South Aberdeen Churches

of Scotland

Magazine



1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

OCTOBER 2023



Will be celebrated at South St Nicholas Church on Sunday 15th October 2023 at 10.30am

Will be celebrated in Torry St Fittick's Church on Sunday 29th October 2023 at 11.00am.

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

.....

LETTERS FROM THE MINISTERS

Dear Friends,

I have recently been following a remarkable post on Facebook. It is a page set up by one of the sons of the Revd J L Ladd Fagerson, who for over 25 years was chaplain at Rannoch School in Perthshire. We have been friends with Ladd for over 30 years and his death on the 4th September 2022 was a sad, but also an inspiring day, when many gathered to remember this gentle giant of a man, who was such a faithful servant of Jesus. Each day while Chaplain at Rannoch School Ladd took a short service for those who were at the Boarding School, Pupils and Staff. This was no mean feat – to have a message for every day of the School Year for 25 years! I thought it would be good to share with you one of these "Thoughts for the day".

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

"If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

There is a parable which is often repeated in India concerning a selfish fool who inherited a rice-field. The 1st season, the irrigation water covered his property making it most fruitful – and then it flowed on to his neighbours' fields bringing equal fertility everywhere. The next season, however, the selfish fool said in his heart, "This water is wealth, it is liquid harvest. I was too generous in letting this treasure escape to others." He, therefore, stopped the water with a specially made dam and robbed his neighbours of the life-bringing water. But in so doing he spoiled his own crop for the irrigation water brought blessing while it flowed – but when it became stagnant it turned his rice-paddy into a dank and unfruitful marsh.

Love that stops at itself breeds trouble.

How much different then, than the true spirit of Christ, shown by a farmer in Denmark who, when his own house and the entire section surrounding him was threatened by fire, first rushed next door to assist his bed-ridden neighbour because he knew the man relied upon him. At the risk of his life, he entered the flames, gathered the invalid into his arms and hurried to a place of safety.

While he did this his own possessions burned to ashes.

However, he was rewarded by the Danish Government with a special gift which made up for all of his losses. What is more he saved a life and acquired an outstanding reputation.

Let us remember that selfishness is a terrible tyrant – wherever it reigns it blights and ruins lives.

"Not as we take, but as we give

Not as we pray, but as we live -

These are the things that make for peace

Both now and after time shall cease."

And to serve him with a love that is costly and unselfish like Your own

love for us. We ask for your Namesake. Amen.

Thank you, Ladd, and for all faithful preachers everywhere.

Eddie

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this letter, you are already halfway into Autumn, already thinking about Christmas and it won't be surprising if some supermarkets have started displaying Christmas items around the floor.

Allow me to reminisce with you over summertime which I hope you enjoyed in your own particular ways.

In my October 2022 letter, I said that summer was the hottest ever, but this summer 2023 was described as the hottest summer since records began in 1940, according to data from the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

My family and I spent most of August away to Burundi and Uganda in Eastern Africa where we had a chance to visit our respective families and meet the orphan boys in Burundi. When we came back, we couldn't feel any difference in terms of weather as Aberdeen was as hot as it was back in Africa. Not for long, though, as the temperatures started gradually dropping down to typical Aberdeen weather.

By September/October, while the temperatures are dropping, Church activities have resumed from summer break. I take this opportunity to thank all those who are helping to make sure all activities are running well including those done in summer like the summer club. This month of October, we also welcome new elders, who after going through the required elders training, were ordained on the 17th of October 2023. We wish them well as they serve the Lord and His Church.

By this time of the year, Christmas is also around the corner and will soon be with us. We hope to arrange most of the events traditionally held at Church before Christmas Eve and Christmas day, such as Remembrance Service, Christmas Messy Church, Bereavement Service, Nine lessons Service and Potluck supper, Nativity Sunday, etc. I am grateful to those who have kept these activities going in the past and I take this opportunity to encourage anyone who wishes to help in one way or another, to get in touch with the Church office for more information.

Regarding to the Church life at Presbytery level, the Presbytery Mission plan is under way. Most of the Unions outlined in the final Mission Plan have been completed, the recent one being Westhill and Kingswells Churches united as Kingshill Parish Church in June this year. The union between Torry St Fitticks' and South St Nicolas is expected to be completed in less than a year and whenever I think about it, the word of God from Isaiah comes to mind.

Isaiah 43 verse 18-19 says, "Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already—you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there" (Good News Translation).

To me these words seem to connect with our own situation at Torry St Fitticks and South St Nicolas as we prepare for the union between the two congregations by the end of next year 2024.

The United congregations will form the new congregation of Church of Scotland in the south of Aberdeen. This will mark the start of a whole new chapter in the life of our community of faith and encompasses the Church of Scotland's presence along the South side of the River Dee, covering Torry, Kincorth, Cove and Charleston, including the Altens industrial area.

The process is not easy but requires commitment to changes knowing that God's plan for his Church is always good. Things will never go back to how they were; the time is changing. I believe that the place we find ourselves in now is a transitional space, an in-between place where we will leave behind the former things and are venturing towards the new that we cannot yet see. This is not a space to 'get through', but a call from the Lord Inviting us to dwell in the present moment with Him, embracing all that is at the moment and perceiving what he is doing in this season.

As we dwell in the present moment, and as we perceive what the Lord is doing and join him in that, we will find ourselves venturing towards that common future that we so long for. Not in one big and clearly defined leap from A to B, but as an unfolding adventure that will take us beyond what we can know and lead us into a future that we cannot yet imagine.

We will face challenges along the way, but God is saying that he will make a road through the wilderness and give us streams of water there. Which means that God will prove a way where there seems to be no way and will sustain us where there seems to be no provision. With this assurance, we will be encouraged to go through the process and see where God is leading us.

For the time being, we will continue worshiping as 2 different congregations, but, occasionally, we will have joint Services like Harvest Sunday on the 8th of October and the Remembrance afternoon Service at Nigg War memorial. Other joint services and Missional activities will be announced as we progress in time.

Communication is very important during this time of transition and that is why we hope that a shared Church newsletter will be produced as often as possible to make sure the information released in relation to the Union is available to both congregations during the uniting period. The time we are entering requires hard work and commitment to achieve the aims set out in the plan. It might look difficult in our eyes, but we believe that God has a bigger plan for his Church and will see us through. We need to keep going even when things are difficult, and let God make a way where there is no way.

May God bless you, Rev Dr Edmond Gatima



Kincorth Rainbows – South St Nicholas

Our unit is still very busy, with 23 girls at present and a current waiting list of 10. Our biggest issue at present is lack of adults. At the moment we have myself, one other person who is training to be a leader, plus 1 parent. We do have a few parents willing to help on an occasional basis, but we really need at least one other regular volunteer over the age of 18. If anyone knows of someone who is interested, they can email our unit email which is <u>kincorthrainbows@aol.com</u>

Last term the girls did various First Aid activities for our badge for this term. The girls made crowns and Tiaras and played a game crowning the Queen to celebrate the coronation. They were all desperate to be the Queen and get crowned. For the second last week of term we had a teddy bears' picnic before presenting badges and awards gained this term. The last night of term before the summer break we went to 'Jump In' with the girls for some jumping and Pizza.

At the end of the summer holidays, we had a very successful sleepover with some of our older girls. It was the first one we had had since Covid stopped everything back in 2020. The girls did lots of activities round a clown/circus theme. A very late night for girls that are normally in bed in the early evening but we got more sleep than we have had at some in the past.

This term our older girls are doing some further First Aid stuff, while the younger ones are doing lots of activities looking at how though they are all Rainbows they are all different. They have just painted some lovely Bird Houses this term and hopefully some will be put outside for the birds to put nests in.

We will be joining up with the Brownie Unit to have a Halloween Party after the October Break.

We also have a Facebook page where we put some pictures of things the girls have done,

(https://www.facebook.com/kincorthrainbows)

Our big concern for the future is that although we have till the summer of 2024 in the church, it is where we go from there. The Community Centre has been mentioned but it is an unknown if we would be able to secure a let there in the future. I am looking at trying to move this forward now that things are starting back again because I do not want to leave it until the last minute for finding an alternative venue.

Rona Kennedy

Let's ZOOM together!

If you fancy an informal Bible Study then why not join us from the comfort of your own home! Thursday Morning 10.30-11.30. Further information from Ann Lundie or the Church Office.

Worship at Torry St Fittick's Church (every Sunday at 11.00am)

November

12th	Remembrance Sunday	10.45am
	Remembrance at Nigg War Memorial	2.00pm
19th	Bereavement Service	6.30pm

December

3rd	Advent 1 – Christingle	11.00am
10th	Advent 2 – Nativity	11.00am
17th	Advent 3	11.00am
17th	Potluck Supper followed by	5.00pm
	Nine lessons and Carols	6.30pm
24th	Advent 4 – Christmas Eve	11.00am
	Christmas Eve Service	6.30pm
25th	Christmas Day	10.30am
31st	New Year's Eve	11.00am

January

7th	Morning Worship	11.00am
	0 1	

Maximizing the Impact of Your Giving: Understanding Gift Aid

Introduction:

As members of our church community, we are blessed with the opportunity to support the work of the church through our financial contributions. One way to make our giving go even further is by understanding and taking advantage of Gift Aid. In this article, we will explore what Gift Aid is, how it works, and how it can benefit both you and the church.

What is Gift Aid?

Gift Aid is a government scheme designed to encourage charitable giving by allowing registered charities, including churches, to claim back the basic rate of tax on donations made by eligible taxpayers. It is a simple and effective way to boost the value of your donations without any additional cost to you.

How does Gift Aid work?

When you make a donation to our church, we can claim an additional 25p for every £1 you donate through Gift Aid. This is because the government adds 25% to your donation in the form of tax relief. In other words, if you donate £100, the church can claim an additional £25, making your total donation worth £125. It's a fantastic way to make your giving stretch further and support the work of the church.

Who is eligible for Gift Aid?

To be eligible for Gift Aid, you need to be a UK taxpayer, whether you are employed or self-employed. You must have paid enough income tax or capital gains tax in the tax year to cover the amount the church will claim on your donation. It's important to note that you should inform the church if your tax status changes or if you stop paying taxes.

How to make use of Gift Aid:

Making use of Gift Aid is simple. All you need to do is complete a Gift Aid declaration form, provided by the church. By signing this declaration, you confirm that you are eligible for Gift Aid, and you give permission for the church to claim the tax relief on your donations. It's a one-time declaration that covers all future donations, including any made in the past four years and any in the future, as long as you remain eligible.

Benefits of Gift Aid:

1. Increased Impact: By utilizing Gift Aid, your donations can have a more significant impact on the church's work. The additional funds claimed through Gift Aid can be used for various initiatives, such as supporting community outreach programs, enhancing worship experiences, or maintaining church facilities.

2. No Extra Cost to You: Gift Aid is an effective way to increase your giving without any additional financial burden. The tax relief is provided by the government, ensuring that your donation goes further without any extra cost to you.

3. Simplicity and Convenience: Once you have completed the Gift Aid declaration, there is no need to fill out any additional forms for each donation. It's a hassle-free way to maximize the impact of your giving.

Conclusion:

Gift Aid is a valuable opportunity for church members to make their financial contributions go further. By taking advantage of this government scheme, we can ensure that our donations have a more significant impact on the work of the church, benefiting both our community and our own spiritual growth. So, let's make the most of Gift Aid and continue to support our church's mission with increased generosity and dedication.

Peter Brown, Gift Aid Convener





Dedication Service – South St Nicholas

A service of dedication for the Boys' and Girls' Brigades will take place, at South St Nicholas, on Sunday 1st October, at 10.30 am. It is important for us, as a church, to publicly recognise the wonderful work undertaken by the brigades' leaders and helpers, and to recognise the dedication of the girls and boys who come along each week. This is an opportunity for the Brigades and the Church to unite in reminding each other of their objectives and of their obligations to one another.

Torry St Fittick's Monthly Coffee Mornings

We continue on the last Saturday of each month offering a choice of Home Bakes, Preserves when available, a wide selection of Bric-a-Brac, Books, DVDs, CDs continually being refreshed. Thank you to our valued Bakers, and Dedicated Team and also to our Regulars who support us each month.

Forward dates are:

October 28th November 18th for All Things Christmas

No Monthly Coffee Morning in December. An early Seasonal Message to You All. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. See you on Saturday, January 27th 2024, from The Monthly Gang.

Worship at South St Nicholas Church (every Sunday at 10.30am)

November

12th	Remembrance Sunday	10.30am
	Remembrance at Nigg War Memorial	2.00pm

December

3rd	Advent 1 "Letting Stuff Go"	10.30am
10th	Advent 2 "Changing Your Mind"	10.30am
10th	Advent 2 Youth Service for BB, GB, Rainbows	7.00pm
17th	Advent 3 "Pointing to the Light"	10.30am
17th	Advent 3 Bereavement Service	7.00pm
24th	Advent 4 "Listening"	10.30am
24th	Christmas Eve Service	7.00pm
25th	Christmas Day "God in Us"	10.30am
31st	New Year's Eve "God in Other People"	10.30am

January

7th	Epiphany "Meditation on the End of the Year"	10.30am
-----	--	---------

GOD'S WORD FOR YOU TODAY: JESUS IS YOUR FRIEND

written by <u>GOD TV</u> April 28, 2022

Today's Verse

John 15:15-16 "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you."

Today's Message

Greatest man in history named Jesus,

Had no servants, yet they called Him Master.

Had no degree, yet they call Him Teacher. Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.

He had no army, yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

Jesus is your friend.

A friend accepts you as you are. A friend likes to spend time with you. Being a friend of God implies faith in God and intimacy with God that is available even today to you and me through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. To become a friend of Jesus starts with a love for God through Christ Jesus. Only love can produce love in return. God bless and do tell the Lord thank you for He has promoted us from the status of "slaves" to "friends" by faith through His Son Christ Jesus. He calls you His friend.

(Submitted by a church member)

Torry Summer Club 2023

Another successful Club with the theme ROCKY'S PLAICE - 'The Chip Shop Church'- bringing us stories of Jesus each day. Using stories, music, drama, arts & crafts and Captain Ketchup too. Each morning we had a daily challenge and joke telling time. All the boys & girls, and teachers too, had a great time. A successful picnic outing to the Balnagask Community Centre ended the week on Saturday and we led lively worship on the Sunday. Thanks to ALL who helped once again to make this event such a success.

Lynda & Mary

Torry St Fittick's Messy Christmas For Families

Saturday 25th November 2023 from 4.00pm until 6.00pm in Torry St Fittick's large hall.

We look forward to seeing families we have seen before & newcomers too for a craft filled time celebrating Christmas followed by a time of music and storytelling then we shall eat supper together. Look forward to seeing you there. Lynda & Mary

Torry St Fittick's Sunday Youngsters

Meet each Sunday during Worship in the I when we hear more about Jesus and his life using storytelling, crafts, colouring, games and music. Please encourage any children you know or neighbours to come and join us on a Sunday Morning. Festive Break: Sundays December 24th & 31st & January 7th.

Lynda Hunter, Sunday School Superintendent

Afternoon Teas – South St Nicholas

Two further 'Afternoon Tea' events are being planned at South St Nicholas Church.

'Harvest Thanksgiving' Afternoon Tea Tuesday 10th October 2023 from 2 to 4 pm

'Christmas' Afternoon Tea Tuesday 12th December 2023 from 2 to 4 pm

Everyone is welcome, so please do come along if you can. We don't charge, but small donations can be made if so desired. With the addition of craft tables at our last two afternoon teas, we have raised over £600 for CrossReach. Thank you to all who have supported these events.

46th Boys' Brigade – Kincorth



Braemar Gathering

Our Senior Boys attended this year's Braemar Gathering alongside other Boys and Girls from across the Battalion. Leaving Aberdeen at 6am, and with a hearty breakfast on arrival, the Boys spent the day showing visitors to their seats as well as selling programmes. A very busy and sunny day with Boys getting the chance to meet people from all over the World.

The highlight was at the end of the day when His Majesty the King met with a delegation of young people from the BB, presenting a baton and a message that will be making its way around BB Companies across the North of Scotland.

Michael Aberdein

Torry St Fittick's Sunday Teas

Thank you to everyone who donated to Sunday teas between January and August, excluding May when the donations (£80) went to Christian Aid. £347 has gone to the Fabric Fund and expenses came in at £134.14. Thank you to all helpers who give of their time so willingly. We would really appreciate new volunteers to join the rota system. If this is a task you would be willing to take on (male or female) please speak to me.

Hazel Duncan, Tea Convenor

Torry St Fittick's Christmas Card Exchange

Will operate on two Sundays - on December 10th & 17th

For a fee of 10p per card you can drop off your cards for distribution before Worship. Come back after Worship to check if any have been left for you. Sadly, we cannot deliver your cards outwith Church.

Happy to help Mary Forbes

Torry St Fittick's Choir News

We will continue to meet on a Monday afternoon from time to time. Please get in touch if you are interested (01224 899183).

Charlie Mair, Choir Leader

Torry St Fittick's Church Guild

We began our new session with a dedication service on Sunday 24th September and our first meeting was on Tuesday 26th September when our speaker was our minister Rev Dr Edmond Gatima. We would love to see some new faces male or female. Why not come along for a night of worship and fellowship and hear some very interesting speakers.

We meet in the small hall at 7.30pm finishing at 9pm and this includes a cup of tea or coffee. You are all welcome why not come and join us. The following is a list of all that will be happening from September to April.

October 10th	John Dunn: Fishy Facts	
October 24th	Brian McDonald: Titanic Survivors	
November 7th	Susan Cheyne: Instant Neighbour	
November 21st	Christmas Carols & Readings	
December 5th	Christmas Lunch	
January 9 th	AGM Bring & Buy	
January 23rd	David Hunter & Friends: Burns Celebration	
February 6th	David Loumgair: Charlie House Big Build Update	
March 5th	Katrina Blackwood: Insight into Health Care Chaplaincy	
March 19th	Wendy Buchan: Mary's Meals	
April 2nd	Ruth Falconer: The Scripture Cake	
Date to remember:	March 1st: World Day of Prayer	

Prayer:

Blessed Lord, who by word and example hast shown us the meaning of neighbourliness and the way of love: Grant that we may learn to recognise as our neighbour every fellow man who needs our help.

Torry St Fitticks Guild Projects

We are raising funds for the Guild projects by saving coins in smartie tubes. If anyone in the congregation would like to help us in this way, please speak to Hazel Duncan. By the time you get the magazine, we will have been entertained by singing hands on Saturday 14th October. All donations will go to the six projects.

To date since 2021 Torry St Fitticks Guild have raised £637 and we thank everyone who helped us raise this amount so far. The Guild, nationally, have raised:

Beat	£50,953.06	Vine Trust	£54,701.15
Pioneers	£39,869.74	Home for Good	£67,735.02
Starchild	£50, 476.94	Unida	£27,056.83
A grand total of £290,792.74			

BEAT is the UK's eating disorder charity. They exist to end the pain and suffering caused by eating disorders. Together we hope to help local communities in SCOTLAND to recognise the signs of eating disorders and understand how to support those struggling to get the treatment they deserve.

HOME FOR GOOD wants all children to find a loving home. This project will allow Home for Good to reach all parts of SCOTLAND and will enable them to build their network of volunteers. Once trained the volunteers can run events, offer training, and build support groups which provide much needed encouragement for these families.

STARCHILD: finding the light in every child. The structural work on the Sunflower Sanctuary in UGANDA. As the funding comes in, they are hoping to cement the floor, plaster and partition the walls, so there is still work to be done. They celebrated the project's achievements to date with singing, dancing, and sunflower cake. UNIDA: Hear our Voice! Training women for ministry and service in BRAZIL. It is not possible for women to study in many church seminaries because they focus on teaching men for ordained ministries. Many churches do not recognise the ordained ministry of women. Unida offers an affirming space for women to pursue their studies and explore their gift.

VINE TRUST: KAZUNZA Village of Hope, TANZANIA. Four new buildings have been completed and African Inland Church, Tanzania has been working hard to help locals achieve self-sustainability through managing an area set aside for farming cash crops that can generate income. Using their community gardens to grow vegetables for eating/keeping their own chickens for eggs. Looking after Tilapia Fingerlings in the two fish cages that have been installed in the lake, collecting them every harvest to eat and sell at the local market.

PIONEERS: In SOUTH EAST ASIA Chocolate Heaven is providing employment for chocolate makers, fair prices for local growers producing and selling delicious chocolate and sharing God's good news with their employees and wider communities whenever they have the opportunity to do so. Their chocolate is now available from the Guild office.

Please pray for all the projects. Thank you.

Hazel Duncan, Project Partner

Torry St Fittick's Men's Group

The men's group meets every 2nd Tuesday at 2.30 at Torry St Fitticks Church, unless visiting a local attraction/venue in which case the meet up time is 2.00pm at the place being visited. Overleaf is the programme until the end of 2023.

5th October	Table Top Games	Torry St Fitticks Small Hall
19th October	Farming DVDs	Torry St Fitticks Small Hall
2nd November	Talk by Edward Morrow	Torry St Fitticks Small Hall
16th November	Visit to the Salvation Arr	ny Meet at venue at 2pm
30th November	ТВС	
14th December	Christmas Lunch	At 12 noon. Venue TBC.

If you are interested in joining the men's group, please contact the office (01224 899183) or David Hunter.



Open Road Harbour Film Nights bring independent cinema right into the heart of local communities. Screenings take place once a month in the Fittie and Torry harbourside communities of Aberdeen and operate on a 'Pay What You Feel' basis.

Torry St Fittick's are hosting the following events:

Saturday 14 October	Barbie (cert PG)	
Saturday 11 November	vember 20 Feet From	
	Stardom (cert 12A)	
Saturday 09 December	Film TBC	

 Doors open:
 18:30

 Film starts:
 19:00

Bring your own refreshments (no alcohol) Cost: "Pay What You Feel" Further details, including blurbs, links to trailers and booking links can be found at <u>https://www.openroadltd.com/harbour-film-nights/</u>.

Film certificates are indicated above. Children are welcome where certificates allow, but under 16s MUST be accompanied by an adult.

Joint Harvest Thanksgiving Service

A joint Harvest Thanksgiving Service will take place at Torry St Fittick's on **Sunday 8th October, at 11.00 am.**

All are welcome to attend.

Please note – there will be **no** service at South St Nicholas on that day.

Contacts

Rev Eddie McKenna South St Nicholas Church (SC016403), Kincorth Circle, AB12 5NX The Manse, Kincorth Circle, Aberdeen, AB12 5NX Email: <u>EMcKenna@churchofscotland.org.uk</u>, Tel: 07460 725353

Rev Edmond Gatima Torry St Fittick's Church (SC09020), Walker Road, AB11 8DL 11 Devanha Gardens East, Aberdeen, AB11 7UH Email: <u>EGatima@churchofscotland.org.uk</u>, Tel: 07842173523