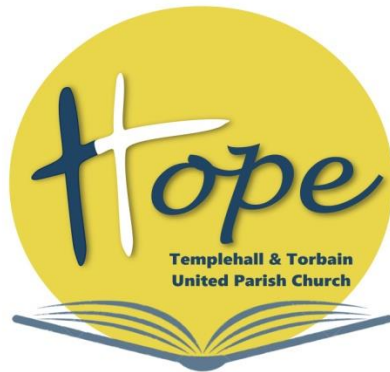


HOPE HERALD



Issue 1

FIRST EDITION - NEW BEGINNINGS!

I can't think that I have ever written anything for a first edition before. Yes it's the first edition of the Templehall and Torbain United Parish Church newsletter.

Exciting times - yes certainly but new challenges too!

We have a choice as a new family. We can either sit back and resign ourselves to the fact that the union of our two churches is simply another step in the inevitable decline of the Church of Scotland or we can grasp with all our hands this new beginning which God has given us. I know which choice I would make and I hope that you all will join me in facing up to the challenge of this new beginning.

It strikes me that there are three cornerstones in the way ahead for us - worship, prayer and outreach. In terms of worship, we are presently constrained by the COVID rules but as they are relaxed we need to make sure that worship is accessible and welcoming to all. Worship is about giving God his place in all that we do. The challenge of course is finding ways to worship Him with which we are all comfortable but yet do not make it difficult for more folk, especially young people to join us.

The second building block of our new beginning is prayer. I am greatly encouraged that we already have volunteers to be involved in leading the collective prayer life of the church and I hope that more will join the prayer team, especially when we are able to meet together face to face. Jesus said "ask and it shall be given to you" and we need constantly to be sharing our needs and concerns with Him if we are to have any hope of succeeding in our mission.

And finally - Outreach. We have already been greatly blessed to have Lauren Jones as our enthusiastic Community Outreach Worker and despite the current restrictions, Lauren has been continuing to build bridges with parents and young families in our community. We now have the challenge of a parish of 17,000 people, the biggest in Fife Presbytery but what an opportunity that gives us! We need to show that the church is still relevant and important in the lives of the community we serve and to look for ways to connect with all ages and especially with those in any form of need.

In His resurrection, Jesus created the possibility of new beginnings for all of us and I firmly believe that, if we have his love at the heart of all we seek to do in our new family of Templehall and Torbain United Parish Church then we will succeed.

Every Blessing,

Brian.

WEE WRIGGLERS:

Wee Wrighlers is moving from strength to strength - we are now hosting 3 walks a week, split between Dunnikier Park and Beveridge Park with up to 17 mums attending on any one day. Our walks range from 30 minutes to well over an hour depending on the attendees (and of course the weather).

Feedback from these walks has been positive and as intended these mums who have had babies during lockdown are making new friends and are building a strong support network. We have also had referrals to our walks from local health visitors and other professionals which is a really positive sign that we are making a strong difference to these women's lives.

We are keen to be moving back to indoor classes over the new few weeks. We are moving into Level 2 of lockdown restrictions on 17th May, which will allow us to hold classes of up to 20 mums, which is the largest class we'll have been able to hold since March 2020. To that end we are hoping to spend a few weeks once we are indoors focussing on sensory activities and gross motor skills (i.e. those skills which involve the whole body), so if you are able to donate **any of the** following it would be much appreciated - tennis balls, emergency foil blankets, new sponges, kitchen utensils such as whisks, ladles, serving spoons etc.

As always I would request that you keep these classes and the mums/helpers and everyone involved in your prayers.

Lauren Jones, Community Outreach Worker.

MONEY MATTERS:

Over the next few months the new Finance Team will be hard at work bringing together the finances of our two former congregations. For the remainder of this year we will not make any changes to the way either congregation members make their Weekly Freewill Offering or Fabric or Maintenance donations.

Former members of Torbain should continue to use their Maintenance Fund envelopes on a monthly basis for the remainder of this year. Former Templehall members will receive a Fabric Fund envelope with this magazine and other magazines issued this year. All of these envelopes should be put in the plate on a Sunday morning or passed to your Elder for return. Please give prayerful consideration to donating to our Fabric Fund. It is an important aspect of our giving and helps ensure that our buildings remain fit for purpose. That purpose of course is the greater glory of God. We will strive however to have common systems in place from the start of 2022 so that we can move forward as one united congregation. There are two issues to which I would ask all members to give prayerful consideration at this time:

1. **MAKE YOUR W.F.O OFFERING BY STANDING ORDER** - Many members already make their weekly offering by bank standing order (either weekly or monthly) rather than using envelopes. I would urge all members to consider switching to this way of giving. It really is straightforward to arrange either using internet banking or by completing a simple form - there are 3 great benefits:
 - It makes managing our finances much easier by ensuring a regular cash flow.
 - It reduces the dangers associated with counting and banking actual cash.
 - It reduces the chance of any virus (COVID 19 and others) being transmitted on cash and envelopes.

If you make your offering by standing order you will be given a supply of card tokens to put in the plate on Sundays.

2. **GIFT AID** - Many members are already signed up for this scheme. As a result last year our two congregations received over £10,000 from the Government. If you pay tax on wages or pensions then please consider signing up for this scheme. For every £1 you donate we receive 25p from the government. Please be assured that the scheme is very securely managed using government encrypted systems AND HMRC does not share any of your tax or financial details with the church.

More information and forms for either of these issues can be had from any members of the Finance Team.

John Bulloch - Congregational Treasurer.

CHRISTIAN AID 2021: MAY 10TH -16TH

Due to Covid 19 restrictions last year we were unable to hold a normal collection for Christian Aid, also because of the devastating effects of the pandemic throughout the World, it is even more vital than ever to help raise money for this essential and very valuable Organisation. (Its 76th years since it was founded in 1945).

During the past 76 years Christian Aid has been providing help and support to people and communities throughout the world - many of which are the poorest in the world. Water for instance which we all have the luxury of taking for granted is unfortunately in short supply for many. Due to the effects of climate change, millions of people across the World are threatened daily by storms, flash floods and drought. Christian Aid is working with many communities to help build reliable water systems and in doing so giving these communities a better future.

Christian Aid are building earth dams to collect and store rain water from where they pipe the water into taps, ensuring that whole communities can benefit. This enables land to be farmed and crops grown which then ensures families no longer go hungry.

Brian conducted a Christian Aid Service on Sunday, 9th May where he highlighted some of the work carried out by Christian Aid and there partner organisations in some of the poorest countries in the world. We give thanks to God that we are so very fortunate to live where we do. Let us show our compassion and love to those who struggle daily' to those who struggle even to have enough water to sustain or feed their families;

WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE - LET US ALL STAND TOGETHER -

Donations to this valuable and life-giving work can be made through the Christian Aid Envelopes which are available at Church on Sunday mornings and can be returned to the collection plate or directly into the Church Bank Account (sort code 80-16-84: Acc/No. 00395075 ref Christian Aid). Please donate to the vital work of Christian Aid. All donations are greatly appreciated. - Fiona Cunningham.

WORLD MISSION STAMP APPEAL 2021:

During the Covid 19 pandemic support for the Church of Scotland's 2020 stamp appeal has faced some challenges - therefore our 2021 appeal will continue to benefit The Women's Development Centre in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Their project supports women and girls who have been victims of rape and sexual violence.

The WDC gives these women somewhere to stay and supports them in caring for their children, helps them return to education if they wish and trains them in skills they can use to make a living when they leave. The WDC has a social enterprise and cafe where the women can work and sell their hand-made products.

The team at WDC care for and heal girls who are vulnerable and often discarded by their families. It is impossible not to be moved by what they do. Help support them by collecting used stamps which are then sold on.

For more information and to support the appeal, see <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world-mission/get-involved/campaigns/stamp-appeal>

THE LEPROSY MISSION:

The members of Templehall Friendly Hour have collected for TLM for many years but two years ago it was opened up to the church when a few more people joined the Friendly Hour in giving. Around 200,000 people are diagnosed with Leprosy every year. It is reported in 127 countries with 79% of all new cases occurring in India, Brazil and Indonesia. Every two minutes someone is diagnosed with this disease. There are more than 100 laws explicitly discriminating against people affected, both on a physical and social scale. Despite the pandemic which has made matters worse the work still continues - if you would like to contribute please speak to Sandra Naylor who will see about arranging a small collecting tub for you, it may be possible to get Prayer Diaries. It is hoped that with more help,, this disease which was around in Jesus' time will be eradicated by 2035.

BRING JOY THIS CHRISTMAS:

You really wanted to know that there are only about 200 days until Christmas didn't you?!! But when it comes to deciding to take part in BLYTHSWOOD CARE'S ANNUAL SHOEBOX APPEAL by filling a shoebox or drawstring bag it's never too early.

Blythswood is looking ahead to its Shoe Box Appeal 2021 and to helping vulnerable communities across Eastern Europe. It is hoping to be able to deliver boxes and bags to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. And so the challenge to us is to continue in the tradition of both our former congregations and reach out to help these vulnerable people. Scarves, hats and gloves are always welcome as are toiletries and clothing, as well as toys and games - a fuller list can be found on the Blythswood Care website, which, amongst other information gives details of knitting patterns. When Covid regulations permit, printed checklists will be available in both church buildings.

Around 60 boxes were collected by the combined congregations in 2020 - let's see if that total can be exceeded this year.

THE GUILD:

By the time you read this magazine The Guild will have held its last meeting on Zoom for this Session.

It was held on the 17th May with Rosemary Campbell, Convener Presiding. The Speaker was Ian Whyte, General Secretary of the Guild and he spoke on the subject of “The Guild For Today” – going forward in faith – the 3-year strategy!

It is hoped to begin the new Session possibly in August but most likely in September.

The Guild has been open to men as well as women for 25 years and we welcome new members. There is only one man present at this time and he would be grateful for some others to join him!

Sandra Naylor (Press and Publicity).

OBITUARIES:

Sadly two prominent members and Elders of former Torbain Church have died - Cis Dewar on 2nd December; 2020 and George Blair on 15th March, 2021.

Remarkably both Cis and George were Ordained as Elders in July of 1971 and gave almost 50 years of Service to the Church. Cis was a former Session Clerk and George a former Assistant Session Clerk. Both were iconic figures with Torbain and although frailer latterly their commitment to the Church was undiminished to the end of their lives.

We were further saddened by the deaths at a young age of Andrew Elston on 22nd March 2021 and Euan Stalker on 28th April; 2021.

TEMPLEHALL AND TORBAIN UNITED PARISH CHURCH

*If you require to contact our
Ordained Local Minister, Rev. Brian Porteous*

**Phone 01334 653561 (home) or
07796 694413 (mobile)
Email: bporteous@churchofscotland.org.uk**

**Session Clerk, Gordon Thomson - (mobile) 07985 122242 or
Email: gthomson28@sky.com**

**Community Outreach Worker;
Lauren Jones -
(mobile) 07913 611018 or email torbainkirkcaldy@gmail.com**

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00 a.m.

Templehall Building: 23rd May; 6th June and fortnightly

Torbain Building: 30th May; 13th June and fortnightly

**Services are recorded and available to watch a day or so later on our
Facebook pages and YouTube channel.
See Website for details.**