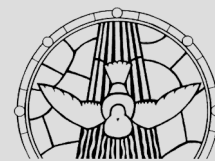


# Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland October 2025 Journal



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

### *Still We Sing: The Enduring Voice of the Scottish Psalter in a Changing World*

On Sunday 5th October 2025, the voices of the North Fife Cluster will rise in the Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland, not as echoes of nostalgia, but as living soundwaves of faith reverberating across time. From Newport to Balmerino & Wormit, from Balmullo to Leuchars St Athernase, from Tayport to Creich, Flisk and Kilmany, we gather not simply to remember a text, but to reawaken its meaning. We mark 375 years of the Scottish Metrical Psalter, not as an antiquarian exercise, but as a bold affirmation: the Church still sings and in singing, it survives. At first glance, it appears to be a regional festival. But beneath the hymns and harmonies lies something far more profound: a story of how a people, a tradition, and a world wrestling with transformation continue to find expression—truthfully and tenderly—through song.

What we will sing that day is not a polished performance. It is prayer in poetry, forged in the spiritual fires of history. From the searing honesty of *Psalms 139* to the timeworn comfort of *Psalms 23*, and the stirring cadence of "*All People That on Earth Do Dwell*", these songs are not bound by one tradition, language, or continent. They are theological, yet not abstract; poetic, yet never evasive. They capture lament and praise, rebellion and trust, personal anguish and communal solidarity. In this sense, the Psalter does what few texts can: it meets us where doctrine and deep humanity intersect. The church walls that reverberate with these words are built of stone and story, just like the Psalms themselves. They have outlasted monarchs and movements, schisms and secularisation. And they continue to carry the voice of a people, even as that people reshapes itself in real time.

#### **A Songbook for a Fragmented Nation**

The Scottish Metrical Psalter was born into a storm. The year 1650 found Scotland in crisis. Its political structures were shaken, its religious identity contested, its people divided by loyalty, survival, and spiritual integrity. In that fragile moment, the Church did not respond with a proclamation of institutional power. It offered a book—not of laws, nor sermons, but of songs. Psalms rendered in metrical form, designed not to be read by clergy, but sung by the people. By crofters and soldiers, by mothers and ministers. This was not a liturgical luxury. It was a radical act of spiritual egalitarianism. It democratised worship. No need for pipe organs or parchment scrolls. All that was needed was the human voice, tuned by suffering, resilience, and faith. This Psalter became a portable sanctuary. It journeyed into homes, fields, jails, and gravesides. It sustained a people navigating collapse and gave voice to convictions too deep for prose. And in this, it joins a wider story—echoing the way African American spirituals rose from the cotton fields, how liberation theology found rhythm in Latin American resistance, or how Taizé chants drift over borders and language barriers. The Psalter is, in its own way, a Scottish liberation theology: simple, sturdy, and sung.

#### **Singing Through the Tremors**

Today, in 2025, we do not sing as those gazing wistfully at the past. We sing because we, too, live in disruption. Across Scotland, and indeed across much of the global Church, the structures that once defined faith communities are shifting. Congregations are merging. Buildings are closing. Clergy are stretched. Budgets tighten. The metrics of health feel increasingly detached from the movements of the Spirit. And yet here we are. Still singing. The Psalms are uniquely fitted for this moment, not because they solve our crises, but because they speak through them. They do not flinch from desolation or decay. They stare into uncertainty and declare, with trembling lips: "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble... Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way*" (Psalm 46:1–2). This is no triumphalism. It is what Walter Brueggemann calls "truthful speech"—not doctrinal escapism, but faithful witness amid the ruins.

*Continued overleaf...*

# OUR CHURCH'S VISION STATEMENT

***Our vision is to be a church which inspires people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.***

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*Minister's Letter continued...*

## **The Church That Sings Is the Church That Survives**

What we will experience at the Festival of Psalms will be more than a religious service. It is a kind of holy resistance. To sing in uncertain times is a theological act. It refuses the narrative of decline. It defies despair. It reshapes community, not around ideal conditions, but around a shared, resilient voice. We are not waiting for the Church to return to a mythical golden age. That age never existed. We are walking forward, carrying with us a liturgy that binds memory and imagination, and building a future rooted in tradition, but not trapped by it. The Psalms are not nostalgic. They are prophetic. And to sing them is to say, again and again: God is not done with us yet.

## **A Whisper at the End of Life**

In Highland lore, there is a story of an old crofter on his deathbed. Offered formal prayers, he declined them all. He whispered instead, "Psalm 23. That'll do." Not because it was sentimental, but because it was sufficient. It had accompanied him through war, widowhood, and winter. "*The Lord is my Shepherd...*" was not a metaphor to him. It was muscle memory. The Psalms endure because they travel well. They carry truth across borders, generations, and crises. They are as relevant in Edinburgh as in Douala, as at a funeral in Fife as in a refugee camp in Gaza.

## **A Future Built on Song**

As the Church continues to adapt globally and locally, it is tempting to see song as something supplemental, something extra. But what if, instead, we saw it as structural? What if the Psalms are not a relic of a slower age, but the infrastructure of the Church to come? Let us teach them to our children. Let them become breath prayers in our anxieties. Let them fill our kitchen tables, nursing homes, and picket lines. Because when the strategies and spreadsheets fall away, what remains, what always remains, is song. And so, we return to *Psalm 100*, which calls across centuries and continents: "*Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.*"

Let us do just that. Again. And again. And again.

**Amen. And pass the Psalter.**

*Rev. Dr. Amos B. Chewachong (PhD)*

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## Monthly Prayer Requests

2 Peter 2:2-3

*"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.  
His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness  
through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."*

We are requesting prayers for a replacement for Chris and to continue praying for him in his new workplace. Pray also for unity in the clusters as we work together.

Quote: Mother Teresa

"God will never, never, never let us down if we have faith in Him. He will always look after us. So we must cleave to Jesus. Our whole life must simply be woven into Jesus."

Thank you.

### **Newport Church Prayer Group**

Ann Barona, Nancy Pong, Neil Merrylees, Diane Miller, Jane Campbell, Catherine Johnston, Katie Cameron and Alison Heywood



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## Safeguarding

As mentioned in the September Journal, this is a reminder that all elders and volunteers require to attend safeguarding training. All training must be redone at least every 5 years (preferably sooner), and you redo the highest level that you have previously done when appointed in your role: so someone who is a volunteer and trustee would only have to redo the Trustee Training, and a coordinator/panel member would redo the Advanced Training. For details of upcoming courses please contact me.

**Lesley Gray**, Safeguarding Co-ordinator (lesley.gray@talk21.com)

## New Blood Required for manna Management Committee

In March 2026 manna cafe will celebrate 20 years of existence! The manna Management Committee is a group of friendly and dedicated people who are caught by the vision of manna to be a long term presence in our community, showing the love of Jesus Christ in all the relationships which arise out of the project, including fund-raising towards a Christian Youth Worker and supporting Fair Trade. Some of us have been around for a long time and it really is a moment where we need fresh input if we are to continue in the long term.

Does that vision strike a chord with you? A stirring within that you could maybe contribute in some way to manna's ongoing contribution to the community here?

If you feel sparked in any way by this or know anyone who might be and wonder if you might be able to play a part by being on the manna Management Committee, please get in touch with me for an informal, no obligation, chat.

Please keep manna and its future in your prayers as we look ahead beyond our 20-year anniversary.

Thank you.

**Alison Heywood**, 07719 367 347, [alisonbob@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonbob@btinternet.com)



## Thank You!

Thank you, for the beautiful bouquet of flowers we received on 24th August at Chris' farewell service.

Thank you for the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and self control you have shown us over the last seven years.

With love and blessings

**Chris and Katie Cameron**

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers I received for my birthday.



**Sheena Gray**

So nice to receive the lovely flowers on Sunday. Thank you.

**Ann Barona**

The lovely flowers I received for my birthday were very much appreciated. Thank you.

**Irene Navickas**

I would like to add my thanks for the beautiful bunch of flowers I received from the Church on the occasion of my birthday. It was lovely to meet Mandy who delivered the flowers and of course we had a lovely chat.

Thanks,



**Margaret McNicol**

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers received on my 80th birthday. I have been overwhelmed with the gifts and cards I received. I am very lucky.

**Annette Jack**

Many thanks for the lovely bouquet of roses and lilies I received from the church after my accident, and thanks also to Pam Lawrence who acted as deliverer that day.

**Brian Griffiths**



## Holy Communion

We will be holding our Service of Holy Communion on Sunday 26th October 2025 at 11am.



Everyone is warmly welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.

If you are unable to join us in person please get in touch for a Zoom link and join us online.

## Advance Reminder!

Our **Remembrance Sunday Service** on Sunday 9th November will start at the earlier time of **10:50am** to allow us to mark the silence at 11am.



## Harvest Thanksgiving

On Sunday 28th September we held our annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service in the Church. It was an all-age service led by our minister but with contributions from some of our young people. Huge thanks go to them for a lovely service.

The bake sale after the service also went down a treat! See the Sunday Club article for the total raised!

During September, culminating at our Harvest Service, we had a collection for the local Foodbank which was VERY generously supported. Thank you to everyone who donated - over 300 items were delivered to the Tay Bridgehead Foodbank who were very appreciative.



A huge thanks also to the flower team for giving of their time and talents to decorate the church so beautifully especially at Harvest Time.



*Photos courtesy of Claire Owen*

## Review of Church Roll

Our Church keeps a roll of its members, who have joined by profession of faith, or by transfer of certificate, or by resolution of the Kirk Session; and also of adherents who, although not members, regularly attend worship.

We are required to review our rolls annually to ensure that they accurately record those who are taking part in the worship, mission, and service of the church. However, we continue to retain those who are unable to attend worship through ill-health or infirmity. But it is equally worthwhile for each of us to reflect on our own commitment to the work of Christ's church through our dedication of time, talents, and money, and also through the bonds that hold the family of God together. If you are not yet a member and would consider becoming one, please speak to the Minister or your Elder, and we can discuss the next steps.

The process of reviewing the roll also involves removing the names of those we have lost contact with over the years. Members have full voting rights on congregational matters, whereas adherents can only vote on certain matters. As the church reflects on and discusses the Union of the churches in our corner of Fife, it is important that those who are the living stones come together in the name of the Lord God, whom the writer of Hebrews calls "the builder of everything".

So please make this time of review a time also to review your relationship to the church, and if you would consider membership, please get in touch.

**Graham Johnston**  
**Session Clerk**

A reminder that our Church Prayer Room is a lovely quiet space available for reflection and prayer. It is available whenever the Church is open and you are encouraged to make use of it.  
Why not drop in before the Church Service for a quiet moment?  
Some may wish to pray out loud but there is no pressure to do so.  
Not sure where it is - just ask!



# manna matters



We are delighted that we have a new work placement starting this month. One of our longest standing volunteers, Ross Husband, is eligible for the Fife Council placement scheme. Ross will be working four days each week and will be an invaluable help in the run up to Christmas.

We are already filling the gift shop with lovely gifts to help you find inspiration in fulfilling your Christmas shopping list. Christmas cards are now back in stock so please come and have a browse.

We are now in soup season and in need of another regular soup maker. If you think you can help please speak to me or Morag for more details.

God bless  
**Diane Miller**



**manna** is open Tuesday – Saturday 10am - 4:30pm

manna (01382) 542781

Diane Miller (Manager) (01382) 541141 & [dianemillermanna@gmail.com](mailto:dianemillermanna@gmail.com)

Morag Rowley (Assistant Manager) (01382) 541157 & [moragrowley.4@gmail.com](mailto:moragrowley.4@gmail.com)

manna is calling for volunteers ... Are you 18+ and can you spare a couple of hours a week gaining lifeskills, working as part of a welcoming, friendly team? Duties can include baking, soup-making, serving, chatting and more—please contact Diane Miller (contact details above) for more information.

## Community Chest



We are continuing to collect foodstuff for our Community Chest Appeal to support three different appeals during the year - the Rio's foodstuff collection (for inclusion in their lunch provision programme or for distribution in conjunction with the local foodbank), the Tay Bridgehead Foodbank, and St Salvador's Food Cupboard in Dundee.

During October we will be supporting St Salvador's. Suggested donations include (but are not limited to) pasta, tins of fruit, beans, UHT milk, toiletries, household products (washing up liquid, laundry detergent, etc.), sanitary goods, diluting juice.

There continues to be a great response to this appeal and as the cost of living is still high, the need of some people may well be greater, so please consider supporting this if you can.

A large container is available each Sunday to receive foodstuff, toiletries, etc. and any donations, no matter how small, are gratefully received.

Many thanks for your support.



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## Daily Reflections

Our minister, Rev Dr Amos Chewachong, is continuing his series of daily reflections. These are uploaded to the church website ([www.notchurch.co.uk/index.php/reflections/](http://www.notchurch.co.uk/index.php/reflections/)).



**Please remember** to get in touch with any questions, comments, suggestions or items for future editions.

Postal address on back page

email: [newportcos@btinternet.com](mailto:newportcos@btinternet.com)

facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/newportontaychurchofscotland>

Visit our website - [www.notchurch.co.uk](http://www.notchurch.co.uk)



# The Guild Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland

## Guild Rededication Service

Our Guild Rededication Service was held on 14th September. The theme was based around the Guild Motto: 'Whose we are and Whom we serve'. Most members of the Guild took part, each leading a small part of the service. The readings were from Ruth 1 vs 6-17 and John 12 vs 1-8.

The National Guild Projects were highlighted during the service and everyone was given a leaflet about them to increase awareness among the congregation. As a reminder they are:

**Bibles for Bairns**, partnering with the Scottish Bible Society.

**Build My Church** in Bulgaria.

**Operation Hope** in the Christian communities of Upper Egypt, and

**Let's Build a House** a partnership between the Guild and CrossReach



## Wednesday Afternoon Club

**This runs from 1.30pm to 3pm each Wednesday in the Agnes Duncan Room.**

These are continuing into the autumn. Attendance is generally small with five or six guests (but sometimes more!) each week. All are welcome to come for the refreshments (tea/coffee and biscuits) often with some home baking, and company (with plenty of opportunity to chat). Thank you to Margaret Wright who coordinates everything and to Anne and Brian Griffiths who help almost every week.

**If you would like to help, please do get in touch with Margaret Wright: Tel (01382) 543007.**

## Fundraising for Ukraine

We are delighted that the Sunflower cards with Catherine Johnston's design and postcards with a design by Jan Winch are still on sale through manna. Please choose them to send your thank you notes, best wishes or just because they are lovely!

All the money we raise from them is transferred to the Newport and Zolotarevo Twinning Association (NAZTA) to support our friends in western Ukraine.

## Vigil for Peace (in Ukraine and other conflict areas):

**Every Thursday evening at 7pm on the Church Green and on Zoom**

We continue each week to pray for peace and to bear witness to the ongoing suffering of people affected by conflict wherever that may be. Please do join us on Thursdays outside the Church, starting promptly at 7pm and lasting 5-10 minutes.

If you don't feel able to come in person, why not join on Zoom. Please ask Neil Merrylees or Claire Owen for the link (it's the same every week).

## National Guild

For anyone wanting to know more about the National Guild have a look at the pages on the Church of Scotland website: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the-guild>

## Ways to support your Guild

If you have any suggestions about other projects we can start or get involved in please do let us know. Why not think about joining us? (Contact Catherine Merrylees or any Guild member for more information).

## The Guild Team

## Request Card

- Would you like to receive a visit or a telephone call from the Minister, your District Elder or a member of the Pastoral Care Team?
- Would you like to inform the minister of someone in need of a visit or a call?
- Are you interested in becoming a member of our church?
- Are you keen to arrange a baptism or wedding in our church?

....if so, please fill in one of the 'Request Cards' entering details on the reverse, before posting it in the yellow box provided and you will be contacted soon.

Request Cards can be found on the side of the yellow post box, which is located on the small table beside the font as you leave the church by the link corridor.

Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland	
Request Card	
I would like ... (please tick)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To receive a visit or speak on the phone with the Minister	<input type="checkbox"/>
To receive a visit or speak on the phone with my District Elder	<input type="checkbox"/>
To receive a visit or speak on the phone with a member of the Pastoral Care Team	<input type="checkbox"/>
To inform of someone in need of a visit or in need of a phone call	<input type="checkbox"/>
To explore joining the church	<input type="checkbox"/>
To ask about a baptism or a wedding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please fill in the details overleaf → and post this card in the yellow box.	

# Sunday Club Update

## Teaching in September and October

We have been looking at key characters from the Bible starting from the beginning of the Old Testament. So far we have looked at Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Isaac. We enjoyed the all-age Harvest Service on 28th September. We have also been preparing a special song for the Festival of Psalms on 5th October.

We'll continue looking at biblical characters in our October sessions, moving onto Joseph and Moses. We'll have 2 Funday Sundays around October half-term. We are very grateful to all members of the church family who help with Funday Sundays. This is an opportunity to share an activity with the children, with some ideas being board games, origami or other craft activities, baking, a sport or a scavenger hunt. It's really positive for the children to have the opportunity to meet different adults in the church family. If you would be able to help support this year's Funday Sundays, please let Fiona Hutchinson know (email: [fionah2208@gmail.com](mailto:fionah2208@gmail.com)).



## Update on Sunday Club Sponsorship through World Vision

As you know, we have committed to sponsoring a child through World Vision. Subair is 9 years old and lives in Mozambique. The children keep up-to-date with his progress through frequent reports received from World Vision.

For further information about World Vision and its work, do have a look at their website: [www.worldvision.org.uk](http://www.worldvision.org.uk)

## Fundraising

We continue to fundraise through the regular weekly offerings of the children and donations from members of the congregation and other friends. We will also be holding some bake sales this year - our first one was on Sunday 28th September and we raised £183.20! Many thanks to everyone who baked or bought some of the lovely cakes!

**Emma Wisher**

On behalf of the Sunday Club Team

## Youth Update

Sunday morning activities for the youth are continuing and it is hoped to restart Sunday evenings again soon when volunteers and plans are in place. If you feel you could help with either of these groups, or you would like to help with Sunday Club or crèche please speak to me.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering and helping our wonderful young people.  
Thank you.

**Catherine Johnston**

## Parish Register

### Change of Address

Mrs Sheena Bremner  
From: Newport  
To: Newcastle

Dist 8

*"My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,  
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."  
Isaiah 32:18*

## Prayer Requests

If anyone has a prayer request for the church Prayer Team, and cannot easily access the prayer slips and prayer boxes in the church and manna, please do not hesitate to contact Alison Heywood on 07719 367 347 or email [alisonbob@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonbob@btinternet.com) and she will pass the request on straight away to the Prayer Team WhatsApp group.

## Pastoral Care Group

This is a small, recently formed group with a twofold aim. The intention is to act as a friendly link between the church and those who can no longer attend in person by visiting them on a regular basis. We would also offer pastoral support to anyone experiencing some temporary difficulties. In all these contacts any information will be treated with confidentiality.

If you would like to talk to one of us, or think you know of someone who might like to do so, please contact Margaret Imlay on 07840231659.

**Steven Stewart**

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[www.stevenstewartfunerals.co.uk](http://www.stevenstewartfunerals.co.uk)

## Calendar of Worship

### Sunday 5th October 2025 at 11am Festival of Psalms Cluster Service

**Beadle** : S Johnston

**Welcome** : J Johnston

**Flowers** : L McCrickard      **Delivery** : M Imlay

**Coffee** : A Gray, L Robertson, A Waugh +  
C McCowan

**Crèche** : J Taylor

**Sunday Club** : J Wylie, S McCowan

**Young Persons' Elder** : L Gray

### Sunday 12th October 2025 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

**Beadle** : N Merrylees      **Reader** : A Heywood

**Welcome** : M Imlay

**Flowers** : E Owen      **Delivery** : E Thomson

**Coffee** : F Harris, M Shiels, M Wright + P Owen

**Crèche** : J Johnston

**Sunday Club** : Funday Sunday

**Young Persons' Elder** : F Harris

### Sunday 19th October 2025 at 11am

Service led by Miss C Owen

**Beadle** : D Macleod      **Reader** : S Johnston

**Welcome** : F Robertson

**Flowers** : M Clark      **Delivery** : A Wilman

**Coffee** : M Heron, J Johnston, Y Simpson +  
G Johnston

**Crèche** : F Harris

**Sunday Club** : Funday Sunday

**Young Persons' Elder** : A Heywood

### Sunday 26th October 2025 at 11am Service of Holy Communion

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

**Beadle** : F Ritchie      **Reader** : K Cruickshanks

**Welcome** : M Shiels

**Flowers** : M Imlay      **Delivery** : A Barona

**Coffee** : J Campbell, L Hundal, F Hutchinson +  
K Campbell

**Crèche** : D Miller

**Sunday Club** : Godly Play

**Young Persons' Elder** : W Imlay

### Sunday 26th October 2025 at 6:30pm

Thanksgiving Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

### Sunday 2nd November 2025 at 11am Service of Celebration

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

**Beadle** : C Owen

**Welcome** : A Barona

**Flowers** : J MacCallum      **Delivery** : E Owen

**Coffee** : P Broadbent, M Cuthbertson, K Farquhar +  
J Cuthbertson

**Crèche** : J Taylor

**Sunday Club** : S Kent, S McCowan

**Young Persons' Elder** : G Johnston

## Contact Numbers

**Minister** : Rev Dr Amos Chewachong  
17 East Station Place, Newport-on-Tay  
Telephone: (01382) 542893  
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**Session Clerk** : Graham Johnston  
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**Organist** : Hannah Chan  
Telephone: 07476 372 311  
email: [notcos.organist@gmail.com](mailto:notcos.organist@gmail.com)

**Church Office** : 1 Blyth Street,  
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**Finance Convener** : Philip Owen  
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**Hall Hire** : Jane Johnston  
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## Next Edition

If you would like anything included in our  
November edition of the Church Journal  
please email

[newportcos@btinternet.com](mailto:newportcos@btinternet.com)  
or have it in the hands of Claire Owen

by **Sunday 19th October 2025.**

Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland  
Scottish Charity Number - SC006758