

The Leading Light

Torry St Fittick's Parish Church of
Scotland



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*Praise the Lord.
Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good;
his love endures forever.*

Psalm 106:1

October 2021



A PRAYER FOR STRENGTH

Lord, our God,
we are in the shadow of your wings.
Protect us and bear us up.

You will care for us as if we were little children, even to our old
age.

When you are our strength, we are strong; but when we are our
own strength, we are weak.

We now return to you, O Lord, that we may never turn away
again.

Amen

—*St. Augustine of Hippo*

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Autumn Newsletter, October 2021

Dear Friends,

Since our Easter Newsletter, a lot has happened, and this letter is full of news, and I hope you might find it encouraging and uplifting.

Although some things are back to normality as we once knew it, other aspects of community and Church life are still quite different.

By the time we re-opened our Church, several restrictions were still in place, but today we thank God we are allowed to sing, even if we must keep face masks on. The organist can be played again. Social distancing is no longer mandatory although we still maintained 1m rule for people to feel comfortable. Teas and coffees are being served, but with some restrictions to make sure it is done in the safest way possible.

With risk assessments and sanitation measures in place, most of the organisations have managed to resume their activities in the Church building. The Minimuffins, Ragamuffins and Leading Light groups have been meeting for some time now. Aerobics is meeting on a Monday evening. Indoor bowling is back on Tuesday afternoons and the 24th Aberdeen Girls Brigade company now meets on a Tuesday evening in the large hall.

The Wednesday night Bible Study and Prayer group is resuming in person from November, and the Thursday morning Bible Study continues via Zoom. The Parent/Carer and Toddler group begins again on 1st November (changing to Monday mornings). Other activities will begin as soon as it is practicably possible to do so. Most of the activities that rely heavily on the use of the kitchen will have to wait until the kitchen is properly risk assessed. The process is underway and should be completed soon.

Thanks are due to all those who did the work required. The risk assessments, the cleaning, the gardening and the repairs and maintenance that needed to be done during these challenging times.

Speaking of activities resuming, the Kirk Session held its first meeting in person since February 2020 on 9th of September 2021 at 7:00 pm.

This meeting was of a special nature. Not only it was the first after a long time, but most importantly, the office of Session Clerk which has been vacant since Mr William Brown stepped down, was filled. The Kirk Session was delighted to appoint Mrs Elizabeth Robertson as Session Clerk and Mrs Jennifer Brown as

Deputy Session Clerk. Both took the Oath de fideli administration ("I promise to carry out faithfully the duties of Session (Deputy) Clerk") before the Congregation on Sunday the 12th of September. We wish them the blessing of God in their faithful service.

The Kirk Session appointed Mr Calum Runcie as Organist, and as noted in previous newsletters Mrs Jennifer Brown is Data Protection Officer and Mrs Elizabeth Thomson Roll Keeper.

Now that the leadership team is in place, the joint working group on the proposed Parish Grouping between Torry St Fittick's and South St Nicolas Church and Cove can continue its work.

As you remember from my previous communications, one of the proposals in the Presbytery Plan, is the formation of Parish groupings made up of neighbouring Parishes. They are encouraged to work together on agreed areas of work and Mission. Hence our Aberdeen South Parish Grouping.

We have been already working together on a few things including provision of School chaplaincy, sharing online services, and occasional shared in person worship services. The shared appointment of Rev Dr Joe Somevi as an OLM across both Parishes is to support our joint initiative to work together. We recently had a joint worship service on Harvest Sunday. Members of both congregations took part. Look out for more of such joint worship services and other opportunities for us to get to know each other across the South of Aberdeen area.

The Presbytery is busy 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.

The Church of Scotland is undergoing a major period of reform and changes that. Regionally, there will be the creation of one large Presbytery for the North-East and Northern Isles, bringing together six current Presbyteries. This union of Presbyteries will take place next year with the new "super" Presbytery formed for the start of 2023.

Although things seem to be back to a semblance of normality, let's not forget that the last 18 months have been turbulent for us all. We have experienced the pandemic and the lockdown in different ways. Without a doubt, there have been some very hard times as we coped with loneliness, loss, illness, depression, anxiety, and financial difficulties. Yet there have been some unexpectedly happy and positive times too.

We are not completely out the woods yet. It would be interesting to hear your reflections on your experiences of the pandemic and I would encourage you to share some of those with the readers of the next issue of this Church Newsletter. You can write on how you coped with the difficulties, what surprised you, how events impacted on your faith, what you missed the most, what you didn't miss, how did you pass the time and what will be different for the future. Please do send your thoughts to the Church office either by mail or email whichever way you find easier for you, and we will make sure your responses are included anonymously in the next Church letter and on the Church Website.

I believe that whatever the future holds, we can be assured that God is still in control. Let me leave you with a prayer of Moses in Psalm 90:1-2 (NLT). *"¹ Lord, through all the generations you have been our home! ² Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God".* Amen.

Yours in Christ

Rev Dr Edmond Gatima



**Will be celebrated in Torry St Fittick's Church on
Sunday 31st October 2021 at 11.00am. All are welcome.**

Harvest Thanksgiving

What wonderful care, kindness and generosity was shown at our recent Harvest Thanksgiving service. The food and toiletries you presented were delivered to Cfine. Some of you gifted money, which was used to buy toiletries in response to Cfine's appeal due to their stocks being very low. This year, **again**, your giving will help those in our society who are most in need. Thank you.

Bowling Club

The bowlers meet in the Church Hall on Tuesdays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. New members and visitors are always welcome. Covid restrictions apply.
Ian McRitchie

Parent and Toddler Group

The parent and toddler group will start on 1st November. Previously held on a Tuesday and Thursday morning, the group will now take place on Monday mornings. In due course, we hope to have the group running twice a week.

Christmas Messy Church 2021

We are delighted to be holding our Christmas Messy Church online this year, as we stay on the side of caution keeping everyone safe over the winter months. Please **email the church office or keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information** and getting involved! The Messy Church will take place on Saturday 4th December on Zoom. We look forward to seeing you virtually for an afternoon of fun activities, stories, and songs.

Monthly Coffee Mornings

These are on hold at present due to COVID 19 restrictions. Hopefully it will be back to normal and “all systems go” starting January 29th 2022. Always on the last Saturday of each month in the Large Hall from 10.00am until 12 noon.

But! Take note!

We will be going ahead with our special

ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS

coffee morning

on 20th November 2021 from 10.00am.



The Monthly Gang

WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

7 Nov	Morning Worship	11:00
14 Nov	Remembrance Service : a shared service held at Torry St Fitticks Church an outdoor service held at the Nigg Memorial at Nigg Parish Church, Wellington Road	11:00 14:00
21 Nov	Morning Worship	11:00
28 Nov	1 st Sunday of Advent Morning Worship	11:00
5 Dec	2 nd Sunday of Advent Morning Worship (includes the Christingle story)	11:00
12 Dec	3 rd Sunday of Advent Morning Worship Bereavement Service	11:00 18:30
19 Dec	4 th Sunday of Advent Nativity Service Potluck Supper (To be confirmed) 9 Lessons and Carols	11:00 17:00 18:00
24 Dec	Christmas Eve services South St Nicholas Church Torry St Fittick's Church	18.30 23.30
25 Dec	Christmas Day: a shared service at South St Nicholas	10:30
26 Dec	Morning Worship: a shared service at Torry St Fittick's	11:00
2 Jan	Morning Worship: a shared service at South St Nicholas	10:30

Minister Rev. Dr. Edmond Gatima

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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

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

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