

# The Leading Light

Torry St Fittick's Parish  
Church of Scotland

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June 2022

## **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](mailto:st.fitticks@btconnect.com) for inclusion in the newsletter

## **WEBSITE**

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

## **FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM**

torzystfittickschurch

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Scottish Charities Number SC009020

## LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Summer Newsletter, June 2022

Dear Friends,

Where has time gone?

We are already halfway through 2022 and it is time for our Summer Newsletter and Holy Communion at the end of the month.

In my February letter, we shared the joyful feeling as things were getting back to some normality as we once knew, although there was a new Covid Variant, omicron, which was still a cause of concern; but later was found not to be as aggressive as the previous ones. By the end of March, all the restrictions were lifted to the delight of everyone, although people were asked to be careful as Covid is still around in a less aggressive form.

We thank God for his protection over these difficult times and pray that He would keep his hands upon all his people.

Today, most of the Church activities have resumed, although others are still under review and might not resume in the same format as before. I am grateful to those who have kept these activities going and I take this opportunity to encourage anyone who feels he/she can spare a few hours helping on weekly or monthly basis, to get in touch with the Church office for more information.

As you remember from my previous communications, the Presbytery was working on a new plan for the Presbytery of Aberdeen and Shetland which will involve further consolidation and some imaginative visioning of the Church's future shape across the Presbytery.

The draft Presbytery Mission Plan has been completed and was presented by PDC (The Planning and Development Committee) at a special Presbytery Meeting held on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 for consultation and discussion. The following press release from Presbytery office helps to give the background.

*"A consultation has been launched to discuss radical new proposals to reform the Church of Scotland in Aberdeen and Shetland.*

*The Planning and Development Committee of the Presbytery of Aberdeen and Shetland has produced a draft Mission Plan to determine how limited resources should be allocated over a five-year period to ensure that the Church meets 21st century mission needs. Members of the presbytery are being asked for their views*

concerning the proposals for change which is a work in progress and subject to amendment.

*The committee said that it appreciated that some of the changes proposed will be difficult to hear for some people, but change is necessary to deliver sustainable and realistic new expressions of ministry and church.*

*It is proposing to create 7 Parish Groupings in which congregations are served by various expressions of “team ministries” comprised of full-time Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Ministries Development Staff (MDS) and Ordained Local Ministers (OLM). The plan prioritises allocating resources to enable mission and support congregations with the greatest potential where there is evidence of growth, sustainability and innovation.*

*The Presbytery of Aberdeen and Shetland has 27 church buildings within its Aberdeen city boundary and 11 church buildings in Shetland. It is asking members to consider closure of 10 within the city sometime within the five-year life-span of an approved final plan. There will be no additional closures in Shetland where the number of buildings is being reduced from 31 to 11 in a major reorganisation that began in 2018-19.*

*The buildings proposed for closure in the city are: - Bucksburn-Stoneywood; Holburn West; Kingswells; Rubislaw (sanctuary, not Church Centre); Ruthrieston West; South St Nicholas Kincorth; St George’s Tillydrone; St Mark’s; St Stephen’s; Woodside.*

*Mrs. Eunice McConnach, convenor of the Planning and Development Committee, explains the new plan, “In 2021 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland asked Presbyteries to draw up new Presbytery Mission Plans with fewer ministry posts than before. This was brought about by the re-assessment of the shortage of ministers and financial resources. We have been fortunate in building on the enormous amount of work put into the creation of the 2020 plan to create a secure foundation to move forward. The Presbytery of Aberdeen and Shetland is committed to the ‘Parish groupings’ suggested previously where congregations are encouraged to work together and, in some cases, to form unions during the next five years. Some groupings are already up and running and working towards the aims of the revised plan.”*

*The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has instructed presbyteries to reduce their current staffing levels. For the Presbytery of Aberdeen and Shetland, the number of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and MDS posts is to be reduced from 38 FTE to 28 FTE.*

*The decision of the General Assembly was taken last May against a backdrop of declining numbers of people training for the ministry, a reduction in financial contributions and falling membership.*

*The Presbytery Clerk, Rev. Dr. John Ferguson said: “We know these changes will be challenging for all of us. However, given that Presbytery has already begun implementing its suspended 2020 Plan, we believe that we are in a strong position to continue to cope with change and restructuring. This is an opportunity to refocus our efforts and prepare for ministry in the years ahead and we are confident that in this Plan we offer a considered, effective, and robust structure for ministry”.*

*A comprehensive audit of buildings using tools provided by the General Trustees (the national property arm of the church) have been used to inform the development of the plan.*

*The consultation will last two months. A new plan must be agreed by the Presbytery of Aberdeen and Shetland, the Faith Nurture Forum and the General Trustees by the 31st of December 2022.*

*Looking to the future, the Church is committed to considering any proposal to buy a building and maintain it for community use.”*

Our Parish Grouping comprising of Torry St Fitticks, South St Nicolas and Cove, will be known as “**South Aberdeen Area**” with the following Aims:

1. The aim of the Plan by 31.12.25 is to have within the Grouping one congregation with a total of 2 posts, at least 0.5 of which will be an MDS post. The current 0.5 MDS post may become a post under the Plan or will be terminated by 31.12.25.
2. A union of the 2 congregations is anticipated by 31.12.23, at which point the building at South St Nicholas Kincorth will be closed. The centre of worship will then be at Torry St Fittick’s Church buildings, with additional worship elsewhere as may be agreed with Presbytery.
3. Following the creation of the new larger Presbytery on 01.01.23, links may be explored with a church or churches in the adjoining Presbytery of Kincardine and Deeside.

Our Kirk Session has taken time to discuss the draft Mission Plan and has formulated a few comments, questions and suggestions that will be taken back to the Planning Team by 31st July 2022 in consultation with South St Nicolas Kincorth Church.

We are encouraged to approach the changes about the future in a positive and proactive way. This is why we are already being proactive in working towards new unions of our congregations and the creation of a Ministry Team operating in our new Parish Grouping.

Working in teams is a biblical principal putting the Lord Jesus Christ at the centre allowing him to build his Church. "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you are joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant" (John:15, The Message). As the PDC Convener said, "Let us go forward in faith, confident in the strength and power of God and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, to renew and re-invigorate the Church in this Presbytery in the coming years".

In my previous letters, I have been encouraging you, the readers of this newsletter, to share with others some of your thoughts and experiences during these 2 passed challenging years of pandemic. We hope to hear from some of you in this newsletter.

As summer approaches, people will be taking holidays they haven't taken for a couple years due to the pandemic. Some Church activities will take a break as well but others like Summer Club will take place in mid-August.

The Bible reminds us in Hebrews 10:25, not to neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but to encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Whichever way you will spend the summer holiday, remember the Churches are now open for in person worship although online services are still available, too.

God bless you all,

Yours faithfully,

Rev Dr Edmond Gatima

## **BURUNDI ORPHANAGE**

It has been a while since we shared about the Burundi orphanage. Because of Covid a visit was not possible till early this year in March when our Minister was able to go home for a few days. Yes, Edmond managed to visit the orphanage, which is really now a boys home as they have all grown up. Some have finished studies and are trying to find meaningful employment. Thankfully the boys still have a roof over their heads, and they are being fed and clothed due to the annual coffee morning organised by Tommy Forbes, your generosity and especially Pastor Chris Wood and family. I know the sewing machine is being used by one of the boys. A camera was also purchased for another boy and the young man can go around taking photographs at different celebrations and opportunities. One of the boys creates lovely house decorations out of recycled plastic straws and cups. As Edmond showed us before on the slides, they perform as a dancing and singing group at occasions. These efforts subsidise their income and daily expenses. It is encouraging to know that the boys are not back on the street where they were picked from at young ages. This is proof of the power of love and compassion. The good Lord return to you in good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, Amen. Elizabeth Gatima

## **UGANDA**

In Uganda, the project we visited with Valerie Taylor, MIKY Uganda is thanks be to God, still operating. You may recall, that pre-Covid we were supporting a book initiative which had been written by the team leaders at MIKY. Little did we know that with Covid and lockdown, this book would become the only thing the children would get to read free in their homes. The children in Uganda have missed almost two years of education. Except for the children in the well to do homes and schools, who had a semblance of online education, children from the public schools were home, helping with farming for those who had a bit of land and trying to keep safe from catching Covid.

Thankfully due to the kind donations of some members of our church, and the African Women's Group; we were able to provide corn flour which they could use for porridge or bread, bar soap to encourage safe handwashing and cleanliness and free reader and exercise books to as many children as we could reach considering that movement was restricted due to lockdown. Some of you will remember contributing towards the free distribution of the book Mufirika Village. As of today, we have distributed over 6,000 free books all over the country. As the restrictions ease, we hope to resume the visits to schools and after school clubs and increase the free distribution of 'Mufirika Village'. Elizabeth Gatima



These photographs show the brightly coloured floral decorations made from plastic straws and cups by one of the boys in the Burundi Orphanage.



A group of children holding their free reader book “Murifika Village”.



## **JUBILEE CELEBRATORY EVENT**

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was a super evening with all things Royal: crafts, quiz, treasure hunt and food of course! We welcomed, too, our special guests, Create Makaton Choir, led by Maree. They gave an amazing performance which everyone joined in. We hope they'll all come back again. We also raised £207 for Cfine, who are very short of food for those who are struggling financially at this difficult time. We finished with lighting the beacon, whilst singing the Song of the Commonwealth. Many, many thanks to all who made it possible, especially the catering team who managed to cope with so many people. We even had our own "Daveroo" delivery service!! Guess who? Ann Lundie

## **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

Our bible study group is having a break over the summer. We meet on a Thursday morning 10.30 to 11.30. We have informal and friendly discussion, listening and learning from each other. We would love to see you there too. Watch this space for when we re-Zoom again! Probably September. For more information speak to Ann Lundie, Jennifer Brown.

## **DAYS OF WAR AND BOZIES (Part 1)**

As I lie in bed cuddling my dolly all of a sudden, I am wide awake due to the familiar loud whine of the air raid siren. This sound always precipitates a great sense of urgency, and quickly grasped from my bed tightly wrapped in a blanket and quickly whisked off into the gloomy tunnel at the foot of the garden, lit up by torches and candles and flasks of tea were always provided. These tunnels were called Anderson shelters and were built for our protection from the bombing of our city in Aberdeen by the German Luftwaffe. I was just born when an air raid took place. All the babies were whisked off to a safe place, and when we were returned to our mothers, I was given to the wrong one. Fortunately even new mothers recognise their own babies, and besides I didn't have red hair!

My greatest difficulty in my early years was getting off to sleep due to the fact there was a bus stop just outside my bedroom window. As the buses braked noisily and the queue of folk chartered incessantly, I buried my head beneath the blankets, (no duvets in those days) to no avail. Fortunately buses didn't run very late in those days so eventually sleep would come. When it seemed impossible however I would deliberately 'wee' in my bed, knowing full well that this would instigate a little respite for me when I kicked up a fuss. My mother would come storming through, take me through to the living room, (no lounges in those days, but a parlour if you were posh) whereupon I would be dumped on my father's knee unceremoniously, my mother muttered all the while and stripped the bed. Dad, however, was always delighted to see me, and we would sit by the last glowing embers of the fire watching the patterns made by the soot and the flames. All too soon it was back to bed, but oh, how I looked forward to those little interludes! Ah, life was so simple in those days.

Perhaps because of the war neighbours were an integral part of our lives. Our house was linked to two others, and we lived in two rooms downstairs from my grandfather and his second wife who lived upstairs also in two rooms. The Mitchell family lived next door. They were an elderly couple with whom we had many a pleasant afternoon tea (come awa in and hae a cuppie served in beautiful china cups. They were considered to be quite posh, but I remember them as being very kind and talking to me as if they were really interested in what I had to say. At the other side of the Mitchell's lived old granny Middleton, Jemima by name. She was tiny and bent, with round horn-rimmed spectacles, long grey hair scraped up in a bun, and clad in black from head to toe, but, most fascinating of all to me were her feet. They were such a strange shape with enormous bunions which were accommodated by cutting out a large circle in the toe area of each shoe. She had a funny shuffling walk, although she never ventured very far from the big, black range stove where all the cooking was done, mainly on the actual fire itself. A large black kettle and teapot were constantly simmering on the side on top of the oven, and endless cups of tea were produced for anyone who cared to enter. Granny Jemima also had only two rooms, yet many people seemed to live there. One of her granddaughters, husband and two children lived in the only bedroom, an

old granny had a box bed in the living room. Nobody ever saw her in bed, or getting in or out of it, and indeed, all suspected that she slept in the chair by the fireside, always on high alert looking out for "them Nazis!"

Frequently the German planes would fly low and strafe the rooftops with gunfire, but granny was never fazed. Her other granddaughter was bringing home some shopping one afternoon and had to run up the lane as fast as she could due to one of these raids. Undeterred she paused just long enough to shake a fist at the pilot! The most amazing thing shared about the whole situation was the fact that all these people shared one outside toilet, yet I don't ever remember being unable to get into it at any time.

A simple childhood delight was making mud pies for our dollies. Sadly, for that treat rain or water was required, and summers back then always seemed to be hot and dry. We were not allowed to "puddle wi water" so, if my cousin was not around, we would shout across the road for Lawrence, a neighbour's son, to come and "pee" in the earth so we could make "sappy dubs" as we called it. He never failed us! Many a time we would slip in the mud and skin our knees but any passer-by who was alerted by our screams of anguish would come and give us a cuddle (c'mon 'n get a 'bozie' 'n ye'll be a'richt). Strangely enough we were! Oh the power of a 'bozie', no such comfort nowadays sadly. Another version of a 'bozie' was a "coorie in." This was a delight on a cold night at my gran's, cuddling up to her in the big bed for a "coorie in" soon had me basking in the heat from her ample bosom. Poor grandpa had to sleep on the fold up bed when I was there. He must have slept okay though because he was always whistling and singing in a really good tenor voice. What I really loved in the morning was watching him shaving; an amazing ritual which took place on the mantelpiece of the tiny living room. All the utensils were laid out - bowl of shaving cream - small round bristle brush - small hand razor with Gillette blade later to become Wilkinson's sword edge blades, and the inevitable bottle of Imperial Leather aftershave, later to become Old Spice.

I loved the bit when he lathered up and looked like Santa Claus, then I was allowed to study his face close up; the razor was then deftly applied in expert strokes leaving the skin "smooth as a baby's bum" or so I was told.

What really tickled me though was the application of the aftershave, which involved a little dance (of pain, or so it seemed) and "oocha blighter" grandpa would say it every time. That was the closest he ever got to swearing in all the years I knew him. It was such a simple everyday task yet for me so much fun. After that it was off to work for grandpa who was a master plumber with British Rail six days a week in those days. When gran had done her daily chores, helped by me of course, we would sit down to listen to the radio which usually was the BBC light programme. she would have a cup of tea and give me an apple which she peeled and cut up for me. I still do that for my grandchildren (they laugh!)

Shopping in wartime was very time consuming, and involved queueing for quite some time, though this was never considered a nuisance as it would be nowadays. It was simply a chance to catch up on the news with each other. Ration books had been introduced by then, and pity help anyone who didn't have enough coupons to get the groceries required for another day. Shopping daily was a large part of life in those days. I vividly remember standing in a long queue in the butcher's shop with my mother hoping we had enough coupons for at least one sausage each and possibly a couple of slices of corned beef. If the butcher was in a good mood that day he would slip in an extra slice (wee bittie mair for yer man seein' as he's on fire watchin' the nicht). A big attraction for the kids was the sawdust all over the floor primarily to absorb blood from the animal carcasses not to mention the spittle from the pipe smokers! No health and safety in those days! We loved to draw patterns in it with our feet as we were so bored listening to the adults endlessly talking.

One of my favourite pastimes was running away! The best time to do this was on washing day which was such a long boring task for a kid to take part in. I waited until the wash house was full of steam when the boiler lid was opened then tiptoed quietly out and ran out of the back gate. My mother was so busy scrubbing she never noticed initially. This particular day I had just got to the foot of the lane next to our house when a kind lady on a bicycle asked me where I was going. Luckily, I pointed to our house even though I was heading in the wrong direction. Just then my father appeared at the gate with his bicycle. Where have you been madam? A lady tooker

was all I would say although of course the lady was taking me back not taking me away. You may have gathered from some of these stories that I was an only child, so life got a whole lot more interesting as I got older and gathered more friends from school.

Frequently I was sent on errands in those days, and one memorable occasion springs to mind when my mother sent me to the local greengrocer for tomatoes. By the time I got there I had forgotten what the item was, so I pointed to the plums and handed over the money (shopkeepers were very astute in those days!) The plums were weighed, bagged, and I set off for home with them and the change in my pocket. Oh dear! I could tell by my mother's expression that all was not well! "I telt ye tae get tomatas lassie nae plums! Ye'll jist ging richt back wi em!" Suitably admonished I set off again with great trepidation. On arriving at the greengrocer, I opened the door and peeped in. An enormous woman with a fur coat and quite the fiercest look I had ever seen on any human being turned and looked at me. I threw the plums at her and ran home as fast as my little legs would carry me, closely followed by the shopkeeper himself. "Whaur's ma tomatas?" said mum. "Nae ony" was my reply. "Whaur's ma money then?" "Nae ony" I said. Very soon after that Mr McArthur (shopkeeper) rapped on the door extremely curious to find out what on earth was going on, and very kindly agreed to come back with the tomatoes and correct change. It should be said that my mother suffered from agoraphobia hence my endless trips to the shops. She managed to go next door to the butcher's shop occasionally, however.

The wartime diet was something that to this day is emblazoned on my mind. Ration books containing coupons were required for all food and clothing purchases. My mum had a tendency to use too many coupons at the sweet counter. Stale bread and biscuits, sweetened with saccharin and hot milk poured over was quite often an evening meal, Often we would have omelette made with powdered egg rarely meat, often soup with home grown veg from the garden, porridge, brose, and skirlie with tatties. These were common foods eaten on a daily basis. A real treat on a Sunday was roast rabbit stuffed with oatmeal. My poor mother had to skin the

poor beast, clean out the entrails and stuff it. No oven ready for anything in those days!

Whose mother administered the laxative on Sunday/Friday night? It was laxative night for most kids (always syrup of figs) except for the poor soul nights. Big mistake! I remember poor wee 'Poopy 'Morrison having to be taken home by his brother on a Monday. Yet it was all treated as being a normal everyday event. There was no real bullying by kids then. Name calling of course and the odd fight between two boys was about the worst you could expect. Another vile medicine was Viral, a horrid malt we had spooned down our throats on a daily basis. Well, something had to be done to keep us healthy, I suppose!

A real nightmare was a visit from the doctor! He would arrive, examine me and always prescribed plenty to drink and M&B tablets, regardless of the illness, be it chicken pox mumps or measles (I had all three) they always made me so sick, but my mother insisted they had to be taken to make me better! Even though they always made it worse. They were possibly like codeine nowadays as they have that effect on me. Then the doctor would produce his cigarette case, offering my dad a "fag" which was always gratefully accepted, while my mother made him a cup of tea, after which he would be on his merry way. How times have changed!

By the time my 5th birthday came around I had acquired two lovely new pals (neighbours) both very different in character but equally lovable to me. Ella Combe lived just 4 doors away in a council flat and just down the road in a lovely bungalow lived Jeanette Easton, a sweet-faced little girl, sweet natured too! Ella was a happy-go-lucky, bit of a dare devil and nobody ever knew what she was saying apart from me. A classic line to my mother was "you tie my ribbon has you mans tan dee"- ``Which was you to tie my ribbon as hard as you can manage to do it!" Phew! "I dinna ken a word that lassie says' my mother was always saying. One day she pulled my father's motor bike on top of herself trying to climb up on it. Mercifully she was unhurt, though undeterred.

Soon the long-awaited day arrived and Ella and I left for school, suitably scrubbed in carbolic soap! And set off to collect Jeanette, closely followed by my mother. As soon as we left the house, we took my coat and pulled it over our heads, cracking them together and, oh dear, setting off two bleeding noses! Whoops! Back home, another wash in carbolic soap and off we set again.

Having collected Jeanette we came to Lilybank Place, where Miss Hunter (the lady who was to be our teacher) lived. She appeared and started chatting, referring to our starting school, and walked with us down to Kittybrewster primary school where I was to spend only a year. Then we moved out to Bucksburn. A couple of weeks later we were allowed to go to school ourselves and always went to collect Miss Hunter on the way. She was such a lovely lady.

On the way home, however, the three of us had a strange ritual of having to go round each lamppost, until we got dizzy, giggling and falling about all the way home, and always got into trouble for being late. Going back at lunchtime (I don't recall there being school dinners back then) if we had a penny to spend (usually on a Friday) we would go to the corner shop to buy 12 plain wafers (the kind used for ice cream). We didn't even like them, but thought it was great getting so many! Of course, we were always choking with thirst after. Then it was on to the school drinking fountain in the playground, and always drinking out of it at the same time somebody with a real green snotty nose (usually a boy I don't know why). Strangely enough it never put us off as we were so thirsty, and anyways kids were made of stronger stuff in those days I think!) My dad who was in a reserved occupation during the war (agricultural engineer, not too far from home, and if he was on fire watch duty would take a flask of tea and a piece back to work with him. The piece was usually a currant bun and jam, and I was allowed to spread it sitting on my dad's knee at the time, and always carefully picking out the currants and eating them, so I guess he never really got a currant bun! Christmas was an exciting time for a kid back then, even though the excitement never started till Christmas Eve. A small tree was cut down from a nearby wood, and duly decorated with 'real' candles which were lit on Christmas day for the meal, which was again hard work

for women back then. A capon, hen, or turkey was purchased, then plucked, singed, gutted and stuffed and cooked on the oven range for hours - no thermostats or thermometer - only cooked if the fire was well stocked up obviously so always had to be started the day before. Oh and the Santa Claus anticipation! How can any kid sleep on Christmas eve? We had long stockings and all our presents were there. Tangerine if you could get them, penny in the toe, sticks of wax (plasticine or dough then) which you had to hold over a flame till it melted, usually burnt your fingers into the bargain! Small dolly or toy, book and some sweets. Thought we were the cat's whiskers we did! My grandma always made Swiss milk toffee for the occasion and allowed me to scrape the pot afterwards- such joy!

By the following summer we had moved to Bucksburn to the farm where my great grandfather lived, as we had to look after them in their later years.

Sad as I was to leave school and my friends I was completely enthralled by this great place. So many outhouses and a large "byre" (steading). All great hiding places and a potential 'home' for any 'pets' that might come my way. We'd only ever had a cat before, but like my grandmother I really inherited her love of animals, and I just knew that many would be coming to reside here. My great grandmother always had a dog. A cairn terrier had just died and a cocker spaniel was acquired by her then, called Rex, but I called him Rexy Skipper Innjal. For some reason I always gave my pets strange alternative names (still do)!

One afternoon my great grandfather was taking his 'nap' on the sofa. The dog ate a whole new bag of pan drops out of his pocket, very carefully as it turned out! As he never woke up. For the rest of the day and evening Rex burped and broke wind! Apart from that he seemed to have other problems, although he wasn't the healthiest of dogs. Too inbred my dad used to say. Soon after that dog food tins arrived on the market!

How everyone laughed as cats and dogs were fed on butcher's scraps (3 old pence) for a huge parcel and also on family leftovers. Everyone said 'That'll never catch on!' It did, of course, and a funny story I recall was our next



door neighbours saw who had a night out, coming home and making a sandwich with some beef that was in a bowl in the pantry. Unknown to him this was of course the new dog food. It did look like meat in a gravy and came in a tartan labelled tin. He slept soundly that night until his mother asked him what he'd done with the dog food. Then he said he felt sick funnily enough and started retching to no avail. That'll learn ye she said-'I tell ye nae good'll come of ah that drinkin late at nicht'. (The pubs closed about 9pm I think- a 'late' licence was later granted to 10pm!) Wow!

## **BOWLING CLUB**

The bowlers meet outside at the Victoria Road bowling green on Tuesdays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. New members and visitors are always welcome. Covid restrictions apply. Ian McRitchie

## **SPRING QUIZ**

The winner of the Spring Quiz is Mrs Ann Walterson. Thank you to everyone for their support. The Summer Quiz is now on sale. Kath Finnie

## **SUNDAY TEAS**

Thank you to all who have donated to Sunday teas in February, March and April. £105 was raised and given to the Fabric Fund. The money from Sunday teas in May went to Christian Aid - £62.

Thank you also to the volunteers who give of their time each Sunday. New volunteers would be appreciated as we are few in number. Please speak to me if you are willing to give up some time to help. Hazel Duncan, Tea Convenor.

## **OFFICE OPENING HOURS**

The office is open again. The rota is as follows:

Valerie: Monday 1.30 to 3.30, Wednesday and Friday 10.00 to 12 noon

Beth: Tuesday 10.00 to 12 noon

Mary: Thursday 10.00 to 12 noon.

## **KILTWALK: FUNDRAISING FOR CLAN CANCER in memory of Cathie Balfour**

A grand total of £1072.50 was raised thanks to your generosity. Your support and generosity is always greatly appreciated.

## **KILTWALK: FUNDRAISING FOR THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S GROUP SCOTLAND**

On 29<sup>th</sup> of May I took part in the 15mile, Aberdeen Kiltwalk from Crathes Castle to Duthie Park to raise money for the work of the African Women's Group Scotland. It was hard work but knowing that every step was going to make a difference in someone's life and the confidence you had in me by donating to my cause gave me the much-needed encouragement and strength to push on. I raised a total of £771.00. Thank you all for your generosity. This money will go into the AWGS kitty, and it means that when we get a request for help, we will hopefully be able to. Our group helps with problems unique to the African community. Sometimes the help can be emotional. African ladies can be misunderstood and judged. Some members of the community have suffered the pain of FGM. They isolate and fear to go for help. Others suffer domestic abuse or are victims of broken relationships who need help to return home (they come as dependants but after the breakup are abandoned), sometimes families which are struggling need help to pay bills, pay for treatment, help with visa renewal costs etc, the list is endless and demands high but limited funds. (Please find attached our group flyer.) God Bless You! Elizabeth Gatima

## **MIXED NEWS: ECCLESIASTES 3:4 There is a time for everything**

What mixed weather we have just now. I pray and trust this finds you all well. Just like the weather I have a mixture of news for you. Last year, you as a church put my name forward for the Worship Leading and Preaching course with Kings College Aberdeen and I am pleased to say that I managed to finish the course and was awarded two certificates. I found the course challenging but enjoyable. My classmates were from a variety of churches, and this made for good and varied discussion of different aspects of worship and preaching. Yes, the essays were an issue but between borrowing Edmond's books and involving everyone in the house I managed to complete my essays. Thank you, family. God willing, I will soon get an opportunity to help with the Sunday services.

This year started with a lot of hope. Expectation and planning for all of us, I am sure. We are only halfway, and my prayer is that you will see your hopes and plans fulfilled. This is from the bottom of my heart. By now you will have heard of the tragedy which robbed our family of James, Patience's fiancé. James suffered a brain bleed from which he sadly did not recover and was pronounced dead on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. I find no words to express our loss. I want to use this opportunity to thank you all for your support, kind messages, meals on wheels, flowers, and prayers. You have truly been there for us, and we pray that the good Lord alone in his faithfulness will reward you. I wish you a joyful summertime. See you soon hopefully. Elizabeth Gatima

## THE TAPESTRY POEM

**A poem attributed to Connie ten Boom:** “Life is but a weaving”. Some may remember this or a version of it from Sunday School. It was shared at one of the zoom Bible Study meetings at which folk asked for a copy.

My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me.  
I cannot choose the colours  
He weaveth steadily.  
Oft’ times He weaveth sorrow;  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I the underside.  
Not ’til the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Will God unroll the canvas  
And reveal the reason why.  
The dark threads are as needful  
In the weaver’s skilful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned  
He knows, He loves, He cares;  
Nothing this truth can dim.  
He gives the very best to those  
Who leave the choice to Him.

## **THE GUILD**

The Guild Strategy for 2021-24 is “Look forward in Faith” and our theme is “Lights and Bushels”. The Guild nationally support 6 projects for 3 years and since 1997 almost 7 million has been raised. One of our Guild fund-raisers will be the filling of smartie tubes with coins usually 20p or £1 coins. If anyone in the congregation would to support us in this way, please speak to Hazel Duncan.

The following is a brief description of the projects. You will find more information on the notice board.

### **Hope for Good**

A Christian charity inspiring people to think about fostering or adoption a child throughout Scotland so every child will have a home.

### **Pioneers**

Chocolate Heaven is a small chocolate kitchen in a beautiful island in South East Asia. They want to raise awareness of their work to enable them to expand and being a blessing to the workers, their families and the local community.

### **Starchild**

This project will address the challenge of stigma and the myths related to intellectual and physical disability in Uganda. They hope to build a holistic centre.

### **Beat**

Thousands of people across Scotland are living with an eating disorder. The project will help develop a network of ambassadors to see the signs and help get the support and treatment they deserve.

### **Unida**

Unida means together in Portuguese. It is at the forefront of pioneering education that is transforming the lives of young Brazilians, especially women, through theological education. The aim is to provide 3000 students from low income backgrounds with educational opportunities at affordable prices.

### **Vine Trust**

Kazunzu Village of Hope. The Vine Trust is an inter-development charity which enables volunteers to provide medical, home building, and care support to communities living in severe poverty in Tanzania. Please pray for all the projects and thank you for your support. Hazel Duncan, Project Partner.

## **MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS**

Always on the last Saturday of each month in the Large Hall from 10.00am until 12 noon. July 30<sup>th</sup>, August 27<sup>th</sup>, September 24<sup>th</sup>, October 29<sup>th</sup> and “All Things Christmas” November 19<sup>th</sup>. Come along and enjoy the fellowship. Everyone welcome. The Monthly Gang

## **SUMMER FAYRE**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June: 10.00am – 12 noon.**

Any new ideas greatly appreciated. Thinking caps on please. Set up on Friday evening between 7.30pm and 8.30pm. Look forward to seeing you to assist ALSO on the day. Please come along and support YOUR Church. The Fayre Committee

## **TORRY SUMMER CLUB**

**August 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>: 9.30am – 12 noon.**

For primary school age children. We meet each morning on the last week of the school holidays. Invitations for the children have gone into the two local primary schools. Please pass the work along. All welcome. Lynda Hunter & Mary Forbes

## **SUNDAY YOUNGSTERS**

Meet each Sunday morning during worship. Story, game, craft.

## **PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP**

The parent and toddler group runs every Monday from 9.00 to 11.00. Open to all babies and pre-school children. £1.50 includes snack, tea/coffee. All welcome. Valerie Taylor

## **APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR CHURCH FABRIC**

Dear Church Members

Two years ago, at the beginning of the Covid pandemic, I appealed for money for the Fabric Fund because the gas boiler was in need of a fairly major repair. The response was quite wonderful. We were able to repair the gas boiler, replace the broken water heater in the toilet block, put new flooring in the Garden Lounge, install a new door in the halls and most recently repair the steps into the church grounds. To enable us to maintain the Church estate and keep it in good condition, I am again appealing for money for the Fabric Fund. Take care and God Bless. L Thomson, Fabric Convenor.

## WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

3 July	Morning Worship (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00
10 July	Morning Worship (5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00
17 July	Morning Worship (6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00
24 July	Morning Worship (7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00
31 July	Morning Worship (8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00
7 Aug	Morning Worship (9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00
14 Aug	Morning Worship (10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00
21 Aug	Morning Worship (11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost) (Torry Summer Club)	11:00
28 Aug	Morning Worship (12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00
4 Sep	Morning Worship (13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00
11 Sep	Morning Worship (14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00
18 Sep	Morning Worship (15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00
25 Sep	Morning Worship (16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)	11:00

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H O L Y



C O M M U N I O N

**Will be celebrated in Torry St Fittick's Church on  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 11.00am. All are welcome.**

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**Minister Rev. Dr. Edmond Gatima**

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**Session Clerk & Convenor of the Co-ordinating Committee**

Mrs Elizabeth Robertson

**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

**Safeguarding Officer**

Margaret Wright