

Parish Press

South Holburn Church Autumn 2022

From the Manse...

Welcome to this Autumn edition of Parish Press, our South Holburn Church magazine.

This issue is published at time of great change in our nation as we mourn our monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. And tribute is paid elsewhere in this magazine.

After the last two years of Covid restrictions, we are all trying to get back to a more normal footing in life. That is true also in the Church and so, while we had a couple of special issues of Parish Press during the pandemic, we are now relaunching Parish Press, which will be produced four times per year.

Moving on from Covid is not easy, especially as the virus is still with us. But move on we

must. So much of our society, and our lives, has been transformed by Covid, and, though the worst of the pandemic appears to be over, the consequences will continue to be felt for a long time. In the NHS, in the economy, within businesses and organisations, the fallout from Covid has changed the way that so much is done. And that is true in the Church too. For many years the numbers of members of the Church of Scotland have been in decline, but Covid has exacerbated that decline, both in terms of numbers and in terms of finances. Plans had already made to reduce numbers of churches and church staff. But after Covid, these reductions have had to be even more severe. The

General Assembly instructed all Presbyteries to come with new Presbytery Mission Plans to reflect the much-reduced resources available. In this edition of Parish Press you will find an article about the Presbytery Mission Plan for Aberdeen and Shetland Presbytery.

Moving on from Covid has not been all gloom and doom though. And so, in this issue of Parish Press, you will find reports on our summer childrens' and young peoples' holiday groups, both at South Holburn and at Ferryhill.

This summer we had the chance to share in joint services during July and August with our sister congregations at St. Mark's and Ferryhill and it was lovely to spend time in other churches and to share together in worship. All services were well attended as were the fellowship times afterward. I hope those from South Holburn who went along enjoyed worshipping together.

One of my favourite authors, Douglas Adams, once said, "We live in strange times". Though he is no longer with us, Douglas Adams' words could

easily describe where we are today. There is so much uncertainty, with the cost-of-living crisis, changes in politics, the recovery from the pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, climate change – on and on the list goes. Within the church we are seeing unprecedented change as the reality of decline starts to bite. So, how then as Christians do we live our faith in these times of change?

Some Bible verses may guide us. In Hebrews 6:17-20 we read:

God also bound himself with an oath, so that those he promised to help would be perfectly sure and never need to wonder whether he might change his plans.

He has given us both his promise and his oath, two things we can completely count on, for it is impossible for God to tell a lie. Now all those who flee to him to save them can take new courage when they hear such assurances from God; now they can know without doubt that he will give them the salvation he has promised them.

This certain hope of being saved is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls, connecting us with God himself behind the sacred curtains of heaven, where Christ has gone ahead to plead for us from his position as

our High Priest, with the honour and rank of Melchizedek.

And in James 1:17-18 we find this promise:

But whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God, the Creator of all light, and he shines forever without change or shadow. And it was a happy day for him when he gave us our new lives through the truth of his Word, and we became, as it were, the first children in his new family.

Both these verses show us that, as much as the world might change, God remains the constant in our lives.

God's love for us is unwavering. And no amount of change in the world, no catastrophe or calamity, no difference in circumstance can diminish God's love for us. God's promises to us are as rock solid now as ever they were. So while we go through these times of changes, and they can be very frightening times indeed, we live with the security of God's love, with the guarantee of God's promises to us, and with certainty that we are part of God's family.

I recently saw a photograph which I think beautifully illustrates the hope that we have. It is of a metal bollard used to block a pathway, but as solid

as that bollard looks, there is a flower branch growing out of it. A symbol that no matter how difficult the world might seem, the life that we have in God will always live, and the light that God promises will always shine through.

I hope that you will draw courage and strength from these promises and be able to look forward with hope, knowing that God is still at work in our world and still at work within our Church.

Your friend and minister,

David





"She has been the steady constant in the life of our nation for over seven decades and most of us will have grown up knowing only her as our monarch. Tireless in her duty, The Queen has demonstrated a life of selfless dedication. Her love for her family was mirrored in her love for our nation and the wider Commonwealth."

*Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian Greenshields
Moderator of the General
Assembly*

We join with all the nations of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, and indeed the world, in commemoration of our Queen who passed away on Thursday, 8th September 2022.

Across the world there will be so many people who remember meeting Her Majesty, who remember her kind and friendly and welcoming words.

After 70 years on the throne, the influence of Her Majesty is impossible to quantify, confidante to 14 prime ministers and meeting her 15th prime minister on Tuesday, supporter of charities and organisations. The Queen has been head of state through times of social change, warfare, economic boom and bust, times of catastrophe and times of celebration. Whatever else has changed, Her Majesty has been that one constant.

And for the vast majority of people in this country and beyond, we have never known a time without our Queen. There are so many touching points in our lives that have involved Her Majesty, The Silver Jubilee, Golden Jubilee, Diamond Jubilee and Platinum celebrations, the Trooping of the Colour, Remem-

brance Sunday at the Cenotaph, and the Queen's Speech on Christmas Day, to name but a few.

Her Majesty was devoted to the nation and the Commonwealth, living faithfully the vows that she made to the people and to God at her coronation.

She lived and served with dignity and kindness and her own good humour.

A devout and faithful Christian, who spoke often of the importance of her faith, and never shied away from the call of discipleship in Scripture – many a minister has enjoyed the hospitality of Balmoral, when they came to lead worship at Crathie Kirk.

As God's people we hold all of her family in prayer. They have a very specific national role at this time, but still they are also grieving a much loved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother. And, as all of us know, the pain of grief and loss is a heavy load to bear under normal circumstances, let alone in the face of the grief of a nation, and the demands of state.

So much of what we have taken for granted in the life of our nation and indeed in everyday life will change because Her Majesty has passed away.

As her son now ascends to the throne and becomes King Charles the Third, with his wife Camilla as Queen Consort, we offer him our prayers and, with the nation, declare...

Long Live the King!



South Holburn Summer Club

by

John Amalanand

At South Holburn Church

Our holiday club was open for primary aged children for **9 days in July** (3 days a week for 3 weeks).

Our theme was the **9 Fruits of the Spirit** from Galatians 5, where we learnt each day on *Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control*.

All of us enjoyed a variety of activities around the theme including **songs, stories, online puppet shows, video talk, games and a few lovely crafts.**

The numbers of children varied in attendance on each day. We had a maximum of 35 children and minimum of 16 children and an average count of **20+ children each day**. We had 50 different children attending the club in July and most children were from Broomhill and Kaimhill primaries.

We also had a weekly prayer gathering in July via phone

conference call to pray for this event.

I have said it many many times and I want to say it again. I am ever **grateful to every volunteer** (from South Holburn, Ruthrieston West, Ferryhill, Midstocket churches) who came forward to help and for **every individual who prayed throughout July** which made the club very effective and special to the families and children who were part of it.

I give our **Lord Jesus Christ all the glory** as without Him we could have done nothing. (John 15:5)



At Ferryhill Church

I also had, along with our minister David, the privilege of

attending the 'Adventure Cruise' holiday club at Ferryhill Church in August which ran for a week finishing with a Sunday Family service. The club was led by Captain Pete (Rev Peter Johnston) and supported by ministers and volunteers from the neighbouring congregations (including a couple of pirates who sneaked in!). As the Adventure Cruise set sail, we explored the 'C's of Choice, Courage, Call, Change, Commitment, and Challenge through drama, story, puppet shows, song, games and crafts.

More than 80 children came on board the cruise, with most of them from Ferryhill primary school.

Although I had the chance of attending it only for a couple of days, there was lots to learn and be inspired from the way it was all organised and run. I

was very impressed at the hard work of every crew member who worked behind the scenes and also during the club in various capacities.

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, We thank You for all that You enabled us to do to invest in the lives of these dear children and their families this summer. We ask You for more opportunities to serve them and ask that You give us a greater portion of Your Spirit upon all of us, so, we can be better-yielded instruments in Your hands. Bless all the children who attended and continue to guide them in their journey of life. Thank you for the volunteers, intercessors and the financial supporters who contributed to this event and we ask that you richly bless them and their families as well.

In Your name we pray, Amen.



Some of the crafts from the South Holburn Holiday Club

Current & Future Work with Students, Young Adults and Children

Scripture Union Lunch-Time Club at Kaimhill Primary

By the grace of God, we restarted this club on 5 September. We have 3 separate sessions for P5 to P7, P3 to P4 and P2 to P2/3. The club is currently run by a total of 3 adults. Please contact John if you are able to help at this club even for once a month.

Sunday Club

Runs every Sunday for young folk aged 3+, lots of activities and fun. Meets in the Ruthrieston Hall at 10:20 a.m.

Students and Young Adults Service

This service runs every Sunday at 9am during term-time for ages 18 – 30s. Worship, discussion and prayer together. Meets in the Jubilee Hall. (Restarts on 18th September)



Prayer Points

SU Club at Kaimhill:

1. Pray for continued oneness and unity among the leaders.
2. Pray for children to continually attend the club.
3. Thank God for the favour in the eyes of the lovely school staff and the parents.

Sunday Club

1. Pray that God will fill the leaders with His Spirit of love and wisdom to lead the little ones closer to Him.
2. Thank God for the pupils who are currently attending church. Ask God to help us discover outreach ideas. Pray for more children to come to Him.

3. Please pray for the children at our church, particularly for their boldness and courage to hold on to their faith in Jesus amidst the challenges both at school and society.

Students and Young Adults

1. Pray for more Students and Young Adults to join our church and for hearts to be

receptive to the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Pray for a stronger witnessing of the Lord's love to this age group, both in deed and in word.
3. Pray that each young person will receive Jesus as their Lord & Saviour and be filled with His Holy Spirit.



GUILD FELLOWSHIP GROUP

We are about to start the new session of the Guild. At South Holburn we are called the Guild Fellowship Group, welcoming all to join us on a Monday afternoon at 2pm, in the Jubilee Hall. We are a group who meet for friendship, a cuppie and something to eat. If you are interested in joining please feel free to take anything you enjoy doing with you, this could be crossword puzzles, colouring books, knitting, sewing or just join us for the fellowship. Our first meeting is on Monday 10th October at 2pm, then every two weeks during the winter months.

'Whose we are and whom we serve'

Adeline



The New Presbytery Mission Plan

Forward planning has always been a part of the life of the national church. Over the years that has meant churches being closed and also new churches being opened. These changes can happen for many reasons as communities change over time, as attitudes and needs change, as the resources of the church change.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2021 agreed that, after generations of decline in membership numbers and income, and with reduced numbers of those coming forward for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament combined with the fact that many current ministers approaching retirement age, and the consequences of the Covid Pandemic, the Church was in an unsustainable position. There are simply too many buildings,

many with ongoing maintenance concerns. Church buildings dominate much of the work of so many churches, making it difficult for congregations to look outward and concentrate on the mission of the Church to share God's Good News with the people of our communities.

The General Assembly in 2021 agreed a new Presbytery Mission Plan, instructing every Presbytery to reduce the number of congregations and the number of ministry jobs significantly, to allow the focus of the Church to shift to mission and outreach.

For the Presbytery of Aberdeen and Shetland, this meant a reduction to 24 full time posts, made up of ministers and Mission and Discipleship staff (such as Parish Assistants

etc.). This number was later increased to 28 posts. Six of those posts were to be in Shetland, with the remaining 22 posts for Aberdeen city.

The provisional plan was published earlier this year for congregations to discuss, and at the September meeting of the Presbytery



a slightly revised plan will be presented for approval. If agreed this plan will then go to the central offices of the church in Edinburgh for final approval. If all the stages are agreed, the plan will become policy by the end of 2022.

The Presbytery Mission Plan (PMP) for Aberdeen and Shetland will have far reaching consequences for every single congregation in Aberdeen and Shetland. Every single congregation is asked to work in new ways with neighbouring con-

gregations in a series of Parish Groupings. A number of churches will close, while many others will be linked or united.

What does all this mean for the congregation of South Holburn?

South Holburn Church is being asked to go

into a union with Ferryhill Church and with St. Mark's church by the end of 2023. This union will see St. Mark's Church close, and the churches at Ferryhill and South Holburn remain open. There will be two ministry jobs for the new union. Worship will continue at South Holburn Sunday by Sunday, but the new union will have a new name, which is still to be decided by the congregations. There will be one Kirk Session, made up of all the elders of the current three congregations. There will be

one charity number and one set of accounts for the new charge, with the current resources of the three congregations becoming the resources of the new charge. The parish of the new charge will incorporate the current parishes of South Holburn, Ferryhill and St. Mark's, a population of some 42 000 people. The new charge will also have a responsibility for developing a new mission to the city centre.

To facilitate the union, a small group of representatives made up of ministers and elders from each congregation will be meeting regularly, to work on a basis of union. If the Presbytery Mission Plan is approved, it is hoped that the new union for South Holburn, Ferryhill and St. Mark's will come into effect next year in 2023.

Additionally, the new union will be asked to work closely in a

Parish Grouping with another new union made up of Holburn West, Queen's Cross, Rubislaw and Midstocket churches (which will be called Fountainhall Church). And, in order to facilitate this parish grouping, a group from each of the congregations is meeting regularly to plan for the future.

For members of the churches the new Presbytery Plan represents a major change in the makeup of our church. However, many things will also remain as before. Worship with our minister Rev. David Stewart, will continue at South Holburn into the foreseeable future.

Throughout the process members will be kept up to date with what is happening. And as an initial introduction to the Presbytery Mission Plan, the local ministers have created a video which is available on our Church website

www.southholburn.org



The Presbytery of
Aberdeen and Shetland

A group of Church of Scotland elders from the northeast were attending a conference in Perth.

The space between sessions allowed enough time for some of them to go for a walk in the grounds of the conference

As they travelled along, they came to a river, with a rickety bridge to cross,

They were about to step on when a local called out a warning.

Not understanding his meaning, one of the elders shouted back, "Its OK we are Church of Scotland elders from the conference". The local replied, "If you don't get off that bridge you'll all be Baptists!"

FUNNIES

The Pope was once asked how many people worked at the Vatican, he replied – "About half of them"

From a gravestone:

Here lies Solomon
Peas

From a church notice sheet

Under the trees and
sod

"At the end of the service the minister will leave the church and the congregation will sing "Now thank we all our God"

But Peas is not here –
Only the pod
Peas shelled out and is
gone to God.

Overheard in the Vestry before the service:

Church officer: "The congregation is a bit small this morning minister"

Minister: "Did you tell them I was preaching?"

Church Officer: "No, but you know how these things get out"

An Autumn Recipe



Cider Baked Pork Chops

Ingredients (serves 4)

4 oz mushrooms, sliced
2 cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced
1 onion, chopped
Salt and pepper to taste
4 pork chops, fat removed (boneless chops work best)
½ pint of cider
2 oz browned breadcrumbs
4 oz cheddar cheese grated
Watercress to garnish

Cooking Instructions

Preheat the oven to 200°C (400°F, gas mark 6).
Grease a 3 pint shallow ovenproof dish.
Place mushrooms, apples and onions in the base of the dish, and season with salt and pepper to taste.
Lay the pork chops on the vegetables and pour the cider over.
In a separate bowl, mix together the breadcrumbs and cheese, then sprinkle the mixture over the chops.
Bake for 1¼ - 1½ hours, until the chops are cooked and the topping is golden.
Garnish with the watercress and serve hot, with boiled potatoes and a green salad.



Kirk Session Report

The Kirk Session met in June, and it was hoped that a normal calendar of meetings was now possible since meeting restrictions have been lifted.

Rev. Stewart opened the meeting with a reading and prayer, then he updated the elders with developments on the Presbytery Mission Plan, to be published in draft form in August. He explained how the new groupings would work, and there are plans for the congregations to work together before a union takes place. The Kirk Sessions of the three churches in our union have met for a day conference and hope to meet again. Church services were shared over the summer holidays, with services taking place in St Mark's, Ferryhill and South Holburn. It is planned that shared worship will happen again, possibly at Harvest Thanksgiving and at Christmas, to give the congregations the chance to get to know one another.

He also reported on the recent General Assembly and the plans to hold a Holiday Club, under the leadership of John Amalanand, for the children of local primary schools.

The Property Convenor, Ronnie Johnstone, informed the meeting that all normal maintenance checks had been carried out and the church buildings and the organ were in good repair. He also gave a report from the most recent Presbytery Meeting. Under discussion had been the creation of the new Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles in January, covering Aberdeen and Shetland, Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine and Deeside, Moray and Orkney. A report from Instant Neighbour had been presented stating that in the past year 10,500 food parcels had been provided to 2,500 different clients, and 13,500 gifts had been distributed through the Christman Giving Tree Appeal.

There was a discussion on the charges for Hall Lets, and it was decided that the cost for each hall would be raised to £25.00 per hour, an increase of £5.00. It was felt that this was necessary in view of the rising costs of cleaning and heating the halls. The rates would be reviewed annually.

The next meeting of the Kirk Session will take place in September

HALL LETTING UPDATE

We have had a very quiet spell for the last three years but bookings for our halls are starting to recover and the “faithful” groups are returning.

Main Hall

Country Dancing	- Mon. evenings 7.30-9.30
Yoga.	- Tues evenings 6.30-8.00
Line Dancing.	- Wed evenings 6.00-8.00
Parents/Toddlers	- Thurs mornings 9.00- 11.30
Jazzercise.	- Thurs evenings 6.15-7.15
Dancing class	- Sat mornings 9.00- 12 noon

Jubilee Hall

Guild (fortnightly)	-Mon afternoons 2-4 pm
Dru Yoga	-Tues evenings 7.30-8.30
Cafe	-Fri mornings 10-11.30
Dancing class	-Sat mornings 8.45- 1.00
Student Service	-Sun mornings 9.00-10.15

Ruthrieston Hall

Sunday Club-Sun mornings 10.20-11.30
A German Congregation meets every so often.

Alastair McCulloch

Hall Letting Convener.

Membership Updates

Jesus said ... "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. (John 11:25-26)

Sadly the following members of our Church passed away:

Mildred Pirie
Ethel Stronach
Sheena Gibb
James Leslie
Stella Robertson
George Laing
Margaret Bone
Helen Coull

We have also had one baptism and one wedding.

In all things we have complete victory through him who loved us! For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below—there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:37-39

Harvest Appeal 2022

This year we will celebrate Harvest along with our sister congregations at Ferryhill and St. Marks. Our Harvest Service will take place on **Sunday, 9th October, at 10:30 a.m. at South Holburn Church**. It will take the form of a joint service and we will be joined by the congregations of Ferryhill and St. Marks.

Harvest Thanksgiving is a celebration of the goodness of God's creation and thanksgiving for the harvest safely gathered in and food for all. This is especially significant, given the current economic conditions, the cost of living crisis, and the challenge of energy costs. There are many in our parishes who face difficult choices as the bills mount. Virtually no-one is untouched by the economic challenges. So this year, perhaps more than for many years, celebrating Harvest, giving thanks for God's goodness, is an act of faith. We believe God provides. And we believe that God calls on us to share his provision and to make sure that there is enough for all. With this in mind, as part of our Harvest Celebration, and as we have done in previous years, we are once again asking our members and friends to contribute to a month-long food collection for Instant Neighbour Trust's Food Bank.

Last year, between the congregations, we collected over 2000 cans. This year, recognising that everyone is facing difficult times, while we have set same target, we recognise that everyone facing difficult economic choices, so we are simply asking for people to give as they are able. As you can imagine, the demands on all food banks in the City have increased dramatically as more and more people struggle with the cost of living crisis. Instant Neighbour often find that their shelves are empty by the end of the day or the end of the week. Anything we can give to help will be greatly appreciated.

South Holburn Church will be open on Saturday mornings between 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon, from 17th September to 8th October for cans to be dropped off.

Cans can also be dropped off at our Sunday morning worship service. Meanwhile, Ferryhill Church will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 9am and 12 noon.



**Instant
Neighbour**
Food Bank

Communion Sunday

"Do this and remember me"



The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, 30th October** 2022 at our morning service at 10:30 a.m. All our members are invited to join us to share in the bread and the wine.



**Remembrance
Sunday Service**

13th November 2022

South Holburn Church is Registered as a charity: SC017516

www.southholburn.org