

Kemnay Kirê News



February 2012

GOOD MORNING GROUP

Nothing to do? Why don't you come
Along to the Centre with me
I'm going to the Good Morning Group
So come with me and see.

My goodness what's that awful noise?
It really is a din.
Oh, it's only the ladies having a chat
Before the meeting begins.

Nell is there, and the kettle's boiled
The coffee is in the cup
It's nice to sit down, to relax
And do some "catching up".

Put some money in the jar,
We do this every Tuesday
It helps to feed some poor young folk
In countries far away.

Now there's a lull in the chat
Alison comes quick in,
Good morning, how nice to see you .
I'd think we'd better begin.

Our opening prayer – we all have a go.
And our prayers for others
Some snippets of news, the book reviews -
We read them from cover to cover.

Our studies are wide and varied
With travels, religion and talks.
Some favourite verses, a journey with Paul
Presented by various folks.

I can't believe the time has flown
Already it's time to go
But we do feel uplifted and happy
With faces all aglow.

So if you're free on a Tuesday morn
And don't know what to do.
Do come along to the GMG
There's a welcome there for you.

Mrs Isobel Dow



Message from The Manse

*The Manse of Kemnay
15 Kirkland
KEMNAY AB51 5QD
Tel/Fax: 01467 642219
email: johnrenton@btinternet.com*

Dear Friends,

What do you think? Has someone approached you for your response to the work of one of our committees or working groups?

Last year the Kirk Session agreed to do a review of the work we are doing through our various working groups and committees to see how effective we are and how we can improve. As part of that review they were asked a number of questions and they are invited to go beyond themselves and ask others. We see this as something that is important because the groups and committees help direct and support the work we do as a congregation, whether among children's and youth work, outreach, world church and worship. The review provides us with an opportunity to look again at what we are doing and to make improvements.

Already some of the responses are coming in and they have been very helpful. One matter that seems to have been highlighted is that some people don't know what is going on in the Church. We will be looking again and see how better we can communicate information about what is happening.

At the moment we pass on information through the Kirk News magazine, web page, notice board at the Church Centre and the Church news sheet for our Sunday Services. Information about decisions made at the Kirk Session and Congregation Board are mentioned monthly in the Kirk News. The annual stated meeting is open to all members and friends and there is an annual Report of the Life of the Congregation in the March issue of the Kirk News which looks back over the past year, highlights the new initiatives we have undertaken and identifies some of the things we

hope to be doing in the coming year. From time to time we also use the local press to pass on information.

There are so many good things happening here at Kemnay Church and we want to share them with others, but at the very centre of all we do is the sharing of the 'Good News' of Jesus Christ. We must never lose sight of the reason of our being the Church and the work we have been given.

May the Lord continue to bless us as we share His Good News with others.

Your Minister - John Renton



THE
ABERDEEN PASSION
ONE LIFE GIVEN

FRIDAY 6TH & SATURDAY 7TH APRIL 2012
ABERDEEN EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE CENTRE
www.aberdeenpassion.com
www.facebook.com/aberdeenpassion

For more information and how to be part of or support
this venture see website above.

Tickets are now on sale at the Box Office in Aberdeen



WORSHIP CALENDAR

- | | | |
|--------|----------|--|
| FEB 5 | 9.30 am | ALL AGE SERVICE
Names of Jesus - Beloved |
| | 11.00 am | MORNING WORSHIP
Spiritual living in a secular world –
Writing on the wall. |
| | 3.00 pm | MESSY CHURCH
Valentine Stuff |
| FEB 12 | 9.30 am | ALL AGE SERVICE
Names of Jesus -
Image of the Invisible God |
| | 11.00 am | MORNING WORSHIP
Spiritual living in a secular world –
Who do you serve? |
| FEB 19 | 9.30 am | ALL AGE SERVICE
Guide and Scout movement –
All the colours of the rainbow . |
| | 11.00 am | MORNING WORSHIP
Spiritual living in a secular world –
Where are we headed? |
| | 6.30 pm | MALAWI VISIT – DR NOEL MACK
Forty days without my suitcase |
| FEB 26 | 9.30 am | ALL AGE SERVICE
Names of Jesus - Bread of Life |
| | 11.00 am | MORNING WORSHIP
Holy Communion
Spiritual living in a secular world -
Superpowers in Conflict |
| | 6.30 pm | EVENING SERVICE |
| MAR 4 | 9.30 am | ALL AGE SERVICE
Names of Jesus - Our Hope |
| | 11.00 am | MORNING WORSHIP
Sacrament of Baptism
Spiritual living in a secular world –
Kneeling on God’s Promises |

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNER CHURCH IN MINYARA – LEBANON



CONGRATULATIONS TO DR HADI AND MRS ANNA GHANTOUS ON THE BIRTH OF A SON - MIKAEL ON 1 JANUARY

OUR FRIENDS IN MINYARA HAVE ASKED TO REMEMBER THE MIDDLE EAST AT THIS TIME

We hope and pray that peace, justice and freedom will take over blood, oppression and hatred in this part of the world as everywhere else.

Please pray for the situation in the Middle East, for the Churches in the region and pray for the new Social-Cultural centre.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Friday from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Tel: 01467 643883

email: kemnay.church@btconnect.com

Kemnay Kirk News

Your comments, ideas & material are always welcome.

Letters and articles should be sent to: The Editor, 'Oxencraig', Bridge Road, Kemnay AB51 5QT or sent via email to *porterjd@tiscali.co.uk*

Please include your name and address. The editorial committee reserves the right to edit material to suit the space available. The DEADLINE for the March edition is **19th February 2012**.

Please ensure all material is submitted by this date so that we can print on time.

Thank you

BOARD MATTERS

The following matters were discussed at the meeting of the Congregational Board in November 2011.

Disability Presentation: A paper had been circulated to Church groups some time ago regarding our legal obligations in meeting the needs of disabled people. Presbytery recently appointed a Disability Champion, Susanna Bichard, who made a presentation on the issue to Presbytery. Board were asked how to effectively pass this updated information on to relevant people – it was agreed a workshop/presentation evening.

Old Photocopier: A letter of thanks had been received from Rev. Rosemary Legge of Cushnie and Tough, for the gift of our 'old' photocopier.

Challenge to Church: It was agreed at General Assembly, May 2011 that every Church would take part in a National Stewardship Programme. The Finance and Stewardship Committee responded to this through a paper detailing our good practice in the past, what we are doing now and our plans for the future. Part of our plans is to have a Stewardship Season in the Spring of 2012 with a series of services looking at our gifts, talents and money offering to the Lord.

Facebook: Publications committee have been looking at the use of Facebook and prepared a paper for discussions at a future meeting.

Archiving: as part of the ongoing archiving in the office, paper copies of the Kirk News will no longer be kept as it is available on pdf and will be stored digitally.

New Photocopier: there are very good colour reproductions available now through the new copier. The new copier is also helping to reduce costs of cartridges etc by using the inkjet printers in the office less.



KALEIDOSCOPE

Dates for the next two Kaleidoscope events are:

18th February 2012

17th March 2012

10.00 to 12.30pm in Church Centre



PARISH REGISTER



IN MEMORIAM

Surely, goodness and Mercy shall follow me all my life and I will dwell in the house of the lord for ever.

- Dec 10 Mrs Edna Don, Wood Gardens, Kemnay
Dec 16 Mrs Dorothy Moir, Harthill Farm, Kintore
Jan 5 Mr Stephen Wardle, Heron Way, Kemnay
Jan 7 Mrs Jean Don, Blytheswood NH, Port Elphinstone
Jan 11 Mrs Isabel Dow, Littlewood Court, Kemnay
Jan 26 Mrs Diana Thomson, Bremner Way, Kemnay
Jan 31 Mr Douglas Laing, Wilson Place, Kemnay

MRS ISOBEL DOW ELDER 1979 - 2012

One of the important teachings of the Bible is that of service to God and of others and this Isobel Dow did faithfully through the church and the wider community but never to the neglect of her family.

Mrs Isobel Dow was ordained to the Eldership of the Church of Scotland in 1978 and admitted to the Kirk Session of Kemnay Church.

I first met Isobel when she came to Paisley in 1990 as part of a group who were looking for a new Minister. Very soon after coming to Kemnay I became aware of the service she was giving both to the community and the Church and her commitment. Isabel helped out at the lunch club when it was held in the old Dymnock hall and delivered meals on wheels to homes in the village. She was chairperson of the Littlewood Court Residents group and belonged to the local Reminiscence Group. She was President of the local Girl Guide Association and was also on the fundraising groups of both guides and scouts and did a lot of badge work for the Guides.

She was very much involved in Christian Aid from the beginning of its work here at Kemnay and a co-signatory for its accounts. Her speciality was the bric-a-bac at the Christian Aid shop, through which she helped raised hundreds of pounds for overseas work. She was always careful not to let the dealers take the best.

As an Elder, she was a very faithful visitor, member of committees and supporter of the work we are doing. Isabel was a member of the Church choir for a number of years and would play her violin at Church concerts and socials and was well known for her recitations. She was President of the Woman's Guild and later a faithful member of the Good Morning Group where her contributions were always appreciated.

One of her recitations was the Maister's or Masters Hand. That Isobel's life was touched by the Masters Hand was very evident in the life she lived and the service she gave to her Lord and His Church.

T'was battered and scarred, and the auctioneer thought it scarcely worth his while to waste much time on the old violin, but held it up with a smile; "What am I bidden, good folks," he cried, "Who'll start the bidding for me?" "A dollar, a dollar"; then two!" "Only two? Two dollars, and who'll make it three? Three dollars, once; three dollars twice; going for three.."

But no, from the room, far back, a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow; Then, wiping the dust from the old violin, and tightening the loose strings, he played a melody pure and sweet as caroling angel sings. The music ceased, and the auctioneer, with a voice that was quiet and low, said; "What am I bid for the old violin?" And he held it up with the bow.

A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two? Two thousand! And who'll make it three? Three thousand, once, three thousand, twice, and going and gone," said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried, "We do not quite understand what changed its worth." Swift came the reply: "The touch of a master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune, and battered and scarred with sin, is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd, much like the old violin, A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine; a game - and he travels on. "He is going" once, and "going twice, He's going and almost gone."

But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd never can quite understand the worth of a soul and the change that's wrought by the touch of the Master's hand.

Myra 'Brooks' Welch



Time♀Out

Why... put Thursday 29th March 2012 in your diary ?

Because... it's an evening for women

- stress-free
- interesting
- time to unwind
- time to chat
- time to travel back through Kemnay & Kintore with a local history enthusiast
- to cover costs - £2

Venue: Church Centre 7.30 - 9.00 pm



Kemnay Parish
Church of Scotland

Kemnay Parish Church of Scotland, Scottish Charity No. SC014790

The Global Poverty Prayer Movement is a call for us to unite as Christians to pray for our world
Sunday 26 February – Sunday 4 March 2012.

Donside prayer gathering ~ Alford Howe Trinity Church Hall, **Thursday 1st March, 7.00 pm**
for transport contact Hunters 642724



LOAVES AND FISHES CHARITY BOX

The chosen organisation for donations via the Loaves & Fishes charity box during **February** is:

Gastrocan





3rd January 2012

Dear Mr Renton and Parishioners at Kemnay Church,

RE: Church Christmas Collection on behalf of MHA – THANK YOU ALL!

May I, in the first instance, wish you, Mr Renton, and all parishioners of Kemnay Church a very Happy New Year for 2012 and hope that everyone will be granted happy and fulfilled days during the coming twelve months!

Now – to the reason of my writing to you and the members of your congregation – I cannot begin to tell you just how moved I was then I heard from our one of our Board Directors, Sandy Argo, that the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day collection in your parish would be donated to Mental Health Aberdeen!

And, when I heard (and read in the paper) about the final sums collected, I really was completely amazed and hugely grateful for the true Christmas spirit of generosity that the members and attendants at the services displayed! To collect such a vast sum – just short of £1,100 – from a smallish country congregation is a true inspiration to us all!

Would you please express our sincere gratitude to all people at Kemnay Church! To be able to start the New Year with such an incredibly kind and big-hearted donation is better than you could possibly imagine!

The ongoing economic recession is biting at our heels at MHA – and this has been ongoing since I took over as CEO of MHA in December 2007! I have worked in some capacity at MHA for over 20 years and this really has been the best Christmas present for me – on behalf of MHA, of course! The cut-backs from Aberdeen City Council – and now the income freeze and cutbacks at Aberdeenshire Council added to that – have made our work at MHA so much harder! Even our general client donations fell over 50% in one year – clearly everyone is finding it much harder to be generous with charities as a whole. And, as you may all know – Mental Health is a bit of a ‘step child’ when it comes to popularity in charitable giving, so your huge donation will really help us provide more and better services all in Aberdeen City and Shire.

A huge thank you to you all – and best wishes from all service users at MHA!

My warmest regards to you, Mr Renton and everyone at Kemnay Church,

Astrid Whyte - Chief Executive

Visit to Nkhoma Hospital Malawi 2011

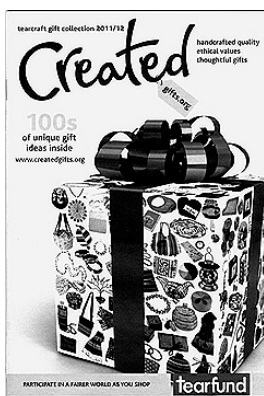
I recently had the privilege of visiting and working in Nkhoma hospital alongside David and Rebecca Morton. It's a beautiful site with many trees on the slopes of Mt Nkhoma. I worked on the medical wards in out patients and did children's outreach clinics.

On the ward there would be about 200 admissions/month, with pneumonia, malaria, anaemia and trauma were the commonest often associated with AIDS. The mortality rate was up to 10% people were very sick. Resources are limited but we had a drug formulary of 200 drugs.

There were frequent power cuts and fuel is in very short supply. This leaves David trying to decide how to use the fuel some of which must be retained for the generator to supply electricity when the power goes off. There is also a need for the ambulances to bring people in and for the outreach clinics to take us out to remote places and provide healthcare. These are very difficult decisions for him.

Please remember them both in your prayers and if you'd like to know more come along to the Church Centre on **Sunday evening 19th February at 6.30.**

Noel Mack



THANK YOU to all who purchased CREATED gifts this year helping craftspeople in some of the poorer areas of the world to have access to Western markets giving them employment and a fair price for their goods.

Sales were around £750 which enabled a donation of £75 to be sent to TEARFUND's development project in Ethiopia except that it was sent the week of the 'Big Give Challenge' which doubled the donation to £150!

KEMNAY CHURCHES

PRAYER CALENDAR

February



*"I thank my God every time I remember you.
I always pray with joy ..."*

Phillipians 1:3,4

- Sun 5 Praying around the Presbytery ~ Area Group1:
Huntly Cairnie Glass (Thomas Calder), Noth (Regine
Cheyne), Stratbogie Drumblade (Neil McGregor).
- Mon 6 Remember today those known to you who grieve for
a recent loss. May they be led to find comfort and
strength through the Lord. Guide our Minister and
Care Visitors as they seek to offer sensitive support.
- Tues 7 Marriage Week. Pray for people you know whose
marriages are under pressure at an individual level.
Also for the institution of marriage, under pressure at
Scottish and U.K. national levels.
- Wed 8 "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all
circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ
Jesus" 1 Thessalonians. 5:16-18
- Thur 9 Remember Jen Wright as she continues to work on
Bible translation and usage in Cameroon. Pray that
the local churches may cooperate in the Scripture
Use programme she is promoting.
- Fri 10 'Give thanks in all circumstances...' That's a tough
one Lord but with your help I'll make a start. It won't
be easy but I'll try. (Eddie Askew)
- Sat 11 Commend in prayer the work of the Street Pastors
each weekend. Give thanks for those willing to
volunteer for this challenging ministry.

- Sun 12 Presbytery ~ Area 2: Cushnie & Tough (Rosemary Legge), Cluny & Monymusk (Euan Glenn), Howe Trinity (John Cook), Kemnay (John Renton), Upper Donside (Brian Dingwall)
- Mon 13 Give thanks for our contacts with our Partner Church in Minyara, Lebanon. May they have the resources to realise their vision for their new Church Centre.
- Tues 14 St Valentine's Day. Give thanks for true and faithful love amongst those of all ages.
- Wed 15 Pray for the joint Board and Session meeting to agree the church's budget for this year. Praise the Lord for all those who take seriously their stewardship of their time and talents as well as their money.
- Thur 16 Uphold today our Mission Partners, David and Rebecca Morton, and all who work at Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi. Share their concern for the fuel crisis and its effects on the hospital and the whole society.
- Fri 17 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" Phillipians 4:6
- Sat 18 Intercede for our brother and sister Christians, and their children, who endure hard suffering for their faith, as in Northern Nigeria where people and property face attack.
- Sun 19 Presbytery ~ Area 3: Blairdaff & Chapel of Garioch (Brian Dobby), Culsamond Rayne & Daviot (Mary Cranfield), Inch (Jane Taylor), Inverurie West (Ian Groves)
- Mon 20 Remember Kirsty Buchan as she serves with Operation Mercy in Central Asia. Give thanks for the opportunities offered by her new flat and by her wider role.

- Tues
21 Shrove Tuesday - originally a day for confession and penitence (as well as pancakes). Lord, we have much to confess and repent of but thank you that we can find forgiveness and new life in you.
- Wed
22 Ash Wednesday. Lent begins today - a season for prayer, reflection and self-denial. How should we observe it?
- Thur
23 " I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" Ephesians 3:16
- Fri
24 We pray for those in prison. Please break any bonds of fear and isolation, and support prisoners, their families and friends, prison staff, chaplains and others who care for them with Your love. Heal those wounded by the actions of others. Help us to forgive, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ. (CARE)
- Sat
25 Join with TEARFUND in their international 'One Voice' Prayer Movement for an end to world poverty.
- Sun
26 Presbytery ~ Area Group 4: Fintray Kinellar Keithhall (Ellen Larson Davidson), Inverurie St. Andrew's (Graeme Longmuir), Kintore (Alan Greig)
- Mon
27 Lord, grant us all a sense of humour in all things, especially in what is said about us. Let the gift of your humour ease our tensions so that healing may come and hours of worry become moments of ease. (Crossreach)
- Tues
28 Pray for the Men's Group as they hear about the Church's Science, Religion and Technology Project.
- Wed
29 Give thanks for those involved in Gospel4Grampian. Ask for guidance and resources as they seek to develop their outreach.

- Thur
March
1 Join with Christian Aid in offering thanks for all those who have supported their recent campaigns for climate justice and tax justice. May this year bring significant forward changes
- Fri
2 World Day of Prayer - theme from Malaysia 'Let Justice Prevail'
- Sat
3 Do you use this Prayer Calendar? Please let the editor know, with suggestions for its continuation or improvement.

This prayer calendar is prepared for members and friends of the
Kemnay Churches: Kemnay Kirk Church of Scotland
Parish Church and St. Anne's Episcopal Church.



KEMNAY CHURCHES PRAYER CHAIN

Kemnay Parish Church of Scotland and St Anne's Scottish Episcopal Church.

Kemnay Churches have offered a prayer Chain for a few years now.

How does it work? A number of people in the churches undertake to be available to pray for you or anyone you know, usually with their permission, who has a particular need. It could be something urgent or unexpected, like an illness, or an ongoing concern like a family problem.

All you need to do is phone either John and Morag Renton (01467-642219) or Jim and Alison Hunter (01467-642724). You can give them as much or as little detail as you wish and you are assured of confidentiality. We then pass it along to our first contact who then pass it along the rest of the chain. We will continue to pray for the next few days or till advised otherwise – it is always helpful to have updates and outcomes.

Would you like to be part of this ministry? We plan to hold an information and review shortly which you are invited to attend without committing yourself.

Many people have said how much they value this support at difficult times in their lives.

Come and hear more on **Sunday 26 February at 6.30 pm at the Church Centre** when we will have a Praise and Prayer evening highlighting the work of the Prayer Chain.

Another Year Over

That's another year over, and what do you know?

The support from the core of our members and friends has again been fantastic! Not only has our income increased for the fifth year in a row, but we are finding that more and more people are helping the church by using their talents and their time to keep up the good work that the Church carries out, not only here in Kemnay, but elsewhere in Scotland, the U.K. and world-wide.

We have also been fortunate to have received legacies towards the work of the church and due to these and your support and commitment, we are building up a reserve fund again for the future.

Is it not just amazing that we have wonderful church buildings – the Church Centre which includes the Loaves and Fishes Coffee Shop, is host to a variety of groups, meetings and concerts. The Church building itself is bright, modern and welcoming. Members of other churches have remarked how lucky we are to have these facilities.

But, it is not luck – it is God working through His children who has made this possible.

For the support you have given with your money, time and talents we give you our grateful thanks.

If you are not doing so already, please do come along and join us.

Finance & Stewardship Committee



CHRISTMAS 2011

Many thanks to all who were responsible for the Christmas decorations at the Church and Church Centre and those on door duty on PowerPoint and sound and others who help in so many different ways.

Christmas is always a busy time for people and it is specially appreciated that so many give up their time to make the church and centre welcoming and looking good. Thanks

The Christmas appeal last year was for Mental Health Aberdeen which aims to provide support for individual and families in the city and Aberdeenshire. It raised a record £1016.25. Our thanks to everyone who supported this.

David & Rebecca Morton – Malawi January 2012

Christmas Eve 2011

Dear Family and Friends,

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel.”
Genesis 3:15

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.” Isaiah 9:6-7

“Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no-one, he was appalled that there was no-one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him” Isaiah 59:15-16

“Behold, I will create a new heavens and a new earth...Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old man who does not live out his years...They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune...They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain says the LORD.” Isaiah 65:17-25

These are some of my Advent/Christmas thoughts and hopes in the midst of an unjust and suffering world where we are too close to sickness, injustice and death. This past week we have lost adults with stage four HIV/AIDS not previously diagnosed and children with severe malaria within hours on arriving at Nkhoma [why did it take so long to get here? – no fuel, no transport, no money]. The fuel situation is the worst since we have been in Malawi. We have fuel left for about 50 hours of generator time [about 1-2 weeks depending upon how often we have no power]. This week our staff could not find any diesel so what should we do if we run out, let the children on oxygen die or try and buy on the black market for over \$30 per gallon and support the corruption that is contributing to the fuel shortage?

But the Lord is King and we see that as well. The orphaned triplets (pictured below) are growing well in their adoptive homes with our staff. People are finding compassionate healing care here. God is providing so that we continue to have medications and finances to keep things going,

and after many powerless hours from the power company in the previous weeks, we have had continuous power all week except for 3 hours.



Thank you for all of your prayers, support and encouragement. May you experience the joy of our Lord as we remember his coming and anticipate his return to make all things new.

David and Rebecca Morton
Nkhoma Hospital

40 Days in Africa without my bag!

Dr Noel Mack's visit to our Mission Partners
David & Rebecca Morton
at Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi

Sunday
19 February
6.30 pm
at Kemnay
Church
Centre



Gordon Presbytery - World Church Committee

KEMNAY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND - SC014790



The Return

Settling back – December 2011



I have just returned to Central Asia after 3 months back in the UK. It was a wonderful time catching up with friends and family and I'm so grateful to everyone who welcomed me so warmly. The friendship and hospitality I received was unbelievable! It was a really good break and a great chance to talk to people about the work that's going on in the Pamirs and at large. Time at home also gave me space to talk and think about the future and consider my next steps.

Thank you so much to all the friends, old and new, who let me slot back into their lives and made my time at home so special. I will miss you all very much and look forward to staying in touch whilst I'm away and seeing you when I get back.

My Fake Family!

Since being in D. I've been able to catch up by phone with Nazar my host mum and everyone in my team. It's been great to hear how they're doing and to start making plans for work, life and celebrating Christmas. I've also been able to do remote flat hunting with the help of the team. They've found me 3 ground-floor rooms with a plumbed toilet and a little garden, in an area which gets a regular water supply. It all sounds very promising and I'm excited about making it home once I get back.



Planning and Preparation

Another thing that time in D. is affording me is space for work planning and preparation in conjunction with colleagues here. Below are the ideas that I have been discussing and hope to be able to implement at least partially in the coming months:

- To mentor high school English teachers in K. & in our health project target villages in order to develop their personal language skills & to develop their teaching practices & resources.
- To set up a support/mentoring network amongst English teachers.
- To teach basic English skills to women who are already involved in our health education programme in target villages and in K.
- To teach basic English skills to people who are working in the tourist industry.
- To mentor local colleagues in the development of English language skills.

The Road Ahead

So, what does the coming year hold for me? Well, as most of us have come to realise, only God can answer that question! Here are some provisional ideas:



- I hope to *improve my Shugni and learn some Tajik*. This will allow me to work more effectively and deepen my relationships with friends and colleagues. If I am teaching classes by myself then that will push me to develop my confidence, fluency and vocabulary.
- For personal and professional development I will be *attending a leadership course* in February.
- I hope to make my new flat a place where I can do a lot of hosting. I'm really looking forward to *having local friends over and visiting my neighbours*.
- I'm going to seek out opportunities to *practise the mentoring skills* I have learnt.
- An area I am keen to develop this year is *organising and implementing trainings*. Teaching things to others is a great way for me to consolidate new skills and information. My team will hopefully agree to be my guinea-pigs.
- *Deepening relationships with team mates* is always an important focus.
- Seeking God's guidance for making *plans to return to the UK* at some point in 2012.

Over all these other things I will be working at *deepening my relationship with God* and *allowing Him to change me* – sometimes painful but always worth it.

I would greatly appreciate prayer for the following things:

Thank you:

- For good times with family, friends and fellowship whilst I was at home.
- For good health and safe travel whilst I was at home, and a safe return.
- For God teaching me so much more about who He is and who I am in Him.
- For a sense of purpose and excitement about the coming year.
- For such loving friends and family supporting me in this work.

Please pray:

- For wisdom and guidance as I plan for this year and longer term.
- For a good return to life in K.– re-establishing friendships and making new ones and settling into my new home.
- A continued good relationship with my host family.
- That I will be a real blessing to my team and grow in my capacity to love others.

Thanks for your continued interest as I embark on another stint in the Stan.

Kirsty

GOOD MORNING GROUP

What is the Good Morning Group? This is a question that I have been asked twice in as many weeks so let me tell you about this church group. It may whet your appetite to come along and visit us!

We are a group of ladies who meet weekly with the aim of offering friendship and support to each other. We have a varied programme which is usually Bible-based, though not exclusively so. We also look at wider social topics and sometimes take action - for instance during the recent public consultation on marriage in Scotland we discussed the issues, and those who wished wrote letters and signed petitions.

We also try to reach out to others. Locally some of us have formed an occasional singing group to entertain the residents of The Grove, Littlewood Court and the Day Care.

More widely we recently co-ordinated the filling of Christmas boxes for Blythswood Care to send to Eastern Europe and Pakistan. For some years we have been sending money to help educate three young lads in Zambia. Now they have qualified as teachers we are instead donating funds to Malawi to enable a local group of people with disabilities there to make blankets for premature babies at Nkhoma Hospital.

Some days we have guest speakers who tell us about their lives, experiences and interests at home and abroad. We have fun mornings, sharing times, book reviews and occasionally lunches together - and, of course, an annual outing!

Our prayer times are an important part of our gatherings when we bring our thanks and praise to God and also pray for those we know who are in need.

Our Spring programme theme this year is based on the family and we will be looking at some of the miracles of Jesus that brought joy to families, and our Minister will be addressing the question "What is a Family?"

Do come along to the Centre Lounge on a Tuesday at 10.15 and you will be sure of a warm welcome. Copies of our programme are available at the Church door and on the Centre notice board.

Alison Hunter



KEMNAY CHURCH MEN'S GROUP

Tuesday

28 February 2012 7.00 pm

SPEAKER

Dr Murdo Macdonald

SRT Policy Officer

Society, Religion and Technology Project

Helping the church to engage with
ethical issues in science
for over 40 years



Some issues covered by the SRT project in recent years....

- Should we change the law on assisted dying?
- Should we create artificial life forms?
- Suicide among young men: How should the church respond?
- Ethics and the internet: How has the internet changed the way we interact?
- Neuroethics: Who has the right to see what you're thinking?
- What about manipulating people brains?
- Sustainable Agriculture: How do we reconnect with where our food comes from?
- Ethics and economics: What has happened to ethics in economics?



Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

"I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting their time.

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!

‘When you are DOWN to nothing.....God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!



"It's either an appeal to youth culture or the heating's playing up again"

And with Valentine's Day in mind:

Love is the master key to a happy home.

If you work at love, you will find love at work. - *Peter Jackson*

Marriage: requires falling in love many times – always with the same person.

Marriage: has three states – cooing – wedding - billing

When there is room in the heart there is room in the house. – *Danish proverb*

‘Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. – *Tennyson*



February 2012



A SISTER

St Scholastica (whose feast day is 10th February) was the twin sister of St Benedict and they established communities five miles apart. The Rules under which they lived meant that neither of them could enter the other's monastery but they met once a year to talk together about spiritual matters.

At their very last meeting, Scholastica and Benedict spent the day in the talk and prayer but with night coming on, Benedict prepared to leave. His sister asked him to stay; Benedict refused rather than break his own rule by spending a night away from the monastery. Scholastica prayed that God would keep him there and as she did so, a sudden storm began. The rain came in such a torrent that Benedict and his companions were unable to leave. "I asked a favour of you," said Scholastica, "and you refused. I asked it of God, and He has given it!"

Scholastica died three days after the meeting and Benedict saw a vision of her soul ascending to heaven in the shape of a dove.

STORIES & PUZZLES

BIBLE SISTERS

All the answers to this Bible quiz are sisters.

1. They lived at Bethany with their brother Lazarus (John, chapter 11).
2. Her brothers were Moses and Aaron (Exodus, chapter 15).
3. Ruth's sister-in-law (Ruth, chapter 1).
4. Laban's sister who drew water for camels at the well (Genesis, chapter 24).



5. Job had three daughters: Jemimah, Keziah - what was the name of the 3rd sister? (Job, chapter 42)



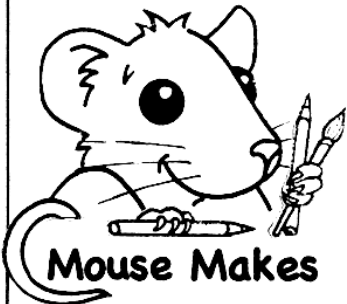
My three sisters all work in the same restaurant.

What do they do?

One washes up, one dries up, and the third one picks up the pieces.



Answers: 1.Mary and Martha 2.Miriam 3. Orpah 4.Rebekah 5.Keren-happuch

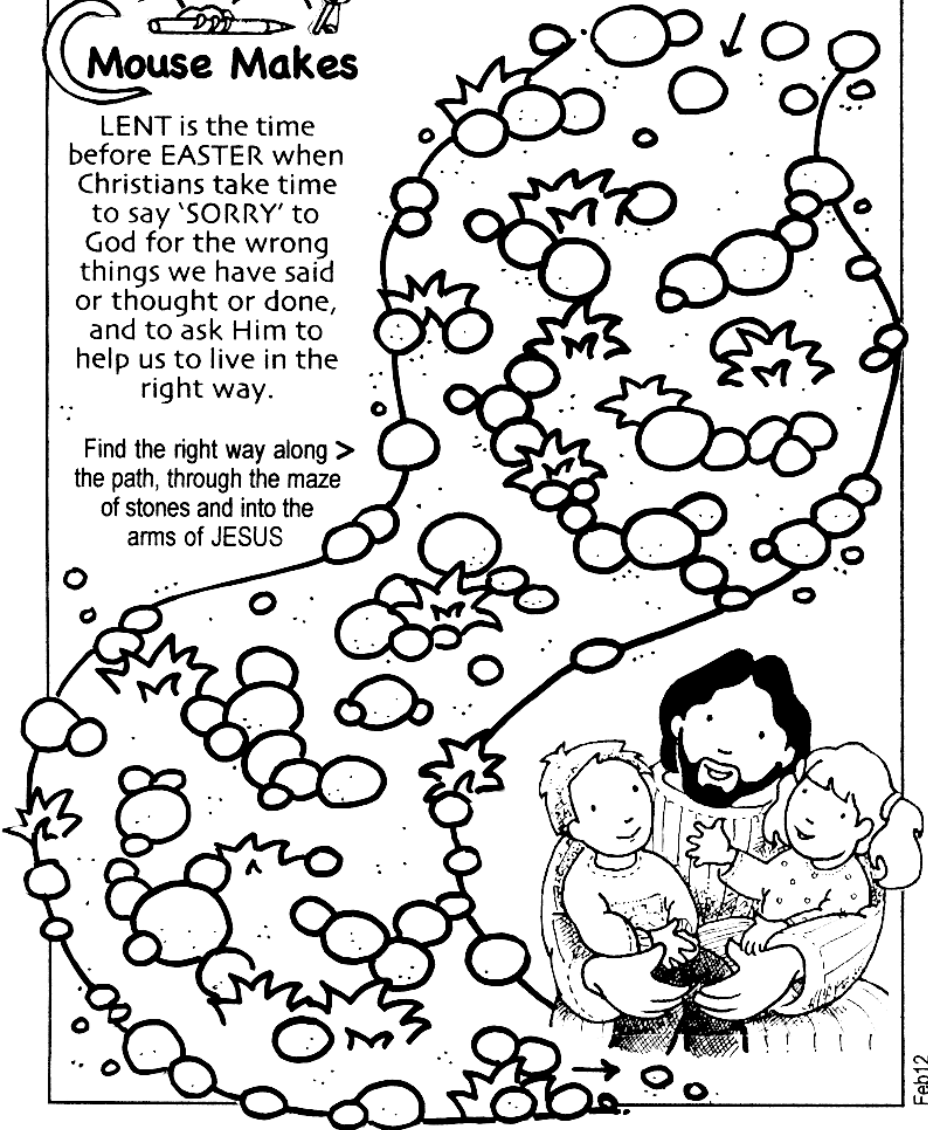


"Teach me how to live,
O LORD.
Lead me along
the right path..."

Psalms 27:11

LENT is the time before EASTER when Christians take time to say 'SORRY' to God for the wrong things we have said or thought or done, and to ask Him to help us to live in the right way.

Find the right way along > the path, through the maze of stones and into the arms of JESUS



Church Responsibilities

FLOWERS

February

- 5 Mrs Rosemary Daly
12 Mrs Margaret Cook
19 Miss Ann Brown
26 Mrs Annie Forbes



March

- 4 Mrs Helen Macquarrie



DOOR DUTY

February

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 | Linda Duguid
Jackie Guild | David Bale
Wendy Cape | Annie Ferries
Peter Cape |
| 12 | Jeff Thomas
Adam Bryan | Joyce Thomas
Margaret Bryan | Jim Hunter
Kathleen Gunn |
| 19 | Pam Pashley
Leslie McKay | Alan Gorvett
Nell McKay | Lynda Gorvett
James Stewart |
| 26 | Diane Porter
Morag Renton | Meryl Mair
Irene Reid | Mike Mair
Margaret Maclean |

March

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4 | Ian Rigby
James McKay | Frazer Simpson
Jeff Thomas | Sheila Simpson
Joyce Thomas |
| 11 | Helen Lal
Sandi Hood | Annie Forbes
Bill Hood | Percy Morrison
Helen Macquarrie |
| 18 | Fiona Gray
Bill Shand | Judith Bale
Muriel Gration | Irene Anderson
Suzanne Brownrigg |
| 25 | Jean Walker
Ian Rigby | Suzanne Bunton
Ann Brown | Irene McCracken
Noel Mack |

April

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Ann Brown
Mike Coull | Andrew Lister
Rita Custard | Graham Collie
Sandra Bruce |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|

(Nominated Team Leaders are highlighted in bold type)