



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

Harbour Lights

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEWHAVEN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

SPRING 2017

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ **Easter Services**
- ◆ **Talking Jesus Conference**
- ◆ **Update from Jamie in South Africa**
- ◆ **Christian Aid Week**
- ◆ **Heart & Soul**
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PRAYER FOCUS

... if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation...

2 Corinthians 5:17

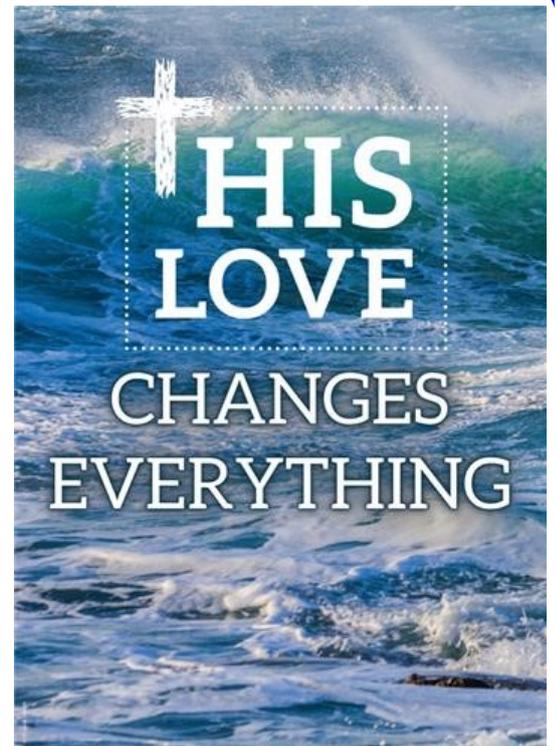
Dear Friends,

Recently, I was listening to a programme on the radio. The topic of conversation was business and the guests on the show were speaking about relationships in business and how people are beginning to see or understand that things like kindness and grace and being civil are actually beneficial to all.

I have to admit, listening to the programme and its participants did make me wonder where they had been because for the last two thousand years and more religious people have been espousing the value of the good things that bind us together as human beings and make life something of joy and wonder rather than a burden. The issues they were talking about have a name. As Christians we call them the fruits of the Spirit and they were witnessed most clearly in every fibre of Christ's being.

In Christ because of the fruits he bore and shared people came to believe that what they had witnessed in Him was nothing less than God veiled in flesh, and what they witnessed on the Cross was nothing less than the ultimate expression of God's love for all creation.

For me the Cross of Christ is a sign and symbol that we have nothing to fear. We have been redeemed. We have been called



by God. We have been shown the way of love. We are loved and can live in the knowledge and the truth that in Christ nothing can ever separate us from the love of God.

May your Easter be a blessed one as you look to Jesus and consider His immense love for all of creation.

Much love, **Peter**

Easter Services

Good Friday, 14th April

3pm to 6.30pm - The Church is open for prayer. There will be prayer stations available which folk can use to help give focus to their prayers.

7.00pm - Good Friday Service and Communion. Join together in worship and share in the Lord's Supper.

Easter Saturday, 15th April

Princes Street Gardens Easter Play followed by picnic tea in the church afterwards. (See separate article)

Easter Sunday, 16th April

10.30am to 11.30am - All Age Service - come and celebrate that Jesus is alive!

Talking Jesus Conference

Send me, Lord,
to bring the
life-changing
Good News of
Christ
to my friends,
relatives and
work colleagues.

Meditation

[from *Bible Alive*]

Help me
to be
a witness of
mercy
and truly
a joy-filled bearer
of the
wonderful news
that God
so loved the
world
that he sent
his only Son.

Six of us from Newhaven attended this conference. Rachel Jordan, the national adviser for Mission with the Church of England, presented the results of a survey undertaken to high statistical standards with an infectious enthusiasm for the outcome and the stimulus and encouragement it gives us to engage in evangelism.

The media have led us to believe that 'nobody loves us' and 'nobody wants to hear about Jesus' – this research knocks that on the head. The public's perceptions of Christians were very positive, scoring very highly on words such as 'friendly, caring, good-humoured, generous, encouraging, hopeful' – with very low percentages ticking words such as 'narrow-minded, hypocritical'. Their perceptions of Jesus also scored highly on words such as 'spiritual, loving, peaceful'.

A key fact was that one in 5 non-practising Christians (those who would tick the box "Christian" on a hospital form) were open to find out more. We should not be put off

that some will not be interested but actively seek out those who are interested and will respond. Just short of half (41%) of practising Christians (those who attend church regularly) said that they came to faith through friends and family. That compared with only 1% through church leaders! Thus evangelism is clearly the responsibility of us all.

This is a very brief summary. There were other interesting and challenging statistics. The statistics are on the website. The main items on the website relate to England but there is a note of the UK wide findings at <http://www.talkingjesus.org/research/downloads.cfm> The UK statistics are in fact more encouraging for Scotland, showing a better position than in England.

Those of us there are very enthusiastic to take it forward. We would like others to join with us in exploring and applying this further. One way would be to commit to inviting someone to one of our services.

John Hodge

Book Review

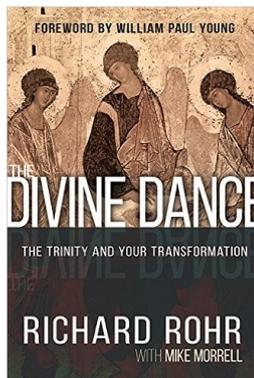
The Divine Dance
- Fr. Richard Rohr

This is a wonderful book if you would like to know more about the Trinity.

What I loved about this book is the fact that Rohr doesn't simply look at the history of the Trinity but looks at what it means to truly believe in a Trinitarian God and incorporate this belief into our lives. It is a spiritual piece of work and I believe able to transform how we understand not only faith but life as well.

This is as close to perfect ten as one can get. I bought my copy off Amazon but I am sure it will be available at St. John's bookshop in Edinburgh.

Peter



Easter Play

After a gap of a year the Easter Play is returning to West Princes Street Gardens on Easter Saturday (15th April) beginning at 2pm. Several of us are interested in going and we are planning to meet up at the church at about 1.20 to get the bus to Princes Street. After the play we thought we might return to the Church for a picnic (bring your own!) when we could share what we made of the play.

In past years the play has been most moving and several different formats have been used. If you have not experienced it, it is well worth going to. See the Easter Play website for details of past performances. <http://www.easterplay.org/en>

Please feel free to invite friends and neighbours to join us.

Contact John Hodge for further details



An Update from Jamie in South Africa

Hello everyone,

I am writing to you all the way from Kimberly, South Africa. I have been volunteering at Helen Bishop Home, a residential care home for children and young people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. I have been volunteering with an organisation called Project Trust, who are an educational charity based on the Isle of Coll, who send school leavers all over the globe for a year or 8 months at teaching, social care or outward bound projects.



I have been at Helen Bishop for almost three weeks now (since 22nd of January) and I'm starting to feel that I have been here for years. The children, although some are very disabled and have limited functionality, have very unique

personalities and needs that I am trying to get to know as I know my sibling's. Although I'm trying not to, I am developing favourites, one of which is a little boy. At the start he seemed closed off to me, with a very serious face. He still has quite a serious face, but now I know that a big bowl at breakfast and lunch and a tickle under the chin gets me a giggle and a smile that can melt your heart!

Nappies are still a troublesome prospect, especially as most of the children used towel nappies. However after some novice attempts I'm starting to get the hang of it!

Through out all the ups and downs of my journey so far, what has been keeping me going is my faith, which I believe has been growing every day. I have been doing as a good friend has taught me to do, FROGging! Fully Relying On God! It has not only kept me calm in difficult situations, but also helped me do so with a smile on my face.

I'll end this message by thanking those who have been praying for me (and hoping they continue!) but also asking that you pray for the wonderful children I have been working with. The thought of each child having a group of Scottish people keeping them in their hearts, fills me with joy! If you would like to follow my journey more I have a blog that you are all more than welcome to read!

<https://jamiesjourneyinsouthafrica.wordpress.com/2017/02/05/my-first-two-weeks-in-kimberly/>

**See you soon,
Jamie!**

Inflatables' Day - Saturday 11th March

Come and have fun at the Inflatable Day. Open to all children aged three and above. Invite your friends!

This is a fun day for all primary school children to get together with friends at the church. The evening session is especially for those in Secondary. There will be the Jungle Run and Slide, the Bungee Run, Sumo Wrestling, Air Juggler, Giant Jenga, and Connect Four.

Cost is only £3.50 and includes a light snack. Parents do not have to stay (apart from those with under 5s) but there will be tea and coffee



available to purchase in the Café area for any who do.

3yrs-PI: Session 1, 9am-10am (parents please stay for this session)

PI-4: Session 2, 10:15am-11:30am OR Session 4, 2pm-3:15pm

P4-7: Session 3, 11:45am-1:00pm

P3-7: Session 5, 5:00pm-6:15pm

SI-S6: Session 6, 6:30pm- 8pm

To get a permission form and book a place, please speak to Christine Hodge or e-mail hodge451@btinternet.com.

Christian Aid Week 14-20 May

It's better to die in a refugee camp than to die in a war. To risk your children's lives in a plastic dinghy. And to leave everything you know behind. When the alternative is terror, bombs and bullets, almost anything is better.

This is the terrible choice facing tens of millions of people worldwide - fleeing conflict and disaster, making dangerous journeys in search of safety.

Christian Aid Week was set up 70 years ago to support our work with refugees in Europe following the Second World War. Let's act again now, to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home.

2016 was a hard year for Newhaven Christian Aid volunteers. We were few in number and didn't manage to cover



all of our parish. Many of the doors were unanswered and of those that did many had no cash. Jesus has taught us not to worry but to focus on him and serving those in need. For in him all things are possible and Newhaven collected £1,428.24 which makes a huge difference. If you have a spare hour or two this Christian Aid week, either to deliver or collect envelopes, please support our house to house collection; it really does make a difference, especially to our refugee neighbours. Please speak to Shona Adam. Your help will be appreciated.



Committed to Serving Christ, each other, and the Community

Newhaven Church of Scotland
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Email: enquiries@n-c.org.uk
Website: www.n-c.org.uk
Charity No. SC019117

Newhaven Church Roll

Deaths

17th December -
Ronnie Hoskins

27th December -
Bill Oliver

Please notify the Roll-Keeper (Elaine Greig), or your Elder, of any changes/updates relating to yourself or other members.

If you would like more information on what 'membership' means and involves, please speak to the Minister or Colin MacNeill.

Heart & Soul

Heart and Soul 2017 is a large-scale celebratory event organised by the Church of Scotland to coincide with the beginning of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The event is designed to celebrate the life and work of the church in Scotland. This year's theme is 'Word of Life'. It is free to attend, for all ages, and all are welcome!

Sunday 21st May, 1pm to 6pm in Princes Street Gardens. For more details - www.heartandsoul.org.uk



History Group

Newhaven Community History Group meets in Newhaven Church Hall at 7pm on:-



Tuesday 21st March
Apartheid, Time at Sea and Theology
Peter Bluett

Tuesday 18th April
Newhaven's Forgotten Burial Ground
Ramsay Tubb and John Stevenson

Meetings are free to members of the History group, non-members £2, followed by tea or coffee and a chance to chat. All welcome!

Come and join us!

Every Sunday at 10.30am

(All-Age Service on the 1st Sunday of each month;

Communion on last Sunday of each month)

The next Harbour Lights will be the Summer issue, covering June, July and August - copy deadline Sunday 14th May.

Please speak to the Editor, Elaine Greig, or email her at editor@n-c.org.uk if you would like anything included in the next issue.