
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Board meets on Tuesday 16th January 7.30pm.

Bible Rally on Saturday 13th January 3pm, Bristo Baptist church; speaker Pastor John Shearer from Musselburgh Baptist.

FWO envelopes are available at the Information desk. See Agnes C.Guthrie or Stewart Hamilton for more details.

The Homely Hour resumes again on the 11th of January at 2:30pm. New Members will be especially welcome.

The Ladies Bible Study takes place on Wednesday mornings in one of the downstairs rooms in the Church Centre. We meet together in the Centre at around 9.45a.m where we have a tea or coffee together before going downstairs. The time of Bible Study, prayer and fellowship lasts until around 12 noon. Our next meeting is this Wednesday 10th January. We would be delighted to have more ladies join us. Please come along and share with us as we study God's Word and prayer for each other's needs and the needs of our congregation and the wider church family.

The Centre Hostesses are currently experiencing difficulties in staffing the centre on the current opening times. This is due to the fact that we are losing staff for a number of reasons. We are therefore looking for assistance from people in our congregation for help, one day a week or once every 2 weeks would be a great help whether it be a morning or afternoon slot. We are currently open Monday morning Wednesday, Thursday morning and afternoon and Friday mornings. Mornings are 9.30 to 12 mornings and 2.00 till 4.00 in the afternoons. I would also appeal to those that can to come along and support us by having a cup of tea/coffee and enjoying some home baking and a pleasant chat with our friendly hostesses. All proceeds goes into our church funds. For further information please phone me, Jack Flint on 0131 621 9666 or contact Margaret Mossman on 0131 661 6617.

newrestalrig

an evangelical church of scotland

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2007

service of covenant renewal.

FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

In some ways it is hard to believe that we are already well into a new year. The New Year has of course often been associated with the making of new resolutions and fresh commitments. Very often these New Year resolutions have more to do with our waistlines than anything else. After the excesses of the holiday period thousands of us resolve to eat better (by that I mean less) and exercise more. Such resolutions are in and of themselves no bad thing if we carry through on our commitments.

There is of course a sense in which the New Year lends itself to the making or renewing of commitments. Perhaps that is why in the Methodist tradition the New Year and in particular the first Sunday of the New Year is often given over to a

From the earliest days of the Methodist societies John Wesley invited the Methodists to renew their covenant relationship with God. Wesley drew much of his inspiration for this 'Covenant Service' from the Puritans and in particular the writings of Joseph Alleine. The first service is believed to have taken place way back in 1755. According to Wesley the service proved to be 'rich and meaningful...many mourned before God and many were comforted. It was a time of remarkable blessing.'

The thinking behind the Covenant Renewal Service is that it gives Christian believers a formal opportunity to recommit themselves to God. And at the heart of the service is a covenant prayer in which all God's people are invited to respond afresh to God's covenant love and grace. The prayer reads as follows:

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will,

rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing, put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,

exalted for you or brought

low for you;

let me be full, let me be empty,

let me have all things, let me have nothing;

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

*Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.*

So be it.

And the covenant made on earth,

*let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.*

of 2007 and each day, renew our commitment to our great and loving God.

In His Service,

David L Court

Perhaps we might take this prayer as our own in these opening days

RESPOND!

“God shows His own love to us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” This is Romans 5:8 and is a very succinct statement of what God has done for us in that Christ’s death is an outpouring of Gods love. This fact alone is pretty overwhelming if we really think about what it means. But added to that is ‘while we were yet sinners’, or as verse 10 says ‘yet enemies of God’, He poured His love towards us in Christ’s death. This adds the extra dimension that His love wasn’t to people who loved Him and called out for His help, but to ‘sinners’ and ‘enemies’ who didn’t love Him and called out for His destruction!

To see the full consequences of this in our life we need to be mindful of each of the facets presented to us here

We were sinners and enemies of God, which put us in a position of great peril.

God loved us

Christ did what we could not do for ourselves in reconciling us to God.

This is the Amazing Grace that we sing about, the mercy that transforms us and the example that should show us the way to act towards the rest of the world. While few of us would have true enemies, we can all respond to Gods example of providing to others exactly the thing they most need even when they aren’t our friends and when providing it costs us dearly.

CHANGES TO THE CHURCH FAMILY

Change of Address

Mrs K. Laing

From: 17/3 Hyvot Loan

To: 21 Moredun Dell

Miss M.C.B Diaz

From: 43 Hawthornvale

To: 40 MortonHall Crescent

Mrs O. Dale

From: Wood Court, 224 Willowbrae Road

To: Maranatha, Drumaran, Enniskillen,

C^o. Fermanagh, N. Ireland.

Deaths

Mrs E. Newton

5 Northfield Broadway

on 12.11.06