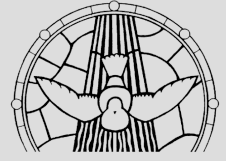




# Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland Winter 2025 Journal



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

### The Christ-Child and the Quiet Work of Healing

The beginning of this Advent season meets me on the heels of a journey home. I have just returned from Cameroon, where I spent two weeks on Compassionate Leave, standing with my family as we honoured the passing to glory of loved ones who helped shape the very roots of our story. Those days were rich with memory. I reconnected with relatives I had not seen for years, welcomed friends who came with quiet condolences, and felt again the strength that rises when a community gathers around its grief. Among those we celebrated were Ma Abeng Justine and my grandmother-aunt, Mami Paulina. Their lives were different in many ways, yet they carried the same steady light that continues to guide us now.

Ma Abeng was a mother, mentor, and servant of the church whose voice never needed to be loud to be heard. Her wisdom shaped pastors, strengthened congregations, and guided leaders across the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon. She taught me that ministry is both a blessing and a burden, and that true greatness is found in service, not status. In her final years, when her physical strength grew thin, her son, Maître Abeng Roland, offered a devotion that became its own living homily. Each act of care, each morning greeting, each tender gesture spoke with a depth no sermon could match. Watching him, I was reminded of Viktor Frankl's insight that meaning is discovered through love, through suffering, and through the choices we make when life stands at its most fragile. He lived that truth with grace. He offered the flowers while she could still see and smell them.

Mami Paulina, on the other hand, carried her wisdom in quiet acts of love. She raised my mother, shaped our family, and taught us values that became the foundation of our lives. She lived simply, yet she carried a depth of compassion that reached across generations. Even without attending church regularly, she lived the gospel through kindness, fairness, and the belief that love is better than hate. Her life showed me that holiness can speak through humble acts. She blessed my steps from Wum to the university, to the seminary, and then to the United Kingdom. Her words and prayers follow me still.

Their passing reminds me of something grief often teaches. When someone we love dies, the world feels quieter, as if a great tree has fallen in the forest. But the silence is not empty. It holds memory, teaching, laughter, and the wisdom they leave behind. And in that silence, we hear a deeper truth. Loss is not the end of the story.

Advent tells us the same truth.

We hear Isaiah say, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2). We hear Matthew remind us that Jesus is Immanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23). Before the shepherds hurried to the manger, before the angels filled the sky, the message was already clear. God steps into our sorrow. God takes on our human story. God comes close enough to be held. Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote, "Death is not the end. It is the final celebration of a life that is turned toward God." I carried that sentence with me as we laid our loved ones to rest. Their lives now rest in the hands of the One who defeated death by becoming a child in Bethlehem. This is why Advent is a lifeline for anyone ending the year in grief. The Christ-child is not a symbol for a comfortable world. He is God's answer to a hurting one. The incarnation assures us that God does not stand far away. God steps into the darkness with us. God shares the tears, the empty chairs, and the long nights. The manger tells us that hope does not wait for perfect conditions. Hope is born in the middle of pain.

For many in our community, this year has ended with grief. Some of you are preparing for your first Christmas without a spouse, a parent, a child, or a dear friend. Some are carrying invisible pain. Advent does not deny these realities. It meets them with hope. It tells us that even when the year ends in sorrow, the story does not end there. Christ comes to stand beside us in the quiet, in the confusion, and in the empty chairs around our tables.

*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...*

As I returned to Newport-on-Tay, I felt again the joy of being home. This community is our home away from home. Here we live, serve, and raise our children. My family and I are grateful for your prayers while I travelled and your kindness when I returned.

As we walk through Advent together, I invite you to hold two truths close. First, love leaves a mark that death cannot erase. I see that in the legacy of Ma Abeng and Mami Paulina. And I trust you see it in the memories of the loved ones you carry in your heart. Second, the Christ-child brings a hope that does not disappoint. His light reaches even the darkest corners. His peace steadies us when words fail. His presence assures us that God has not forgotten the world. So may this Advent season steady your heart. May it give you courage to face what still hurts and the confidence that God is shaping a future filled with grace. And may the promise of the child in the manger be an anchor for you as this year draws to a close.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

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

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### The Perils of Saint Ayebin

During a recent interview, I was intrigued by an answer given by a candidate seeking a training placement for the ministry within the Church of Scotland. In response to the following question 'Is Change the only constant in the Church today?' she responded by saying "You come from the Dundee area so you will know all about the perils of Saint Ayebin". Sadly, I didn't, so I made a mental note to investigate the virtues or otherwise of this Saintly character when the interview ended.

She went on to explain, "we once had a minister from Dundee who had a seemingly inherent resistance to change, or any suggestion of change. Every proposal presented at the Kirk Session, from the format of the Communion Service to the biscuit selection for after-service refreshments, were instantly discredited and ultimately rejected with the same concluding argument - but its aye bin!" Such was the frequency of this negative utterance that in his retirement back to Dundee he was lovingly assigned the nickname 'Saint Ayebin' by Session members.

In this period of radical change, as we fulfil the requirements outlined within the Presbytery Plan and transition towards a union with our neighbouring churches, it is inevitable that such a transformation will impact on each and every one of us, and in a myriad of different ways. But unlike David Livingstone's travels, this is not a journey into the unknown ... an unmapped territory fraught with danger, for Jeremiah (29:11) reminds us :

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

The Bible reassures us that we are not alone in our journeying; we have hope and a future. God walks beside us, guiding our steps and holding our lives in His hands, ensuring that we all, individually and collectively, fulfil the purposes he has planned for us. The resulting future will however be different but greatly enriched through both spiritual and material blessings.

We must therefore lean into our faith and navigate the changes, supporting one another as we journey onwards - trusting in God's ultimate plan and not faltering by looking back to the way 'its aye bin!'

**Francis B Robertson**

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## Review of Church Roll

As mentioned in the October Journal, 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

## Fife Presbytery Plan Implementation

In the latest step of the Fife Presbytery Plan, on 1st January 2026, Balmerino and Wormit Church will join with Creich, Flisk and Kilmany Church to become one church. Under the agreed Basis of Union, they will have one Kirk Session, and services will take place every Sunday in Creich, and either Balmerino or Wormit until the church building at Balmerino is sold.

The next proposed step in the Presbytery Plan will be a union with ourselves in Newport. Under the Presbytery Plan, this should take place within the next two years.

Since the two present Interim Moderators of these churches, Rev Dr Amos Chewachong and Mr Bill Imlay are from Newport Church, there is a clear conflict of interest. So Rev Dr Jonathan Humphry will become Interim Moderator of the new charge of Balmerino, Creich, Flisk, Kilmany and Wormit Church of Scotland.

## Thank You!

It was such a lovely surprise when Eleanor popped round with some flowers from the church.  
Thank you so much.

**Lynn Honeyman**



Thank you very much for the lovely flowers I received.



**Margaret Eddy**

Many thanks for the lovely flowers received on the occasion of my birthday. Very much appreciated and a fine chat with Eleanor.

**Mike Latto**



I was so touched to receive the lovely flowers which meant so much after the passing of my dear Mum. Thank you Eleanor for delivering them to me. I really enjoyed reminiscing about our Mums.  
Thank you so very much.

**Evelyn Wood**

A Big Thank You -  
to the team who decorate the Church on all special occasions, to all who provide the flowers each week, and to those who deliver them.  
Please be assured they bring comfort, joy and love to all who get them.

**Margaret Wright**



Thank you to all in the past year who have gifted the church flowers or delivered them and to those who have stood in for me in my absence - Eleanor Owen and Margaret Wright. Thanks also go to Dorothy Collison who has retired, after many years, from writing the birthday cards for inclusion with the flowers for those special occasions.

I am delighted that the church looks so beautiful with your flowers. You have made my job so much easier.

**Frances Durward**

## Parish Register

### Death

1st Nov Mrs Jean Ingram  
Cupar Dist 98

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and  
burdened, and I will give you rest."  
Matthew 11:28*

## Cluster Nativity

It is hoped to have a  
Cluster Nativity in 2026,  
so please keep an eye out  
for meeting dates.  
For more information please  
speak to Jane Campbell  
or email the church.



## The Guild Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland

**Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year!**

### Return of Summer Concerts: Wednesdays@One 2026

Following four series of very enjoyable concerts from 2022 to 2025, plans are already shaping up for next year. Watch this space for the dates.

### Wednesday Afternoon Club

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

These are continuing through the winter with a break over Christmas and New Year. Attendance is generally small with five or six guests (but sometimes 12 or 13!) 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.**

This Club will take a break over Christmas and New Year to give the helpers a well-earned break.  
There will be no Wednesday Club on 24th and 31st December.



*Photograph taken on Wednesday 12th November at the Wednesday Afternoon Club courtesy of Claire Owen.*

### 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. Throughout the year we have collected over £400 for this.

### 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





## Music, Merriment and Carols

It's December already! And it's the time of the year where it's full pelt until Christmas Day and then organists and ministers can put their feet up...unless the latter preach at a church named 'St Stephen's', and in which case, it'll be Boxing Day.

This year, I have organised a Christmas Concert – the last one being two years ago – and it promises to be a fun and musically filled afternoon. Please come along to Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland on Saturday 13th December at 4pm for an afternoon of piano music and duets performed by my fantastic pupils, guest musicians playing a couple of jazzy numbers, traditional fiddle music, and singing songs, with congregational carols played from the organ too.

This event isn't ticketed, but there will be a suggested donation of £5.00 per adult at the door. The proceeds will go towards the maintenance of our church building.

It would be great to see you there; please spread the word and bring your friends and family!

**Hannah Chan**



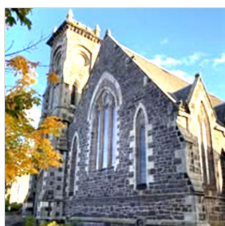
**Christmas Concert**  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm

Featuring music performed by  
young pianists and guest musicians

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Church of Scotland  
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Suggested donation £5.00 per adult

## Joint Service



It was lovely to welcome the congregations of Balmerino & Wormit and Creich, Flisk & Kilmany to our service on 16th November. As Amos was on Compassionate Leave the service was taken by the Fife Presbytery Clerk Rev Alec Shuttleworth. If you want to know what a pencil sharpener, curling tongs and a pan have in common with going on holiday have a listen to the service on our website! Fellowship was shared in the hall after the service and we hope to have more services together in 2026.

## Remembrance 2025

On Remembrance Sunday we welcomed youth organisations, wreath bearers and members of the community to our church service. Following this service there was a short service of Remembrance at the War Memorial. Sadly this service took place in the rain but there was still a good turnout.



*Photographs courtesy of  
Claire Owen*



**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning**

**We will remember them.**



*Photograph from  
Kirsteen Cruickshanks*

Thanks to the generosity shown at the teas and coffees following the Remembrance Sunday service we were able to boost our donation to Poppy Scotland by an extra £50.00.

A special thanks to Mairi Shiels for her efforts in producing the gorgeous shortbread, and to Kirsteen Cruickshanks for the decoration appropriate for the occasion.

## Christmas Gifts

As has become our practice in recent years, we are again collecting **new and unopened gifts** which will be gifted to children less fortunate this Christmas in the North East Fife area.



Gifts donated up to 7th December will be donated to the Toy Drive. The **final date** for gift donations is **Sunday 14th December** and any gifts received on this day will be donated to Tay FM's Mission Christmas Appeal.

If you are able to buy an extra gift for a child/young person up to the age of 18 then these can be brought to the church and put in one of the donation boxes at the doors. Gifts should be **unwrapped**. If you are unable to buy a gift but would still like to contribute, then money can be given to Claire Owen or put in an envelope marked on the outside with 'Christmas Gift' and placed in the offering plate.

Suggested Gift Ideas :-

- 0-3 YEARS - Teddies, Musical Toys, My First Toys, Rattles, Books, Play Mats
- 3-5 YEARS - Cars, Dolls, Jigsaws, Dress Up Items, Playdoh, Colouring Books and Pencils
- 5-7 YEARS - Lego, Art and Craft Sets, Skipping Ropes, Make Your Own Photo Frame, Snow Globe, Jewellery Set, Action Figures, Board Games
- 7-9 YEARS - Footballs, Board Games, Stationery Sets, Remote Control Toys
- 9-12 YEARS - Board Games, Make Up Sets, Nail Varnish
- 12-18 YEARS - Toiletries, Jewellery, Electrical items (Straighteners, Mini-speakers), Aftershave and Perfumes, Puzzles, Make-up, Books, Lunch Boxes, Duvet Sets



## Christmas Light Night

Christmas Light Night in Newport was on Thursday 27th November. Our Church welcomed 3 groups - Little Beehive Nursery, Wormit Primary School Junior Choir and The Bandits - and it was lovely to see the Church full of people with some coming in for the first time! The church remained open for a time in evening for quiet reflection. Our hall was host to Santa's Grotto and a bouncy castle whilst in the Agnes Duncan Room there was a Craft Fayre. Newport has such a great community and friendly atmosphere and it is good to have the church in the heart of it all and open to everyone.



*Photographs courtesy of Claire Owen*



## Used Stamp Collection

As usual, used stamps are being collected. Christmas is approaching so there will be more mail and therefore more stamps. Please cut around the stamps leaving a small border and put them in the postbox at the back of the church or pass them on to Muriel McCabe. The current appeal is to help a hospital in Gaza. A poster is on the noticeboard outside the hall with more details.

The stamp collection will cease by February 2026.

Thanks to all.

**Muriel McCabe**



# Christmas Greetings

Wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and all the best for 2026.

**Claire, Journal Editor**



Wishing all a Merry Christmas  
and a peaceful New Year.  
God Bless.

**Neil, Morag, Andrew and Peter Rowley**

Wishing all members of our Church family a  
very Merry Christmas.  
May the peace and joy of Christ's birth fill your hearts  
and homes this festive season  
and the year to come.  
Many blessings,



**Kirsteen, Kenny and Callum Cruickshanks**

Seasons Greetings to our church family  
and Best Wishes for the New Year.

**Richard & Margaret McNicol**

Wishing all in my church family a Christmas time  
touched by the message of hope as we remember  
the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



**Alison Heywood**

**Catherine, Neil and Lily Merrylees** want to wish  
everyone a peaceful Christmas and every blessing for  
the New Year

May God bless you all with love, joy and  
peace this festive season.

**Eleanor, Philip and Claire Owen**

A Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year to all,

**from the Campbells**



Wishing everyone a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

**Linda & Francis Robertson**

Wishing all of our Church family a blessed Christmas  
and a Happy New Year,

**from Graham, Jane and Catherine Johnston**

Let us remember the true reason for the  
Christmas season and rejoice in the birth  
of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.  
Wishing you all peace and happiness this  
Christmas and all the best for 2026!

**Chris and Katie Cameron**

Wishing one and all a safe, happy and blessed Christmas.

**Ann Barona**



I wish our Church family all the peace and joy  
of Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

**Margaret Wright**

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2026.

**Fiona Harris**

Wishing all our church family every blessing this Christmas. We celebrate the true meaning of  
Christmas - the birth of Jesus. He came into our world to be the light of the world in our darkness.  
May all our hearts be filled with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and share that love with  
everyone around us this Christmas. May the memories of loved ones no longer with us bring a  
smile as we remember the times we shared with them in the past.  
Merry Christmas,

**from Diane Miller & family**





# manna matters



May you find time at this busy time of year to remember the true meaning of Christmas and what we are celebrating. May you find time to relax with family and friends, and remembering with a smile loved ones no longer with us.

manna will close on Christmas Eve at 3pm. We reopen on Tuesday 6th January at 10am. This will give all our volunteers and staff a well-earned rest. We are grateful for all our team of volunteers and all the time they give to manna.

We would also like to welcome new volunteers to manna in 2026. Please come and join the team.

Save the date. We have booked the church hall for Sunday 8th March from 2pm - 4pm to celebrate manna's 20th birthday!! We would like everyone who has helped us over the last twenty years to join us in celebrating this huge milestone. More details in the next Journal.

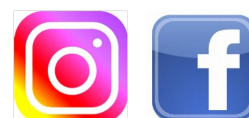
God bless.

**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)



## 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 December we will be supporting the Tay Bridgehead Foodbank and in January we will support 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. The Foodbank are always short of tinned meat, tinned veg, tinned/packet soup and breakfast cereals.

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.



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# Sunday Club Update

## Teaching in November

In November we were pleased to welcome members of local youth organisations to help us mark Remembrance Sunday. Together we made a poppy wreath from hands and flower-shaped cutters as well as decorating some biscuits. We have also continued with our series looking at biblical characters, with Joshua ("I will give you every place where you set your foot") and then Joseph the Carpenter and a recap of the Christmas story in preparation for Advent.



## Nativity and Funday Sundays in December

In December we will be practising our nativity play again kindly written by Jane Campbell. We'll perform it in the service on Sunday 21st December. The following 2 Sundays will be Funday Sundays. We are very grateful to all members of the church family who regularly 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 willing to help support this year's Funday Sundays, please let Fiona Hutchinson know (email: [fionah2208@gmail.com](mailto:fionah2208@gmail.com)).

## Teaching in January

In January we'll return to our focus on biblical characters, considering some from the books of Joshua and Judges.

## 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.

## Emma Wisher

On behalf of the Sunday Club Team

# Youth Update

Remembrance was at the heart of our thoughts in November, and we read Jesus' words in John's Gospel chapter 15, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." In thinking both about those who went to war but did not return, and also Jesus' death on the cross, each act of sacrifice helped us understand the other more deeply. We turned our hands to art and craft to mark the season of remembrance.

Sunday evenings in manna have restarted, with the usual mix of games, hot chocolate, snacks, and a message. As planned, manna is running on alternate Sundays. Speak to Graham or Catherine for more information.

Much of society celebrates Christmas earlier each year, and the Youth Group is no exception! To allow for Nativity Service rehearsals we considered Advent a week early. As a result of the discussions and study, our teenagers are supporting the Church's Toy Drive in December.

And still thinking about Christmas, we are planning a trip to Catalyst, a Youth For Christ event in Dundee, on the evening of 14th December, and as a result we will not be meeting in manna that day. And, as if we haven't thought about Christmas enough, we are also inviting the Youth to lead our Watchnight Worship at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

## Graham Johnston

**Steven Stewart**  
Funeral Directors

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The Post Office is back to running on both  
**Wednesdays and Fridays**  
from 9:30 - 11:30am  
in the Kirk House Complex.





## Christian Aid Christmas Appeal: No Crib for a Bed

This Christmas, Christian Aid is focusing on the conflict in the DRC – Democratic Republic of Congo - and uses the story of one woman, Chance, to illustrate the situation.

Chance is married with 8 children and ran a successful shop in Minova, DRC. Armed conflict broke out, swept the country, and hit Chance's community. Her shop was looted, her neighbour raped and the area was bombed. Chance realised that to survive, the family had to escape immediately. She gathered her children, including her new born baby, and left, as they were. Her husband stayed behind. After a 50 mile trek Chance and the children reached a camp for displaced people where they now live in a temporary shelter. She has nothing of value and believes her husband is dead. Like most people in the camp she needs everything – food, clothes, bedding, utensils, medicine. Life is very hard for her. She has found some work in nearby fields and earns about 44p/day for food for the children.



The humanitarian emergency in DRC is one of the largest global hunger crises of our time with more than 27million in need of food. Almost one half of deaths of children under 5 is due to malnutrition. Christian Aid is working with trusted partners to provide money to those most in need.

Even as I write this I find it impossible to grasp what this woman and her children have experienced and continue to experience daily.

This Christmas appeal is special as all donations will be matched until the appeal reaches £125,000. This means if you give £1.00 it will be matched to make £2.00, £5.00 becomes £10.00 etc. And of course we can make our giving even more, if we pay tax, by adding Gift Aid to our donation with no cost to ourselves. Red envelopes will be in the pews in December and you can also give online by looking for "Christian Aid Christmas Appeal 2025".

I am very, very aware of the many calls for help made to this congregation, especially at this time of year. But please, and because of the time of year, can you spare a little more for our global neighbours who are "living" in conditions we cannot even begin to imagine?

Thank you.

**Margaret Imlay**



## Monthly Prayer Requests

*"He showed you, o man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with your GOD."*  
Micah 6:8

To walk humbly, we recognise God's role as the sustainer of life and acknowledge that salvation is a gift, not a merit.

As we think of the birth of our precious Saviour, Jesus Christ, pray you will know his peace and his presence filling your heart and home.

Let us give thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father, for the gift of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen

### 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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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!

## Calendar of Worship

### Sunday 4th January 2026 at 11am Reflective Service

Service led by Mr W Imlay

**Beadle** : J Campbell

**Welcome** : M Shiels

**Flowers** : D Collison                      **Delivery** : C Barr

**Coffee** : A Barona, K Cruickshanks, Elaine Thomson + D MacLeod

**Crèche** : J Taylor

**Sunday Club**: Funday Sunday

**Young Persons' Elder** : F Ritchie

### Sunday 11th January 2026 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

**Beadle** : K Campbell                      **Reader** : L Robertson

**Welcome** : A Barona

**Flowers** : A Griffiths                      **Delivery** : F Durward

**Coffee** : F Durward, A Heywood, M Rowley + F Ritchie

**Crèche** : F Harris

**Sunday Club** : A Gray, F Hutchinson

**Young Persons' Elder** : C Owen

### Sunday 18th January 2026 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

**Beadle** : L Gray                              **Reader** : W Imlay

**Welcome** : K Cruickshanks

**Flowers** : A Barona                      **Delivery** : A Gray

**Coffee** : P Laurence, S Myles, Elizabeth Thomson + W Imlay

**Crèche** : J Johnston

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

**Young Persons' Elder** : E Thomson

### Sunday 25th January 2026 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

**Beadle** : F Robertson                      **Reader** : E Owen

**Welcome** : C Johnston

**Flowers** : M Martin                      **Delivery** : A Heywood

**Coffee** : A Gray, L Robertson, A Waugh + P Owen

**Crèche** : D Miller

**Sunday Club** : S Kent, E Wisher

**Young Persons' Elder** : P Owen

### Sunday 25th January 2026 at 6:30pm

Communion Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

### Sunday 1st February 2026 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

**Beadle** : A Heywood                      **Reader** : S Johnston

**Welcome** : L Robertson

**Flowers** : N Pong                              **Delivery** : M Imlay

**Coffee** : F Harris, M Shiels, M Wright + C McCowan

**Crèche** : J Taylor

**Sunday Club** : Godly Play

**Young Persons' Elder** : M Wright

## Contact Numbers

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## Mailing List

If you would like to join our mailing list to receive a weekly email with the intimations, details of upcoming events and the Order of Service and Zoom link for the Sunday service, or if you would like to receive this Journal as a PDF, please email

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



## Calendar of Worship

### Sunday 7th December 2025 at 11am Second Sunday in Advent

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

**Beadle** : A Barona

**Reader** : F Ritchie

**Welcome** : D Miller

**Flowers** : A Wilman

**Delivery** : M Shiels

**Coffee** : F Harris, M Shiels, M Wright + C McCowan

**Crèche** : J Taylor

**Sunday Club** : All teachers, Nativity Preparation

**Young Persons' Elder** : N Merrylees

### Sunday 28th December 2025 at 11am End of Year Service

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

**Beadle** : A Gray

**Reader** : J Cuthbertson

**Welcome** : F Robertson

**Flowers** : M Wright

**Delivery** : M Cuthbertson

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

**Crèche** : D Miller

**Sunday Club** : Funday Sunday

**Young Persons' Elder** : L Robertson

### Sunday 14th December 2025 at 11am Third Sunday in Advent

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

**Beadle** : M Wright

**Reader** : R Caird

**Welcome** : M Imlay

**Flowers** : K Cruickshanks

**Delivery** : A Waugh

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

**Crèche** : J Johnston

**Sunday Club** : All teachers, Nativity Preparation

**Young Persons' Elder** : D Miller

### Sunday 21st December 2025 at 11am Fourth Sunday in Advent Nativity Service

Service led by our Young People

**Beadle** : M Shiels

**Welcome** : J Johnston

**Flowers** : A Gray

**Delivery** : P Laurence

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

### Wednesday 24th December 2025 11:30pm Watchnight Service

Service led by Mr G Johnston



### Thursday 25th December 2025 at 11am Christmas Day

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong



**manna opening hours for  
Christmas and New Year**

**Tuesday 23rd Dec 10am- 4.30pm**

**Wednesday 24th Dec 10am - 3pm**

**We reopen at 10am on Tuesday 6th  
January 2026**

**A very Merry Christmas and Happy New year  
to you all**

## Next Edition

If you would like anything included in our February 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 18th January 2026.**