

The Leading Light



February 2022

**Torry St Fittick's Parish Church of
Scotland**

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you thinking about joining the Church?

If you are, and would you like to know more please speak to the
Minister,

Rev Dr Edmond Gatima, 07842 173523

your **NEWSLETTER**

Please send your news to st.fitticks@btconnect.com for inclusion in
the newsletter

WEBSITE

Currently under review: <http://www.torrystfitticks.org>

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

torrystfittickschurch

Torry St Fittick's Parish Church of Scotland
Walker Road, Torry, Aberdeen, AB11 8DL
01224 899183

st.fitticks@btconnect.com

Scottish Charities Number SC009020

H O L Y



C O M M U N I O N

**Will be celebrated in Torry St Fittick's Church on
Sunday 27th February 2022 at 11.00am. All are welcome.**

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Spring Newsletter, February 2022

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this letter, you are nearly 2 months into this new year 2022. Nevertheless, since this is the first letter of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy New Year 2022 and bring you greetings from the manse, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! At the beginning of every New Year, we give thanks to Almighty God, for his constant watch over us during the year that has passed and trust him for his care in the year ahead. Indeed, "He who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps", says Psalm 121:4.

In my autumn letter, there was a message of hope as things were getting back to some normality, then the new variant, Omicron, made things worse. Restrictions on gathering were back again; most of Christmas services were either reduced to the minimum or cancelled altogether. We almost went back into total lockdown as it was before. Today, since the new variant was found to be less aggressive than the previous ones, some things are back to normality, whilst other aspects of community and Church life are still different.

Even though social distancing is no longer mandatory we are maintaining a 1m distancing rule for people to feel comfortable. We are serving teas and coffees after morning services again, with some changes to ensure it is done in a safe way. Most of the organisations have managed to resume their activities in the Church halls. The drama groups, parent and toddler group and indoor bowling have been meeting for some time now. The Thursday Men's Club and Monthly coffee mornings started again in February. The Wednesday night Bible Study and Prayer meeting will begin again soon. The Thursday Bible Study continues on zoom. We held our Kirk Session meeting in person on Sunday 13th of Feb 2022 after the morning service and hope to hold subsequent meeting as we move forwards. Thanks are due to all those who are doing all the work required to keep all these activities going safely.

At this time of the year, we are already thinking of Easter, and we are hoping to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This year Lent and Holy Week services will be observed, namely Maundy Thursday with Communion and Good Friday jointly with our friends from the United Free Church. The early morning Easter service at 9:30 am will take place outside the Church followed by the Easter Sunday joint service with our friends from South St Nicholas church at 11.00am.

As you remember from my previous communications, one of the proposals in the Presbytery Plan, was the formation of Aberdeen South Parish Grouping made of Torry St Fitticks, Cove and South St Nicolas Churches. The Presbytery is still busy working on a new plan for the Presbytery of Aberdeen and the Shetland which will involve further consolidation and some imaginative visioning of the Church's future shape across the Presbytery. The creation of one large new Presbytery for the North-East and Northern Isles, bringing together six current Presbyteries is due to be launched in January 2023.

During Lent and Easter this year, we will be reflecting on the fact that these last two years have been like the season of giving up in order to protect ourselves and those we love. There has been so much loss, death, disappointments, trauma and perspective. There must be the death on Good Friday before Resurrection. But we are ready for the joy and hope of Easter. Easter happens from a place of darkness. As the gospel accounts tell us: "Early in the morning, while it was still dark..." It's in darkness that the joy of Easter Sunday really began. Whatever the resurrection was and is, its origin and fullness lie in holy darkness, shielded from our eyes. All we can know is that somehow, God worked in secret to bring life out of death. Somehow, from a place of loss and misery, grief and pain, God enacted resurrection. May, this Easter, the Christ who rose in the darkness lead us into new life, new light, and new hope.

As life returns, may we take to heart the words of the prophet Joel who heard the Lord promising to 'repay the years the locust (plague) had eaten' (Joel 2:25). God won't turn back the clock, but what this promise does hold out for us is that what is to come, in the future, is an abundance to make up for the devastating loss we have all felt. We take heart because the God we believe in is a God who doesn't just undo what has been but redeems it.

Let us Pray

Loving God, help us to be attentive to all we have been through in the struggles we have faced, the lessons we have learnt, the emotional tumult we have struggled with, so that as we move forward now, we may lay hold of the promise of your redemption and the hope of Easter. Truly valuing all that you have given us in one another. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Dr Edmond Gatima

***** STOP PRESS ***STOP PRESS ***STOP PRESS**

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING
Saturday February 26th 2022

From 10.00am until 12 noon

Home Bake Stall
Everyone Welcome
Bring a Friend
Pass on the Good News
Come and Enjoy the Fellowship
Usual COVID protocols apply

The Monthly Gang

Christmas Card Exchange

The grand sum of £40.00 was raised. Thank you to those who used the service and donated. Monies were passed to our minister who forwarded to the Burundi Orphanage for a small Christmas treat for the boys.

Nancy Gatima & Mary Forbes

Quiz

The winner of the quiz drawn in January was Mrs Ann Wanterson. Thank you to all for your support and to those who sent back their finished quiz. A special thanks to Mrs Kath Finnie who made up the quiz. Another one will be ready soon.

Torry Summer Club 2022

Planned for Monday August 15th to Sunday August 21st 2022. More detailed information will be available in our June newsletter.

Christmas Messy Church 2021

54 families received goody bags (101 children) who heard about the birth of our Saviour through storytelling, craft and music. Thank you to all who participated in so many ways to make this event such a success once again.

Lynda Hunter & Mary Forbes

Easter Messy Church 2022

Saturday 9th April from 3.00pm to 4.00pm

Due to ongoing COVID constraints we will meet again on Zoom. Please keep a look out for updates and registration on our Facebook page.

Lynda Hunter & Mary Forbes

Guild Charity Shop May 2022 – dates to be confirmed

The Guild is planning to take over the ACC Charity Shop for one week in May. Volunteers required. If available, please get in touch with Lorna Thomson or Ann Stephen. We are in the fortunate position of having lots of stock and don't require any donated goods.

Ann Stephen

Fortnightly Men's Group

The Men's Group (suspended due to Covid) will resume from 17th February with lunch at 1.00pm at Nigg Bay Golf Club. Further dates are 3rd, 17th, 31st March, 7th and 21st April, 5th and 19th May, 2nd, 16th and 30th June. Normal meeting times are 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Any suggestions for activities, guest speakers, places to visit would be appreciated. So far, we are planning to have table games in the café/small hall on 17th March, take a stroll around Fittie on the 21st April, visit Cruickshank Botanical Gardens on 2nd June and have a BBQ on 30th June.

David Hunter (878087)

Sunday Youngsters

We meet every Sunday morning during worship. If you know any youngsters who might wish to join us, please tell them we are here.

Lynda Hunter

Minister Rev. Dr. Edmond Gatima

11 Devanha Gardens East, Aberdeen AB11 7UH

Manse: 01224 588245

Mobile: 07842 173523

Session Clerk & Convenor of the Co-ordinating Committee

Mrs Elizabeth Robertson

Mrs Jennifer Brown (Deputy)

Convenor of the Stewardship Committee

Mrs Lorna Thomson

Convenor of the Discipleship Committee

Mrs Lynda Hunter

Convenor of the Mission Committee

Mrs Elizabeth Robertson

Convenor of the Worship Committee

Mr Charles Mair

Data Protection Officer

Mrs Jennifer Brown

Organist

Mr Calum Runcie BMus (Hons), Dip Ed

Roll Keeper

Mrs Elizabeth Thomson

Treasurer

Mr Graham Lorimer