



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

Annual Report

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF NEWHAVEN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

2013

POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ Session Report
- ◆ Working Group Reports
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A Word from the Minister

Dear Friends

I recently read an article in a scientific magazine in which the writer of the article was discussing how archaeologists can distinguish whether or not an ancient society or culture was civilised. The answer was found in ancient bones and the secrets they contained. In societies or cultures where people were uncivilised and brutal, human remains always showed signs of scarring, of being chipped or cut or hacked by weapons but in more civilised, more advanced societies or cultures, higher up in the earth's strata, there were signs of healing, where people had been cared for by others, their wounds bound and healed.

When I think of church and what church means I think of healing, of a place and a people in which and in whom healing can be found, where brokenness is bound in the name of Jesus. Of course by healing I don't simply mean physical healing, as that may be beyond our reach, but the healing of the soul. I also think of love and peace, that if there's any place or any people where love and peace should be found, it should be in church. People should be able to feel a difference, experience it when they enter a building consecrated to God, when they encounter people who follow Jesus. I am pleased to say at Newhaven Church many people encounter these things, whether at a simple church service, or being part of a group that meets at the church, or utilising our cafe. People have commented on the fact that it's different. We mustn't underestimate how important this is. When Jesus encountered people we always witness certain traits in him. He was always calm, he was always gracious, he was always kind, he always sought to listen and to understand where a person was coming from and because of this people weren't frightened of him. He was always approachable, always willing to take time

with people, and always sought the best for them. He was one who had great authority yet people loved him. Why? Because his authority wasn't derived from holding a position of power whose purpose was to control others, it was built on the foundations of love and humility. People esteemed him, listened to him, followed him, because he cared about them. I find the same traits or qualities in the people of this church and it gives me great joy. There is a willingness to serve others and this is vital. As Colin MacNeill said in his Session Report, I have said that Newhaven is a small congregation that thinks it's a big congregation and this is the case, I believe, because it has a big heart. So thank you for being who you are. Thank you for being teachable and wanting to learn. Thank you for seeking to put into practice the things of Christ. I am privileged and pleased to be your minister and it gives me great joy to serve you.



Now there are many thank you's to offer and I am aware, with my dodgy memory, that if I were to try and thank each person by name, I would undoubtedly leave someone out. So, I want to say thank you to the Session - for your wisdom, your guidance, your love for the congregation, your

friendship, and I want to say thank you to all those in this place who give of their time and energy and love to care for those who are in need. I also want to thank all those who volunteer - in the Sunday School, in the cafe, at the toddler group, at the BB's, at the Guild, at the Haven, and in the various other groups that meet and share fellowship. Thank you too, to all those who make Newhaven Church a part of your lives, who share fellowship in this place, who pray for its wellbeing, who carry it in your hearts. We are nothing without love, we are nothing without each other.

I am looking forward to teaching you in 2014. I am looking forward to discovering, together, more of what it means to follow the Way of Christ. I am looking forward to journeying with each one of you under the guidance of God's Spirit and in the presence of God's love.

Lastly, let us give thanks to God, in whom we live and move and have our being, for all God has given us for we are truly blessed.

Much love, Peter

Session Report

Some myths about Elders and Kirk Sessions:

- ◆ A significant proportion of Scottish children when asked "*what do you want to be when you grow up*" respond "*an Elder in the Kirk*".
- ◆ When invited to become an Elder, it's the glamour of the role that proves irresistible to most people (think tail coats on Communion Sundays).
- ◆ Elders know every verse in the Bible (and get tested on them at Session meetings).
- ◆ A Kirk Session is like a Soviet style Politburo (think rows of unsmiling elderly gents at party meetings), only more secretive.

Some truths about Elders and Kirk Sessions:

- ◆ Kirk Session meetings are open to all members of the Congregation (except when certain sensitive matters are being discussed).
- ◆ Like all Christians, Elders are pilgrims on a spiritual journey with God, with all the joys and challenges (and sometimes doubts) that such involves.
- ◆ When invited to become an Elder, the opportunity to serve God, and serve their fellow members of the Church, with talents they didn't think they had often strikes people as a privilege and a challenge.
- ◆ Kirk Session meetings are characterised by much laughter (the ones at Newhaven are anyway).
- ◆ Under charity law, the Elders are trustees of the registered charity that is Newhaven Church, with legal duties as such.
- ◆ Sessions got rid of the glamour a long time ago.

While the myths are easy to debunk and the truths are easy to prove, of themselves these don't give us much of a picture of what the Session actually does. The deed of constitution for Newhaven Church puts it like this – the Kirk Session has control of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Congregation.

To put that in context, let me give a flavour of what the Session does, therefore, by reference to some of the

things that it gets involved in. In 2013 the Session had nine meetings, of which five were regular scheduled meetings, and four were ad hoc meetings, usually held after a Sunday morning service, to deal with specific items that required urgent attention.

Overseeing working groups

Each of the Working Groups reports to the Session, which oversees the Group's actions and, ultimately, takes responsibility for their tasks. Sometimes this involves little more than monitoring what the Group is doing, but in some cases there is a more active role that the Session takes. For example, and as you would expect, the Session has close involvement in the work of the Mission & Outreach Group and the type of activities that it organises. Also, in view of the Elders' role as charity trustees, the Session takes a keen interest in the Church's financial position and seeks to support the work of the Finance & Stewardship Group at every level.

Elders' Districts re-shuffle

Early in 2013, the Session reviewed the make up of Elders' Districts. Over recent years some districts had become quite a bit larger than others because of changes in the members' roll, and there were many people still on the roll who had moved away or with whom contact had been lost. The re-shuffle of the districts will have meant that some members will have new Elders and I hope that new relationships are building up as a result. The Session is very grateful to our Roll-Keeper, Elaine Greig, and to Heather Robertson for their work on the Elders' Districts.

Newhaven Church's financial position

As Peter, our Minister, recently said, Newhaven Church is a small congregation that thinks it's a big congregation. That attitude is reflected in the large number of activities run by the Church relative to the size of our membership. It has also historically been reflected in the level of financial giving from members. You will read later on in this Report, however, that we spent more than we took in last year. This is a situation of some concern to the Finance & Stewardship Group and, of course, the Session. There are a number of reasons behind this shortfall. Our spending has increased and, in particular, we spent quite a

lot on maintenance last year (both necessary and prudent). Also, Newhaven Connections Café ran at a small loss.

Another significant reason behind the shortfall in our income against expenditure, however, is that members' donations were down in 2013 against 2012. In the current economic climate, of course, we are not surprised at this.

Stewardship Campaign

Nonetheless, the Session believes it is timely to undertake a Stewardship Campaign throughout the Congregation to encourage all those involved in the life of the Congregation to review prayerfully their commitments to Newhaven Church. As many of you will recall, when someone becomes a member of the Church of Scotland they undertake to give a fitting proportion of their time, talents and money to the service of God. As Jesus showed us so clearly with the example of the poor widow, those commitments should not be measured solely in financial terms. What counts at the end of the day is not what you give, but it's how you give. And so the success of our Stewardship Campaign will not be measured solely in financial terms, but first and foremost in the renewed spirit of commitment to God's work in Newhaven taken on by the Congregation.

The Stewardship Campaign will be launched later in the year. I urge all members and those involved in the life of the Congregation to take time to consider, carefully and prayerfully, what of their time, their talents and their money they can commit to the service of God through Newhaven Church.

Clarification of scope of Development Fund

As many in the Congregation will remember, a very significant sum of money was raised by pledges from the Congregation to help with the refurbishment of the Church premises almost ten years ago. Most of this fund, known as the Development Fund was used in the

refurbishment, but there was a sizeable sum left over which stands at approximately £62,000 today. Since the refurbishment the Development Fund has been used for certain items of capital expenditure on the premises (for example, the treatment of ceilings in the Main Hall ceiling and Café area in order to improve acoustics) but it has been felt that the original purpose of the Development Fund (being primarily to fund the refurbishment programme) has run its course, and that it would be very useful to clarify what the Development Fund may be used for in the future.

The Kirk Session proposes therefore that the Development Fund may be applied towards:

"any activity, project or item which the Kirk Session considers to be consistent with Newhaven Church's mission statement of "Serving Christ, each other and the community". Items considered to be usual running expenses of the Church premises would be specifically excluded."

This is a deliberately broad scope, one which would include such diverse items such as outreach activities, purchase of equipment, maintenance of the Church premises (eg major decoration), but would specifically not be able to be spent on usual running expenses (eg gas and electricity costs).

This proposal will be put to the Congregation at the Annual Stated Meeting on 31 March 2014 and, if approved by the Congregation, the change will be notified to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator for its formal approval.

Retirements from the Kirk Session

Throughout 2013 we saw a number of long serving Elders step down from the Kirk Session. Angus Macrae, after over 40 years as an Elder; Moyra Logan after 20 years as an Elder and Eileen Tait after 13 years as an Elder. We are grateful for the contributions to Newhaven Church made by each of them.

Colin MacNeill
Session Clerk

Roll Keeper's Report

Statistical Return as at 31st December 2013

Opening Roll:	178		
Added by Profession:	0	Removed by Death:	3
Added by Resolution:	4	Removed by Certificate:	2
Added by Certificate:	0	Removed by Resolution:	0
Closing Roll:	177		

Elaine Greig

Finance and Stewardship

The Finance and Stewardship Group saw its long-standing convener, Moyra Logan, resign during 2013. Moyra has been a faithful member of Newhaven's Finance and Stewardship (F&S) Group for more years than I'm sure she would wish me to mention, and has steered this particular ship through many changes, for which we would like to convey our sincere gratitude. It goes without saying that we will miss her, but we wish Moyra well in retirement from our church finances.

The church finances are explained in more detail within the annual accounts which are appended to this report, so I don't propose to elaborate further on the actual figures here, but merely highlight key facts and provide an overview of what we have been up to and indeed our plans for the coming year.

2013 has been a tough year for Newhaven Church's finances - we have spent more than we took in. This is the result of several factors, including:- reduced donations in 2013, increased maintenance cost (both gas and electricity have seen huge price increases) and the size of the Ministries and Mission contribution that we are required to make to the Church of Scotland (which covers its central running costs as well as our minister's stipend).

The F&S Group has met regularly, and in doing so have made progress in many areas. The key areas we focussed on during 2013 were Gift Aid, Free Will Offering (FWO), database input (record keeping), bank and investment issues, and Stewardship.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the congregation who, being UK taxpayers, signed a new Gift Aid mandate (should you wish a Gift Aid declaration please speak to a member of the group). In the last quarter of 2013 we were able to submit claims backdated to 2011 and 2012 for a tax rebate on all donations received, and at the time of writing this

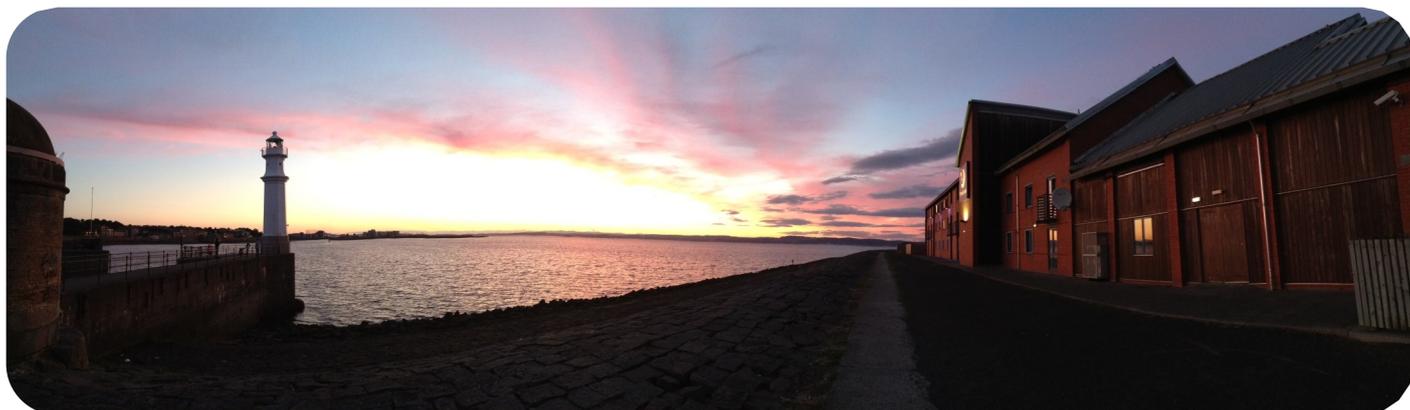
report we are processing a claim for 2013. Gift Aid rebates make a huge difference to our balance sheet and we have put in place a new system to allow us to keep on top of the work required by the F&S Group. This has resulted in some members of the congregation receiving a new FWO envelope number for 2014, and also a change to the Sunday banking teams' input sheet. A big thank you to all who are involved in this very important task every Sunday - your help is invaluable and makes our task a little bit easier.

As is the case with many spheres of life in this day and age, finding someone to talk to at a bank is never easy. Newhaven Church has banked for many years with the Royal Bank of Scotland, and we have several bank accounts. This is something we are looking to review (though may not necessarily change). You will see from the annual accounts the rate of interest is very poor, and to address this, we have now a point of contact at the bank, and will hopefully report back with progress during 2014.

Finally, our plans for 2014 include undertaking a review of expenditure as well as planning a Stewardship Campaign for later in the year to encourage members to review what they commit to the Church, across the three areas of **Time, Talent and Money**.

Should you have any queries about F&S Group activities, please feel free to contact any member of the Group. They are: **Shona Adam** (Convener), **Stewart Livingstone** (Treasurer), **Alister Greig** (Gift Aid Convener), **Douglas McKenzie** (bank point of contact), **Catherine Lighterness** (banking / FWO / Stewardship), **Hugh McDiarmid** (Stewardship / Vice Convener - Presbytery Finance Committee), **Emma Masson** (database admin).

Shona Adam



Fabric Report

Fabric 2013 was quite an exciting year with many tasks ranging from the on-going routine to the potentially dangerous!

Church:

In the early part of the year we had the Central Heating Boiler serviced and timings reset. The timings were reset again to reflect the change to British Summer Time and again as a result of a power failure. Later we had the heating re-set and a new programmer fitted.

Portable Appliance Testing resulted in two failures:-

- one was the cable for the floor polisher/scrubber and this was replaced.
- the second was a Microwave Oven in the Kitchen. The Kitchen staff were instructed to replace this unit and dispose of the defective unit.

New floor tiles were fitted at the back door.

The alarm system was reset on two occasions in addition to the power failure reset.

Library trolley required to have bolts tightened. (Note: This trolley is grossly overloaded and this was reported to Session via the Minister and Jeanette Meek).

Broken blind cord attended to.

A request was received from City of Edinburgh Council regarding a disabled persons parking notice to be fixed to our property. We agreed.

Met with Minister and Fabric Governance Group to determine if any items of significance require attention in the Church during the recess in 2013. None were identified.

In the second half of the year the following items were addressed:-

New cleaners sink and storage cupboard provided. Sink is now more compliant with health and safety needs.

Exterior decking: Power washed and treated with anti algae solution.

Church hot water pressurisation system serviced.

Hall floor rising in location at Fire Exit re-fixed.

Cupboard hooks for microphones provided at Praise Band area.

Lock replaced on door to large store.

Running cistern in Ladies repaired.

Codelock to chair store replaced.

Leaking toilet in Gents repaired.

Repair to Kitchen cooker (oven).

Two repairs to Kitchen dishwasher.

Kitchen cupboard door re-fitted.

Lock to back door replaced.

Broken toilet in Ladies repaired.

Smashed kitchen unit door replaced.

Door handles to main hall tightened.

Provided an electrical supply and timer to the Wayside Pulpit for Christmas lights to the main gate. The lights were fitted, removed, repackaged and stored for a future year.

A broken mirror in the Ladies has been replaced as well all mirrors in the Ladies and Gents having been refitted using bolts rather than glue. Also the supporting structure has been strengthened. Hopefully we have averted a potentially dangerous situation.

At the time of writing I am pleased to report that all of the lights both regular and emergency after much attention and replacement seem to be working.



Manse:

Met with the Minister to complete Manse Condition Schedule as part of annual property schedule. As a result of this the following works were carried out::

- Gateway to parking area widened and gate adjusted to suit.
- Six double glazing units replaced.
- External decoration of conservatory.
- Broken tiles on patio replaced.
- Plumbing work in attic to route overflow pipe to outside world, fix and insulate loose pipework and stop leaking cistern.

In closing I would like to thank the Minister, the Session, the Church Caretaker and the Fabric Work Group for all their support during this last year.

Bill Oliver

Other Church Working Groups

Appointments & Welfare

When the Church first established the system of Working Groups in 2009, the Appointments & Welfare Group was set up to make sure that the Groups were properly staffed, motivated and supported in their tasks. Another way of looking at this is that the role of the Appointments & Welfare Group is to "pastor the pastors". The Group comprises [Peter Bluett](#), [Shona Adam](#), [Susan Edwards](#) and [Colin MacNeill](#).

After a couple of years of everyone getting used to the Working Group system, during which time there was quite a lot of involvement by the Appointments & Welfare Group, things have settled down in recent years.

Although the purpose of this Group has not changed, it has found that its ongoing role is lower key than in those early years. There are one or two changes each year to the make up of the different Groups and the Appointments & Welfare Group seeks to ensure that this happens smoothly.

In addition, the Group organises a get together of all members of Working Groups. This took place in October 2013, and followed the previous pattern of a spokesperson from each Group giving an informal report on the experiences, frustrations, hopes and dreams of the Group.

Colin MacNeill



Communications Group

During 2013 we were sad to say goodbye to Shona Adam as Chair of the Communications Group. We'd like to thank Shona, who has done a great job in taking the Church's communications forward, for chairing the group (we weren't always easy to Chair!), and for her ongoing support in pulling together the weekly Church intimations. The group's membership now stands at [Susan Edwards](#), [Elaine Greig](#), [Chris Myers](#) and a member of Mission and Outreach Group (temporarily [John Hodge](#), but the permanent member is to be confirmed).

As communication threads through the work of the Church, in October 2013 at the Working Group Get Together we asked the other groups how we could work with them to better support Newhaven Church in meeting its aims of 'serving Christ, each other and the community.' Following that meeting, it was clear that the other Working Groups had varying communication needs, but that there was much that could be done to support the work of the Mission and Outreach Group. As a result, we have invited a member of the Mission and Outreach Group to join the Communications Group, and will invite a 'rotating' guest member from each of the other groups to join each of our future meetings.

We now hold our meetings a couple of months prior to Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas in order to ensure that we are better able to support the Church to communicate to the

congregation and the wider community about these important festivals, and other Church events. In our meetings we also plan and evaluate other regular Church communications: including *Harbour Lights*, the Annual Report, the Intimations, Welcome Packs and the Website.

As everyone in our congregation communicates, we would like to thank all of those who have supported the communication of our Church over the year; whether it be posting one of the 2000 flyers that we distributed to the community at Christmas, pulling together *Harbour Lights*, the intimations, or welcome pack information (thanks particularly in this area to Elaine Greig, Shona Adam and Susan Edwards); through activities organised by other working groups such as Carol Singing (well done for getting others to join in!); through volunteering in any way for the Church; or even through your informal conversations with others about Church whether they be in our congregation or the wider community. Personal communication is really key, as it gives others a good sense of what's going on, and an insight into the culture of our Church.

If there is anything that you would like to communicate, or are surprised that hasn't been communicated to the congregation or the wider community, please let us know (bearing in mind that we can only communicate what has been communicated to us!). If you have any communications ideas, or would like to help in any way, please feel free to get in touch.

Chris Myers

Education Group

The members of this group are [Peter Bluett](#), [Lynn McNeill](#) and [Jeanette Meek](#). We met twice in 2013.

Children's Ministry

Each year the children's groups are always at the top of our agenda and this year has been no exception. As you read on you will see there has been a few changes in our Sunday school staff.

After 14 years, Shona Adam decided to stand down from her role of teaching Sunday school and Lynn MacNeill stepped back from teaching Lighthouse.

Brian Souness transferred from N-Lighten to Lighten Up, Louisa Mackenzie transferred from Lighten Up to N-Lighten and Richard Whyte joined Louisa in N-Lighten. Vivienne Whyte and Lynsey Orbegozo joined in assisting to teach the Lighthouse children and Irene Sutherland joined the Little Lights team. Thankfully this has now resolved some of our staffing issues.

The annual children's group questionnaires were submitted with two points of concern arising - **(a) The lack of children attending N-Lighten (P5-P7) and Lighten Up (S1 – S4) especially the latter; (b) Lack of support and professional guidance for leaders.**

Unfortunately at present the Education Group have no answers as to how to encourage our youth to attend church. However, the one thing we can all do is pray! Pray for our children and their individual group leaders, pray that as a church we can find ways in which to engage with the children and encourage them at whatever stage they may be at on their journey.

To help solve the issue of lack of support Lynn MacNeill has taken on the role of support person. The aim of this position is that Lynn will visit the individual groups on a routine basis providing support to the group leaders so that any concerns they may have be addressed more speedily.

Adult Education

We continue to have four growth groups who meet fortnightly to study God's word. In June, we held a meeting of all the groups which proved to be very successful - everyone commented on how they had benefited from this time together. You will read about these groups in more detail in the Growth Group Report.

Summer Lighthouse

Summer Sunday school ran from Sunday 7th July to Sunday 8th September. Again, it is with thanks to Kate Aitchison and her team of helpers that Summer Lighthouse ran so smoothly, allowing the regular leaders to have a much earned break. Little Lights ran as usual.

The Education Group would like to take this opportunity to thank all who are involved in loving, caring and teaching the children Sunday by Sunday. Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to our children - we are truly blessed. Please remember the Sunday school in your prayers and pray for Lynn MacNeill in her new role as support person to the groups.

Jeanette Meek

Pastoral Care Group

Throughout the year the Pastoral Care Group has continued to offer pastoral care to the members of the congregation who are in need.

Through regular meetings of the group and with the pastoral visitors we ensure that the members of the congregation are being visited and reports on the visit are discussed with members of the group.

Once again we have to report that a few of our members have passed away and we hope that pastoral visits have been a comfort to them.

In past reports we have stressed the need for good communications between the Pastoral Care Group and the Session and we are happy to report that communications have continued to improve by efforts on both sides. However we should not be complacent and the members of the congregation, the Session and the Pastoral Care Group must remain alert to the need to communicate regarding those in need of pastoral care. Missed communications can cause stress and concern for those involved.

Throughout the year we have arranged for the

distribution of the flowers from the Sunday service and we are very grateful to all those who provide the flowers each week and also those who distribute them to the members of the congregation.

The distribution of gifts at Christmas took place again this year and met with appreciation from the recipients. We would take this opportunity to thank all those who assisted with the purchase wrapping and distribution of the gifts.

Last January we updated the Pastoral Care Group's details on the church website and the information included the names of the group. We are not sure that this information has been picked up by the members of the congregation so we will repeat the names and contact telephone numbers here:

[Peter Bluett](#) (476 5212), [Heather Robertson](#) (552 5212), [Edna Davie](#) (552 3697), [Audrey Gardiner](#) (551 6264) & [Marcus Stout](#) (552 3680).

Whilst Peter will always be the main contact for pastoral care matters any of those named can be contacted regarding members of the congregation who are in need of pastoral care.

Peter, Heather, Edna, Audrey and Marcus

Mission and Outreach Group (MOG)

To enable the people of God to be the people of God.

We are all full time Christian Workers – or at least we should be! We are followers of Jesus at work, at home, on the road, in the shops, as well as for an hour on Sundays. Outreach and witness is a full time occupation. We may be the only evidence that folk see of Jesus and we need to be aware of the privilege of being called to be ambassadors and the responsibility it brings.

There is also a place for employed workers and we are still exploring the possibility of appointing a Youth Worker. We had hoped for a better response to our advertisement but perhaps the time was not right. Another possibility of a joint appointment with Scripture Union Es-Team has opened up and we are currently exploring it.

The Mission Group tries to help us in our witness by laying on various events:-

Good Friday Prayer vigil was held again last year on a reduced scale. We did have prayer requests from the community and we continue to make this ministry known through the Trinity Spotlight and the church website. Prayer requests are left from time to time in the box at the entrance and are prayed for at the Wednesday Prayer Meeting.

We had thought about holding an **Alpha** course again but there was little take up. Alpha works best when friends and neighbours are brought along by members of the congregation. It is a great tool for evangelism but it needs prayer and commitment from us all to be effective. If there were a group who would commit to pray and seek God's guidance on inviting others we would be happy to plan one.

Inflatables. This fun day which was held in March will be repeated this year. This is an opportunity for church and non church groups to mix and have fun together. It has



been very useful in building links with Victoria School and some of the children also came to the Christmas Extravaganza.

Christmas Extravaganza. Once again many responded to the call and in the last Saturday before Christmas gave up a Saturday morning to host a fast moving fun event with a clear Christmas message for about 70 children both from the church and non-church families. This is a chance to present the Christmas story in a lively way. One needs to remember that there are more children nowadays who do not know the Christmas story. Thanks to all who made it such a success.

Carol singing. Carol singing took place at ASDA and the Starbank and by all accounts was a great success. The



collection of food at ASDA was for the food bank organised by the Trussel Trust through the local churches. Our carol singers seem to be greatly appreciated by the regulars at the Starbank. A very warm welcome was given and all present were fully involved in the singing. We had also hoped to have a carol party in one of the blocks of new flats but that did not prove possible.

Banner. After the Christmas banner last year we also purchased an Easter one. We will perhaps get a Pentecost one for this year. Displaying above the gate helps to indicate to those passing that the church is in business. The Communications Group took over the distribution of the Christmas leaflets this year and organised them most efficiently.

John Hodge





Worship Group

The Worship Group met twice in 2013 and comprises Peter Bluett, Christine Hodge, Chas Livingstone, Colin MacNeill and Jennifer Robertson. The task for the Group is to provide a programme of worship activities which, first and foremost, glorify God, but which also reflect the make up of our Congregation.

Throughout the year we used the theme of "the upside down nature of the Kingdom of God" to shape our All Age Services on the first Sunday of each month. The idea of this was to challenge our readiness to assume a world-shaped view of things, using the world's viewpoint and the world's logic, rather than what God tells us is important for the Kingdom of God, which so often ends up being the opposite of the world view. This started off with us looking at Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard, containing the conclusion that "the last shall be first and the first shall be last". We looked at the poor widow's offering and how God doesn't look at what you give, but how you give. Along the way we used Jesus' invitation to "let the little children come to me" to help us focus on the children of Kampi Child Care Centre in Kenya, which Newhaven Church is committed to supporting. As well as taking an offering for the Child Care Centre, the children of the Congregation drew pictures which we then sent to Kampi.

We are grateful to the many folk who've taken part in all of our services of worship, the All Age services, the Remembrance Sunday service, the Christmas services, as well as the usual weekly services. Lots of things have to be done in order that the services happen in the way they do and it's a source of much thanksgiving by the Worship Group that there are so many people involved, and who show so much grace and love in working together in as disparate tasks as welcoming visitors, taking part in a drama, serving tea and coffee afterwards (for which there is no duty rota but never fails to happen!), to putting the chairs away, arranging and then delivering flowers (as well as all the other tasks not mentioned).

A regular comment made by visitors to our Sunday morning services is the friendly and welcoming atmosphere they experience. This is not down just to those involved in the service (far less what goes on at Worship Group meetings), but down to the friendly and welcoming nature of people in the Congregation and their eagerness to share the fellowship of the Holy Spirit with newcomers. We give thanks to God for such a Congregation!

Colin MacNeill

Sunday School Reports

Little Lights

2013 has been a quieter year in Little Lights, only having 2-3 children in attendance on any given Sunday.

In the summer 4 children graduated to Lighthouse - Andrew Whyte, Rocco Trufelli, Ella Martin and Martha Saphils all were very excited about moving. This left us with 5 children aged between 2 and 4 years old.

As usual we try to make the programme as varied as possible in order that the children are kept interested and have fun; however, as the majority of children are under 4, our lessons and crafts have had to be simplified for such a young group.

Our lessons this year have been **Joseph helps his family, God's promise to Abraham, A place to worship, God is our Shepherd, God is our Light, Angels** and much more. The material we use is taken from Tiddlywinks by Scripture Union and other suitable resources sought by the team co-ordinators.

The activities/crafts have at times been challenging especially with children so young - rather than a craft the use of a simple activity/colouring sheet is often more appropriate.

The children continue to enjoy the short time of

"Children's Worship" when they join with all the other children's groups to sing and pray before going on to their individual classes.

At the end of the Sunday School year the children were presented with books - those graduating to Lighthouse received a certificate and CD.

The Sunday before Christmas the children were presented with their Christmas gifts - you can imagine this was accepted with great excitement.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a big 'thank you' to all who help with the children. Without this committed, faithful and loving team of people it would be impossible to provide the support needed in caring and teaching the children God's word.

I would also like to thank the congregation for your continued encouragement, support and prayers.

Please do feel free to come and visit us any Sunday to see what goes on in Little Lights or you may like to join our team (we are always looking for new blood!), then please see myself, Jacqui Bain, Janis Merry or Sarah Livingstone who will only be to glad to tell you what is involved.

Jeanette Meek



Lighthouse

This year we have 15 children from Primaries 1-4 registered for Lighthouse. Usually we have a group of about 10 to 12 each week which is a great number to get involved in the games and activities. We try to provide a mixture of games, crafts, bible readings and prayer in the sessions.

Before each Lighthouse session the children of all ages join together for some singing worship. A variety of lively worship songs have been led by either Colin MacNeill or Christine Hodge and have allowed all ages to praise God together and interact. It is also an opportunity to welcome any visiting children and find the right class for them.

Our leaders have changed this year, with Lynn MacNeill stepping down from her weekly teaching in Lighthouse. We thank Lynn for her contribution and support to Lighthouse over many years. We were pleased to welcome Vivienne Whyte who has been sharing the teaching since the Summer.

We started the year learning about the Beatitudes and

then moved onto learning about 'who God says I am'. We looked at different verses from the Bible which demonstrated how God wants us to be and explored what we needed to do in our daily lives to try to be like this.

This took us up to the Summer break. Lighthouse continued throughout July and August, led by Kate Aitchison and supported by a reserve list of helpers.

The final half of the year was spent exploring the 'Armour of God'. Each week the children have been learning about different parts of armour that God provides us with. The children have created their own men with this armour to help them remember the different parts!

We have begun 2014 by studying the Lord's Prayer, taking time to study a line a week so the children can gain an understanding of this important Prayer that Jesus taught us.

We ask you to keep us in your prayers.

Jennifer Myers

N-Lighten

N-Lighten is in its second year for P5-P7 children following its creation in May 2012.

This year Louisa McKenzie and Richard Whyte lead the group which at the present time has a role of 8 children in it. Not all the children are there every week due to clashes with other activities, but numbers are steadily more than last year, primarily due to the regular attendance of 4 girls. Sunday mornings see us attempt to increase their depth of knowledge in matters of faith and Biblical teaching and also look to the relevance these things play in their everyday lives and situations. Richard thinks that the move to the larger of the 2 upstairs room has been really helpful, particularly given the increased number attending regularly. The children particularly enjoy using the whiteboard as part of their learning. The sessions can be extremely lively, with a multitude of thoughtful and probing questions being posed and considered.

Since the start of the new Session last September, we have been looking at the Parables of Jesus and Genesis. In the lead up to Christmas, the children focussed their thoughts and made a donation towards farm animals in Africa. Our hope in this is that the children will develop a greater understanding of, and learn to put their trust in, God.

Please remember N-lighten in your prayers. The children are:- Verity, Lily, Sophie, Susannah, Eilidh, Alastair, James and David.

Richard Whyte

Lighten Up

Lighten Up is the name of our oldest group of youngsters (S1 to S5) meeting on a Sunday morning. It is led by Brian Souness who has the support of Lynn and Colin MacNeill to cover occasional weeks when needed.

There are four or five regular faces, although attendance can be erratic due to the teenagers' other interests, sporting commitments and school studies. Sometimes there might be only one from the group on a particular Sunday, in which case they stay in Church for the whole service. Having the kids come along at all is of course a good thing, and there have been encouraging moments throughout the last year.

When the group does get together they have an informal discussion and sharing time with a "scene-setter" followed by Bible reading and more open discussions about the theme, then the group close with prayer.

Lynn MacNeill



Newhaven Connections Café

It has been another busy year in the café.

During the past year, the café has hosted several art exhibitions, sold calendars for Newhaven Heritage, held table sales, laughed with the knitting group, shimmied with the dance group and served more than 2000 bacon rolls!!

Our volunteer numbers have increased but we always like to welcome new people to the team, so please get in touch if you are interested in volunteering.

The volunteers enjoyed an afternoon tea in April and a lovely Christmas night out and meal at Loch Fyne in December.

In February, our menu was revamped and price increases put in place.

The café continues to be many things to different people, a quiet haven for some, a place to socialise with friends and a safe friendly environment for the young, the old and those in-between.

The café volunteers are, as I'm sure you know, wonderful people whose generosity in giving of their time and talents make the café a truly happy and loving environment - thank you to all our volunteers for all that you do!

Thank you also to all those who pray for the work of the café, your thoughts, kind words, and prayers are very much appreciated.

Fiona Lindsay



Growth Groups

There are four Growth Groups which meet fortnightly to explore God's Word and spend time together in fellowship and prayer. Meetings take place on a Tuesday morning, Tuesday evening, Wednesday evening and Thursday evening.

The groups are small, each with six to nine members, although on occasion numbers can be nearer to between four and six. Encouragingly, there have been a few newcomers in some of the groups and again group members have extended a renewed invitation to anyone who is interested in joining them.

The group time offers an opportunity for people to gather, to explore the Bible, to share, to pray and to enjoy a cup of tea in a welcoming place.

An exciting range of topics have been looked at over the past year. The Lifebuilders series has proved popular again with groups. Studies have included "Prayer – an adventure with God" and "Angels". Another group chose different material to explore the Lord's Prayer and will move on to consider "the foundation of true friendship". The study of John's Gospel continues within another group, with particular time set aside for fellowship and prayer.

The groups continue to be a real blessing to members and we thank God for the fellowship and friendship found in their midst. More details of the times and meeting places of current groups can be had from Lynn MacNeill or Jeanette Meek.

Lynn MacNeill

Chatterboxes

Chatterboxes: is the name of the Scripture Union group that meets after school on a Friday at Trinity Primary School, taken by Lynn Macneill and Christine Hodge, and assisted by Jamie Bruce who is in 4th year at Trinity Academy.

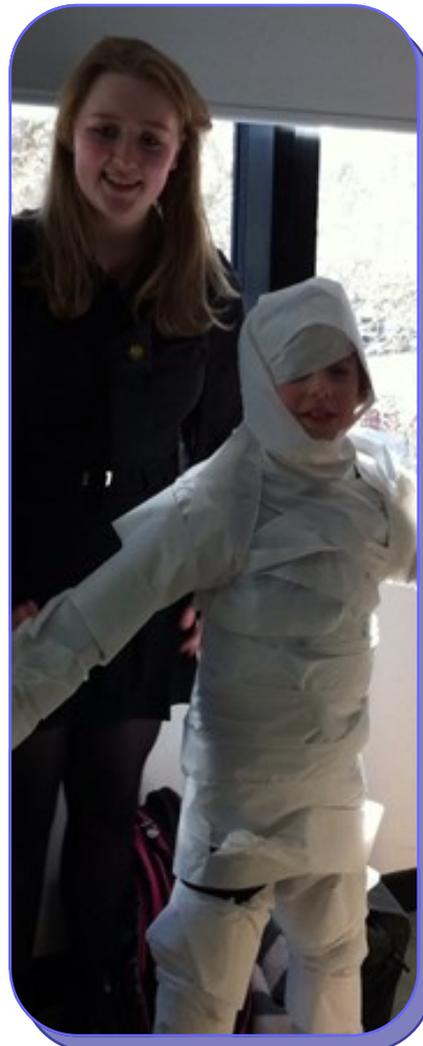
We have a lively group of 8 children who attend very regularly. 4 from church families and 4 from non church families. It is encouraging that 6 of the children have now attended for 2 years.

We are very grateful to Trinity Primary for all the support they give us and this year we have been able to use the gym hall for the first 15mins which allows us to organize active games. After that we go upstairs and have a snack with bible teaching and another game or craft.

So far this session, we have been looking at "who Jesus is" using "The Miracle Maker" which the children have loved and this has stimulated many questions and much discussion.

Some of the children have attended both the Extravaganza and the Inflatables Day at Newhaven Church, and it is great to be able to get to know them better in different settings. For the first time Christine is taking 5 of the children to a Scripture Union weekend at Lendrick Muir at the beginning of March with 8 children from our church and Footprints.

Christine Hodge



Toddlers Group

This group meets every Tuesday during the school terms from 10-12noon. We have a lovely group of 40 mums and carers who are very friendly and supportive to each other and approx 47 babies and toddlers ranging from newborn to 4 years old, although most of them go to nursery around 3 years old.

The group is run on a rota of 4 teams: Lynn MacNeill and Douglas McKenzie; Jacqui Bain, Retta Lindsay and Maureen McGregor; Audrey Gardener and Charlie Hutton; and Christine Hodge and Edna Davie. We've been delighted to welcome Susan Walker, a friend of Christine's, who is between jobs and is currently volunteering every week with toddlers.

We have free play with lots of big toys, playdoh, the dolls house, the kitchen, dolls, trains and cars, and sometimes a craft or painting. We have a break for a snack and after more play, the mums help us tidy up at 11:30 before songs in the back hall. We are very grateful to Lesley Anne who, with Retta and Christine, takes the song time.

We had a "Christmas party of such" with the children decorating a gold cardboard crown then we had play and lots of party food before coming back to the hall for songs, the Christmas story, and a parachute game. The children were all given little Books with the Christmas Story.

Toddlers are a life line for many mums as this is a time in their lives with big changes. It can be very lonely and exhausting through lack of sleep, but it's also a time to make new friends and many friendships have been forged though toddlers. Many of the families also stay on for lunch in the café, and it's good to see friendships develop through that time too.

Without these volunteers this group couldn't run. Many mums comment that they love the group for the bright and clean halls as well as all the great toys and the friendliness of everyone. We always have a waiting list. A special thank you to Jeanette for the clean halls, and also to Alastair who kindly puts the toys out each week and then puts them away again – a mammoth task.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help with the Toddler group, Christine would love to hear from you. Please feel free to visit before deciding.

Christine Hodge



The Guild

The start of 2013 gave us a moment of reflection on the old year and how we had celebrated 125 years of Guild involvement in the world around us but also a chance to look forward to the challenges of the year ahead.

January chill was soon forgotten as we enjoyed our Film Afternoon and the second meeting of the new year brought a welcome return of our friend George Banks who entertained us with poetry and song celebrating our National Bard, Robert Burns. In February Bethany Christian Trust gave us an insight into the much needed work being done at their centres in Edinburgh. Our change to Monday afternoon meetings has proved popular and likely to continue. Newhaven Guild stepped in to host the World Day of Prayer service in March due to unforeseen circumstances preventing the service taking place in a neighbouring church. The material for this service was written by the Christian women of France and accordingly a café atmosphere with croissants and brioches made for an enjoyable conclusion to the afternoon service.

Dr Margaret Collingwood came along to our meeting in March to tell us about life for women in today's army and more specifically for her own tour of duty in the Gulf War. Her presentation, "Gas masks and Lipstick", showed us just how little we civilians know about the difficulties which have to be overcome in providing medical care to our troops abroad.

At our AGM we thanked Mary Craig for her meticulous care as Guild Roll Keeper for countless years and accepted her resignation from this post whilst looking forward to seeing her have a more relaxing time now at our meetings. Happily this important duty has been taken over by Pauline Ross as we are aware that Newhaven Guild is a thriving Guild in the city and has a healthy "Roll" to keep.

Our Bible Study afternoon with Peter in April was thought provoking and encouraged our involvement in proclaiming our faith in our everyday lives. A successful fundraising effort with our "coin tubes" meant that a grand total of £520 was forwarded to Guild Office to add to the National Guild Donations to the Julius Project which befriends and helps Scottish homeless people. We thank everyone who contributed to this appeal.

A party of us visited Loretto School in the springtime to view the Prestonpans Tapestry. We were warmly welcomed by the staff of Loretto and the curator of the Tapestry and were truly amazed at the detail of the stitching which made up such a wonderful art work of our history.

Our annual bus trip in May took us back to a favourite spot, the Scottish Arts and Antiques Centre at Abernethy where we met up once again with our friends from our Link Guild from Arbroath and Inverkeilor. There we enjoyed lunching together and later browsed the quirky antique items of housewares, jewellery and retro-style clothes. Well worth a visit time and time again.

After our summer break we resumed in September to take up the new Guild Theme, "A Fellowship to Build", and to decide on our next Guild Project. We decided to fundraise for 2 of the latest projects this session...*Comfort Rwanda* and *Self Reliant Groups* for women in deprived areas of Scotland.

In October we welcomed Andrew Downie, a Guide on the Edinburgh Open Top Buses, who entertained us with anecdotes of the many interesting and often strange characters who have travelled on these city tours. The Edinburgh theme was continued with a visit from cine film enthusiast, Ian Rintoul, with footage of Portobello hay days.

In November we learned more about our Rwanda Project from Kilvert and Margaret Croft who have spent much time in that country. They explained how, in partnership with The National Guild, a village of 100 homes will be built in Rwanda for the survivors of the horrendous 1994 genocide through the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation there. We also enjoyed a visit from two Street Pastors who are part of the volunteer Christians who go out into our city streets in the small hours each weekend when most of us are warm and safe at home. It is reassuring to hear how many of our young people who might find themselves alone in vulnerable situations are cared for both physically and spiritually by these night time pastors.

The festive season started with a lovely afternoon of music and song from our friends Kate, Yvonne, Irene and Alastair. Everyone really enjoys this visit and hopes it becomes a regular event in our Guild calendar. We had our Christmas Lunch "at home" in our own church halls, our caterers providing a delicious menu, and an exciting game of "pass the 5 Parcels" brought our last meeting of the year to a happy conclusion.

We look forward to another interesting and enjoyable Guild Year in 2014 with friends old and new. Why not drop in and join us? You will be made very welcome.

Louisa McKenzie



The Haven

Happy 13th Year!

Another year and we are going strong. Every Wednesday morning between 10am and 12pm we go along to meet old friends and make new ones with a cup of tea or coffee a biscuit. And a natter! The Gentlemen who come along have a game of Dominoes that can be quite competitive - they have a good time. We have an artist's table where a few people come and paint their pictures. In the summer they hang them in the café and they have made some good sales. There is still room for more if you feel like trying.

Once a month we have a short service for those who want to go. There are a range of leaders for these, with Peter, Alistair, Heather, Kate, Eileen, and Louisa all of whom have great things to tell us.

We get welcome visits from Victoria School children who like to pick our brains about the past. It is interesting to find out what they think too.

In November we had our St Andrews celebrations with some music and songs.

We had our Christmas lunch in December with Carols and mince pies.

In January we had our Burns celebration with Douglas McKenzie addressing the Haggis.

In June, Eileen Tait retired as the convener of the committee - a post she has held since we first started. We are grateful for her devoted service and thank her for great work.

In September we held our 13th Birthday Party with a walk down memory lane. We took pictures of us as teenagers and it was a game of guess who. Some were hard!

There is an empty water bottle on the table that we fill with the change in our purses. Over the years since 2006 we have given to Clean Water, Sight Savers, Christian Aid, Mary's Meals, Water Aid, and Smile Train. We have given £3497.00 to charity over these years and we still go on.

We want to thank our committee of Retta, our treasurer, Louisa, Elizabeth, Mary and Heather for their dedicated work. Thanks also to the teams that man the tea and coffee table - Jean, Marina, Pauline, Margaret, Don, Evelyn, Vera, Mary. Without their hard work we would have nothing to drink!

Catherine Lighterness

Footprints

We would like to extend our thanks to the Kirk Session for allowing us to use the halls Sunday by Sunday and for all the support and interest we receive from the Church.

Footprints have once again had a happy year. We have 10 juniors, aged between P3 and P7, and 8 teenagers in Secondary 1-5. Both groups attend regularly, although senior numbers can vary. One of our senior boys, James who is now in 6th form, is now helping with juniors as part of a school award.

We meet on Sunday afternoons from 2:45 - 4pm, with games, crafts and a bible story/study/discussion and plenty of interactive teaching. The highlights of our year are the weekends away.

This year saw the end of an era as the Crail house belonging to the Watt family has been sold. We have been going there for well over 30 years (the exact time being lost in history!!) We are so grateful to this family for allowing us the use of their house for a weekend each year and think back to the many, many young people who have experienced the fellowship, fun and teaching at a residential weekend. Crail will always hold a very special place in our hearts.

However, one door closes and another one opens. This year myself and 2 of our leaders are going to an SU weekend at Lendrick Muir and taking another 9 children

from the Church and Chatterboxes. We hope to hold a games night before March so the children can meet and get to know each other.

Teen Ranch was just after the schools went back in August and was tremendous fun. Last year (2013) we went at the same time as Wardie Church youth group. We were also joined by 2 teenagers from the church, and Brian Souness came as a leader. All this was very successful and hopefully we'll be able to repeat this again this year.

Residential weekends benefit the group as a whole immensely as we get to know each other in different ways and relationships can be built up over a weekend which take much longer to build up in an hour or so on a Sunday. We also benefit from informal chats, taking part in activities together and sharing in the fun and laughter.

Christine Hodge



The Boys' Brigade

This year has consolidated last year's rebuilding in the 20th Leith.

The Company section was effectively rebooted last year after going through a period of transition, and all 6 of last year's regular attendees stayed on this year. We added 2 boys coming up from the Junior section, and in the course of the year the boys have encouraged friends to come along and added another 2 boys to our number. We now have a healthy number of boys each Friday (8-10) between P7 and S2, and the Company section should again be secure for the long-term. The annual best uniform/attendance competition is hotly contested so the boys are always smartly turned out! Otherwise we provide a mix of classes, games, trips and Christian teaching, with Peter attending most weeks to engage the boys in high-brow theological discussions! We took the boys away to an outdoor centre in the Borders shortly before the new session started in September, which really helped build a team spirit in the section. We have also taken them to go-karting, ten-pin bowling and indoor and outdoor laser tag, as well as a tour of HMS Edinburgh and the Scotland v South Africa game at Murrayfield with the older Junior section members.



Numbers remain strong in the Junior section, at 18 boys. We continue to offer a mix of games, crafts and teaching to boys from P4-P6, this year covering topics such as geography, the outdoors, nationality and racism, as well as taking them on trips to places such as Roslin Glen and go-karting. A weekend away to Lendrick Muir is planned for February, including members of the Company section.

The Anchorboys provide a mix of games and teaching for boys in P1-P3, including movie-making, cooking, crafts, and parties for Halloween and Christmas. A large cohort of boys moved up to the Juniors at the end of session 2012-13 so we are now keen to get new boys in at Anchorboy age. Please do recommend us to any friends or family you think might be interested (and not just at Anchorboy age!).

The numbers in the Junior section prompted a staff reshuffle in September, with Brian Souness moving from

the Company staff to join Andrew Gillies and Allan Gilbert in the Junior section. I was delighted to welcome Robert Inglis back to the staff after a couple of years off. Bob is now helping with the Juniors after several years' experience in the Company section.

I was also very pleased that Chris Myers joined the Anchorboy staff for this session, as has Bob's younger brother Scott Inglis. They have joined Lesley-Anne and Robert Weir on the staff, and their addition has made up for the loss of Jamie Quinn, who is currently travelling around Australia!



Our coffee morning in May 2013 was a tremendous success, raising over £1,000, which we think may be a record. Combining that with a £1,500 grant we received from BB headquarters last year, which allowed us to purchase new equipment and fund a number of trips, means the company is now in good financial health as well as having healthy numbers.

On a more downbeat note, we were deeply shocked and saddened in 2013 by the death of former 20th member Callum Murray, aged just 22. 'Caz' was a huge part of the 20th for over 12 years, starting in the Anchorboys and staying with the 20th until he finished at 18. The turnout of current and former BB staff and boys at his (standing-room only) funeral was a real tribute to the affection in which he was held by all who knew him. Please do say a quick prayer for his family and friends.

In memory of Callum, we will be instituting a special long-service award – the Callum Murray Memorial award – for boys who join at the start of Anchorboys and remain with the Company right through. Some of the boys currently in the Company section are eligible for that, so if they remain with us the award should see its first recipients in 2018.

As always the success of the 20th is chiefly down to the staff who put so much effort in (including my fellow Company section leaders Keith Robertson and Michael Galinsky), as well as the parents and church members who support us. Please give thanks for them in your prayers.

Charles Livingstone

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STATED MEETING

The Annual Stated Meeting of Newhaven Church will be held on Monday 31 March 2014 in Newhaven Church

The programme for the evening will be:

6.30 pm Pot luck supper (if you can't make this don't worry, come for 7.30pm)

7.30 pm Annual Stated Meeting:

- Opening worship
- The Minister's review
- 2013 Annual Accounts
- Group discussion – time, talents and money
- Formal ASM business
 1. To receive the 2013 Annual Accounts
 2. To approve the re-designation of the purpose of the Development Fund as follows:
"The Development Fund may be applied towards any activity, project or item which the Kirk Session considers to be consistent with Newhaven Church's mission statement of "Serving Christ, each other and the community". Items considered to be usual running expenses of the Church premises would be specifically excluded."
- Closing worship

9 March 2014

Colin MacNeill

Session Clerk, On behalf of the Kirk Session



*Serving Christ, each other,
and the community.*



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