wedding and we have gone on to sing it at every Baptism of our children. Every time I sing it I am taken back to these events.

The other is a more modern song. The Fathers Song by Matt Redman, it is such a beautiful song which I recommend if you don't know it to check it out online. It reminds us that God is with us daily no matter what.

**Celeste:** Having grown up in a different church and a different country, I am not as well versed in the hymns sung here, so I have only a limited repertoire to choose from. For me it has to be '*I the Lord of sea and sky*' as it gives me a sense of purpose and I always feel lighter and motivated to go out and do my best. I truly love it.

**Q. What is an early church memory?**

**Iain:** Growing up we always went to Church as my Father is a minister. I must say that one of my very earliest memories is of my brother and I playing games as we guessed how many times our Dad would take off his glasses or say a certain word.

**Celeste:** I always loved the evening services. It was far more relaxed, fewer people and a more intimate gathering which meant that we as children could also be more relaxed and somehow that heightened our ability to take in what was being ministered to us.

**Q. What's your earliest childhood memory?**

**Iain:** It may not be my earliest memory as I honestly can't say what my earliest memory is but it is playing outside with my brother and sister. I remember we had gotten a cowboy gun and we had buried the fake bullets in the ground to act as mines. After a fun time playing outside could we find those bullets again.....no doubt an archaeologist will have fun finding them in the future!

**Celeste:** My brother is 4 years younger than me and 6 years younger than my sister and when I reached the age that my sister actually wanted to play with me, my brother also wanted to join in. He wasn't actually able to follow the rules and play with us so we dubbed him: Fluffy the dog. He was always allowed to run after us and pretend to be the dog. 😊

**Q. In an alternative life, what job would you have chosen?**

**Iain:** A vet, would have loved to have worked all day with animals!

**Celeste:** A writer. I can see myself sitting in a log cabin somewhere,

with nothing or no-one to talk to for weeks on end while attempting to write new worlds and people into existence.

**Q. What are you reading at the moment?**

**Iain:** I don't get much time to read for myself at the moment. I am reading for my dissertation which is about the Lords Supper so currently reading a book about the Lords supper through the centuries.

**Celeste:** I am reading "I am not but I know I am" by Louie Giglio; "Evening class" by Maeve Binchy and "Dear Francesca" by an author whose name escapes me at the moment.

**Q. What would be your ideal holiday?**

**Iain:** Anywhere with my family without Facebook and emails coming in! I'm guessing it would have to be hot if I wanted Celeste to join me!

**Celeste:** A week at the beach in South Africa, watching all our children enjoy the sand and sea and sun that I know and love so much.

**Q. What is your most prized possession?**

**Iain:** I don't know if I have anything which is so prized. We always say as a family that everything is replaceable except people! Probably one of the dearest things to me is actually my preaching folder as Celeste got it made for me on my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday and it holds special memories.

**Celeste:** With this question I am always reminded of the missionary and his wife who had to flee a war-torn country and were told that they were only allowed to bring 2 possessions each. They both chose two of the largest suitcases and packed it chock-a-block with photos and books and other small memories. When they arrived at border control, they presented their cases for inspection and the soldiers asked if they were aware that they were only allowed to exit with 2 things. The limit was applicable to everything they had, including their children... It put things in perspective for me. Iain and our five children, they are all that matter.

**Q. What luxury item would you take to a desert island?**

**Iain:** CHOCOLATE!

**Celeste:** Iain!

**Q. What do you do to relax?**

**Iain:** Watch a good series on TV or a film preferably together with Celeste. However, I also love to turn some music on and switch off for a while.

**Celeste:** I love watching a film or going for a walk in the woods or by water.

**Q. What is a favourite quotation?**

**Iain:** 'No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more natural to the human heart than its opposite.'

Nelson Mandela

**Celeste:** 'As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.'

Nelson Mandela

**Q. What kind of music do you listen to?**

**Iain:** We listen to a lot of worship music in the house, but I also love the classics like Dire Straits, James Taylor and Queen.

**Celeste:** Whatever Iain chooses. When I drive somewhere on my own I enjoy listening to Enya.

**Q. How would you like to be remembered?**

**Iain:** As a loving husband, Father and friend!

**Celeste:** I don't. In the end, I exist only to glorify God, so He should be remembered from my life, not me.



**Q. What gets you up in the morning (apart from your alarm clock)?**

**Iain:** Our children, all 5 of them!

**Celeste:** At the moment it is Maria's only alone time with me, so she wakes me up at 5.30am every morning for cuddles, milk and cookies.

## Community Event.

On Sunday 26th August, at 4pm, we are having a community event at Liberton Northfield Church. There will be food, including a barbecue, and a chance to relax and talk to people in the community who do not usually come to church. This will be followed by a "Songs of Praise Service" at 6pm. Everyone is most welcome to come.



In preparation for this, on the first three Sunday evenings in August, at 6.30pm, we will be meeting at the church and then going around doors in the parish with leaflets, inviting people to come to this event. It would be helpful if a good number of people could join us and help us on these Sundays. We aim to finish about 7.30pm each night.

## World Mission event at Polwarth Parish Church

An opportunity to watch, listen and discuss the historic and present situation between Israel and Palestine at Polwarth Parish Church, Polwarth Terrace, EH11 1LU, on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at 7.30pm.

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS:** Living in Palestine and working in Jerusalem, the Rev Dr John McCulloch.

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Life for Israel & Palestine 100 years after the Balfour Declaration, a film by the Rev Dr Grant Barclay.



## Stage & Slam Church Service and BBQ

The Stage and Slam Service and BBQ on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July was a lovely event. Members of our congregation whose hard work contributed to its success include Alasdair; Pauline and Sandy on the sound desk; Kirsty, Jan, Rura and Billy on the catering side and apologies to anyone whose name I've not mentioned.

Ian Messer



## FREE Health Talks at the Kirkgate Café Various dates, August, 3-4pm

### 20/08/18 Food and Mood 3-4 PM

Explores the relationships between what we eat and how we feel

### 22/08/18 Physical Activity for Health 3-4 PM

Looks at the benefits of movement and physical activity for our overall health & how to maintain a healthy weight

### 27/08/18 Allergies, Intolerances and Coeliac Disease 3-4 PM

A caterer's overview of allergies, intolerances and coeliac disease and how to safely prepare food for sufferers

These talks are delivered by a highly experienced and friendly nutritionist and allergy expert from *Edinburgh Community Food*. Information handouts will be provided.

Attend one or all!

**Open to all** who live, work or volunteer in South East Edinburgh

**Where:** Kirkgate Café, Liberton Kirk Halls, 28-30 Kirkgate, Liberton, EH16 6RY

To register your **free** place simply contact **Chris** at [cmantle@edinburghcommunityfood.org.uk](mailto:cmantle@edinburghcommunityfood.org.uk) or 'phone on **0131 467 7326**.

OR speak to **Norma** at the **Kirkgate Café: 0131 664 8264**

*Spaces are limited so don't delay!*



## 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 38<sup>th</sup> Rainbows & 38<sup>th</sup> 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 ex-press the opinions of the editor, minister or congregation however all submitted items are subject to editorial scrutiny.*