

Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland February 2026 Journal



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Time's Up: A New Year, A New Net

Picture the quiet banks of the River Tay on a cold January morning. You cradle a warm cup of coffee, absorbed in thought, when someone passes by and, without introduction, says simply, "Drop everything—follow me." No preamble, no rationale, no clear destination. Just an invitation. Startling? Absolutely. But this is precisely what unfolded along the shores of Galilee. Jesus approached four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John—and with nothing more than a few words, he called them away from their nets, their boats, their routines, and their livelihoods. They followed. At first glance, it appears impulsive, even irrational. But it was anything but random. Mark's Gospel does not begin with theological exposition or detailed genealogy. It opens with movement. With urgency. With a call. And that call does not land on the elite, the educated, or the politically connected—it lands squarely on ordinary working men. This is both the scandal and the beauty of the kingdom: God initiates with grace, not credentials.

I write to you from Cameroon, where Florence and I have travelled on compassionate leave following the passing of my cousin. In this space of mourning, grief slows time and sharpens perspective. It strips life down to what truly matters and draws our ears closer to the eternal. Across this continent and from the depths of personal sorrow, the voice of Christ rings out still: "*The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news*" (Mark 1:15). It is no mere New Year's slogan. It is a summons—a sacred interruption. A divine wake-up call.

The language Mark uses is telling. This is not *chronos* time—the simple ticking of the clock—but *kairos*: a moment of significance, a threshold of transformation. In this *kairos* moment of 2026, Newport-on-Tay stands at its own shoreline. Like those early disciples, we are being invited to move. Not necessarily geographically, but spiritually, communally, and missiologically. Jesus calls us not to passive belief, but to embodied discipleship—to lives of prayer, presence, and participation in God's work.

And who does he call? Not merely pastors or elders. Not only those with religious training. He calls each one of us. Whether we find ourselves in the rhythms of retirement, the thick of parenting, the pressures of work, or the silence of grief, the call finds us. As theologian Miroslav Volf so eloquently puts it, "*God does not need our success, only our faithfulness.*" The question is not whether we are qualified, but whether we are listening. To follow Christ is not to be promised clarity. Quite the opposite—it often means stepping into terrain marked by uncertainty. The first disciples could not have imagined where that call would lead: conflict, suffering, transformation, joy. They left the known for the unknown, but they were never left alone. And neither are we. As I navigate personal grief, I am reminded that divine companionship is not reserved for the victorious; it is promised in the valley, too. God does not erase our sorrow but walks with us through it, making even the unknown holy ground.

So, what might this call look like among us in the months ahead? It may take shape in the quiet resolve to pray for those navigating change. It may find expression in offering time to local ministries or extending a hand to someone we've fallen out with. It might involve reaching out to a neighbour who has distanced themselves from church, or simply pausing to ask, "Where is Christ calling me to follow more fully this year?" We are not left to wonder whether our ordinary lives matter. In the beloved hymn "*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky,*" the refrain affirms our calling: "*I will hold Your people in my heart.*" This, too, is discipleship—not always dramatic, but deeply faithful. Holding one another. Carrying burdens. Choosing love over indifference. In doing so, we mirror the One who called those first disciples and who still walks the shores of our lives today.

Let this year not simply pass by in familiar rhythms. Let it mark a turning. A *kairos* season in which we respond to Christ's voice—not with perfection, but with willingness. Like those on the shores of Galilee, may we say with courage and hope:

"Here I am, Lord. I will follow."

Rev. Dr. Amos B. Chewachong (PhD)

OUR CHURCH'S VISION STATEMENT

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

Parish Register

2025 Death

28th Dec Dr Moira Clark
Newport-on-Tay Dist 19

Members Removed by Certificate

29th Dec Mrs Dianne Clark & Mr Stewart Clark
Newport-on-Tay Dist 1

Change of Address

From: Mrs Sheena Gray Dist 34K
Newport-on-Tay
To: St Andrews Dist 36

2026 Death

6th Jan Mr John King
Newport-on-Tay Dist 32

New Member by Certificate

9th Jan Mrs Mary Coombs Dist 1
Newport-on-Tay
From: Gatehouse of Fleet and Borgue
Parish Church of Scotland

New Members by Resolution of the Kirk Session

14th Jan Mr David Husband &
Mrs Katherine Husband Dist 22
Newport-on-Tay
From: St David's High Kirk,
Dundee

On 14th February, Valentine's Day is celebrated by many, recognising the love they share for others.

Throughout this Journal you will find some Bible verses and verses of hymns about love, reminding us of the love that God, our Father, has for us.



LOVE.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous.

Love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish.

Love does not take offence, and it is never resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins, but delights in the truth.

Love is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Service of Union

On the 1st of January two of our neighbouring congregations, Balmerino & Wormit, and Creich, Flisk & Kilmarnock, united to form a single church. The church is holding a Service of Union at 7pm on Thursday 12th March in Wormit Church, and has extended a warm invitation to us all. Please join in the celebration if you are able.



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Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver;
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy host above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

manna 20th Birthday Party

Sunday 8th March 2026 2-4pm

Newport church hall

light buffet provided

all volunteers past and present welcome

email Diane to confirm whether or not

you will attend

dianemillermanna@gmail.com



Christmas 2025

The run up to Christmas is always busy but is also very special. We had our usual Sunday morning services during Advent with the addition of Nativity, Watchnight and Christmas Day. The Church (as always) was beautifully decorated and thanks go to the Flower Team, the team who decorated both the hall and Church trees and of course a huge thanks to Tayfield Estate for the trees.

In the week before Christmas we welcomed Newport Primary School pupils and their families for their Christmas Assembly - lovely to see the church full.

As has become our tradition, we had a gift collection for the Toy Drive. 150 gifts along with £145 of cash donations were handed over and they were very appreciative of the donations. Many thanks to everyone who helped make Christmas a little brighter for some local youngsters.

Claire Owen



Private & Confidential



Toy Drive

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Children and Families

Direct Line: 03451 555555 ext. 445781
e-mail address Victoria.Leonard@fife.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: TD 2025

Date: January 2026

THANK YOU FROM THE TOY DRIVE

Toy Drive 2025 was our 13th year as a not-for-profit organisation and one of the most generous years to date. We had over 35 Collection Points covering the North East of Fife.

We received referrals for **143 families**, which equated to **318 individual children**. 151 Girls and 144 Boys, all ranging in age from newborn to 18 years. An additional donation was also made directly to the pupils at Kilmarn School.

These referrals came from a variety of sources including; Education, Health, Social Work and the Voluntary Sector.

We are proud to have fulfilled every single request including a number of last-minute referrals and some emergencies that were out of area. This is thanks to the continued generosity of individuals, schools, businesses and charities supporting Toy Drive. As such every child received at least: a selection box, a book, a stocking filler and a main gift – all presented in a Christmas bag.

It also meant no deadline for those busy frontline professionals referring families.

We received some truly generous donations both from individuals, organisations and long time supporters. Thank you again to those who donated and for your generosity.

Warmest regards and we look forward to the next Toy Drive.

Victoria Leonard
Social Worker & Toy Drive Coordinator
Children and Families Team, Cupar

MANNA matters



Happy New Year to you all.

2026 is a big year for manna. We celebrate twenty years of manna. I am currently creating a list of all those who have helped in any way in manna over the past twenty years - it's been quite an undertaking. Mixed emotions looking back over the manna story so far... Some volunteers have moved on to other things. Sadly others are no longer with us. There have been an army of people involved since we opened. There are further details about our party in this Journal.

If you have any photos or memories you would like to share with us as we approach this milestone please do. I do hope as many as possible will attend the party to celebrate the blessings God has given us through manna. I know I feel privileged to be part of this story.

Ross has completed his 13 week placement and we are currently awaiting funding for another placement. If you know of anyone who might be interested in a placement please let us know.

Alison is stepping down for our Management Committee and we are looking for others to join our group. Please give it some prayerful thought.

God bless.

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

MANNA (01382) 542781

Diane Miller (Manager) 07707 241338 & dianemillermanna@gmail.com

Morag Rowley (Assistant Manager) (01382) 541157 & 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 February we will be supporting the Rio. 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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www.thenewportclinic.co.uk

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/).



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



Postal address on inside back page

email: newportcos@btinternet.com

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



Visit our website - www.notchurch.co.uk

New Blood Required for manna Management Committee

In March 2026 manna cafe will celebrate 20 years of existence! I, as chairperson of the manna Management Committee, will be retiring from that position and from all organisational aspects of manna at that point.

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?

And just what does manna contribute to our community?

We offer an intentional welcoming and inclusive space for anyone who walks through the door. We have a history of giving work experience placements to help people on their employment journeys, giving positive, confidence-building experience to school youngsters, building friendships and connections between volunteers and not least, giving outlets for creative baking urges!

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

alisonbob@btinternet.com

07719 367 347



Thank You!

Many, many thanks for the beautiful flowers which we received from the church. They were very much appreciated.

Liz and David McCrickard

.....
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers Jim received from everyone at the church; it meant the absolute world to us.

Angie and Jim Livingstone 

.....
Last Sunday, I was delighted to receive a beautiful bunch of flowers from Moira's funeral brought by Catherine Johnston. Thank you so much.

Catherine Merrylees

.....
Thank you for the lovely flowers and to Frances for delivering them. It was a pleasure to meet her.
Regards.

 **Jean MacCallum**

.....
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers we received in December for our birthdays which we celebrate within a few days of each other.

Anne and Brian Griffiths

Many thanks for the lovely poinsettia which I received for my birthday just before Christmas. It is still blooming happily and the gorgeous red is such a lovely splash of colour at a gloomy time of year. Thank you.

Margaret Imlay 

.....
Thank you very much for the church flowers I received recently. It was very kind of you.

Ella Dempster

.....
Many thanks for the beautiful flowers I received for my birthday back in December. They were gorgeous and lasted about 3 weeks.
Very much appreciated.

 **Muriel McCabe**

.....
Thank you very much the lovely flowers I received recently. They were my favourite colours.

Irene Navickas

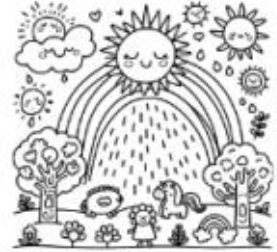
.....
We are both grateful for beautiful flowers and cards received on recent birthdays. They were much appreciated.

David and Kay Husband 

PUZZLE PAGE

Heavenly Code Hunt

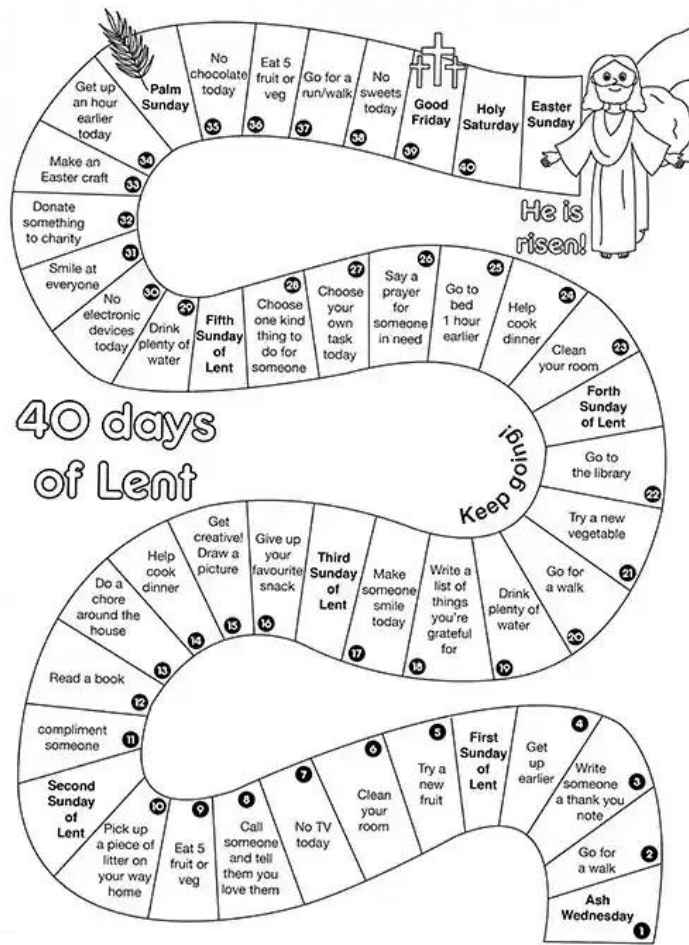
Ephesians 1:3 • Each number represents a letter from the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the number to reveal the coded words.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
15	27	6	34	14	41	11	30	19	48	5	23	39	12	29	7	33	18	45	2	25	37	8	43	17	31

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- 30 14 15 37 14 12 23 17 _____
- 45 7 19 18 19 2 25 15 23 _____
- 6 30 18 19 45 2 _____
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- 37 14 18 45 19 29 12 _____
- 45 6 18 19 7 2 25 18 14 _____
- 14 7 30 14 45 19 15 12 45 _____
- 7 15 45 45 15 11 14 _____

Lent



Editorial

It seems no time at all since we were rushing around in the run up to Christmas (can I say that word as early as February?!) and working out what gifts we should buy and what our plans were for 'whatever day of the week it was between Christmas and New Year'! And like school teachers like to look forward to the next holiday, in the Christian calendar there is always something just around the corner. February sees the arrival of Lent. During Lent, Christians usually give up certain things as a form of sacrifice and self-discipline. The act of giving up something of personal value, whether it be a food, drink, or activity, serves as a reminder of the suffering and pain that Jesus experienced during His Passion and the dependence on God for sustenance. It also encourages individuals to prioritise God in their lives and to Engage in holy practices such as prayer. The goal is to prepare the heart for the celebration of Easter and to deepen the spiritual journey of the individual.

Like other things I sometimes like to take a slightly different view! Giving up something has many benefits and will only strengthen our faith throughout Lent. However, I wonder whether Lent is not just an opportunity to give something up, but an opportunity to give something back. Why not use the 40 days to start adding regular bible study, prayer or meditation into your day. Or start a collection for the foodbank, charity shop or a local appeal. Why not use this time of self-sacrifice to support others - volunteer for a shift at manna, visit someone you know lives alone who would appreciate an hour of your time, attend the weekly vigil for peace in the church grounds.

While the activity above is aimed at our youngsters with 40 different things to do during Lent, I would ask you to think about your own Lenten journey and what small differences you could make. As we know our little act, sacrifice or offering doesn't feel like much, but if 40 people each did 40 things during Lent, suddenly that feels like quite a big impact.

Whatever you give up, give back or pray about during Lent, know that God will be with you every step of the journey.

Every Blessing.
Claire

The Guild Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland

Return of Summer Concerts: Wednesdays@One 2026

Hannah is working to firm up dates for the concerts this summer. Watch this space for details.

Wednesday Afternoon Club

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

These are continuing through the winter. Attendance has been lower since the start of the year. However, 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

The Sunflower cards with Catherine Johnston's design and postcards with a design by Jan Winch, are still on sale through manna. All the money we raise from them and other Ukraine contributions is transferred to the Newport and Zolotarevo Twinning Association (NAZTA) to support our friends in western Ukraine. In 2025 the total raised for NAZTA was £556. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed.

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).

Guild Projects

In previous journals we have highlighted the four national Guild projects which run from 2025-2027:

- **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

In 2025 we sent **a total of £1,600 to support these (£400 for each)**. This was made up from funds raised at the summer concerts in 2025 and some brought forward from 2024.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed in any way.

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

*Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds us all together in perfect harmony.
Colossians 3:14*

*And do everything with love.
1 Corinthians 16:14*

*We know how much God loves us,
and we have put our trust in his love.
God is love, and all who live in love live in God,
and God lives in them.
1 John 4:16*



*Always be humble and gentle.
Be patient with each other,
making allowance for each other's faults
because of your love.
Ephesians 4:2*

*Love each other with genuine affection,
and take delight in honouring each other.
Romans 12:10*

*This is my commandment:
Love each other in the same way I have loved you.
John 15:12*

Sunday Club Update

Nativity and Funday Sundays in December

We performed our Nativity play in the service on Sunday 21st December, written by Jane Campbell. The young people took the speaking parts, each representing different characters from the Christmas story and debating which was the most important. At the end it was agreed that the young person for "Team Jesus" represented the most significant person! The Sunday Club children were dressed as the characters and represented them in a tableau whilst the debate was held.



The following 2 Sundays were 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).

Teaching in January and February

In January we returned to our focus on biblical characters, considering some from the books of Joshua and Judges. In February we will be looking at the stories of Samson, Ruth and Samuel, with a Funday Sunday in the middle of the month.



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

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

Pictures on the left are following Jane Campbell's children's talk on Christingles one week during Advent, when 2 of our youngsters made their Christingles at home. Thank you for sharing!

Photos courtesy of Emma Wisher



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



Steven Stewart
Funeral Directors

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Cupar
KY15 5HE
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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

I would like to thank everyone who returned an envelope in response to this very emotive appeal. Thanks also to anyone who had popped money into the Penny Bucket in the last month or two. A total of £320 has been sent to Christian Aid.



Margaret Imlay

Youth Update

Christmas brings a mix of excitement for holidays, presents and parties, and an opportunity to reflect and wonder at the tremendous gift God gave us in sending his Son to live among us. And this year our Youth Group enjoyed both of these aspects of the season. In a change from our usual meetings, we, along with other nearby youth groups, joined with Youth for Christ in Dundee for an evening focussed on the Christmas message, with games, food, teaching and worship. Our young ones did particularly well in winning prizes in the mini competitions. Modesty forbids me from telling you who won the small but prestigious bar of chocolate for disco dancing. The evening finished with a talk on the significance of Christmas and contemporary worship, led by Dundee YfC's band.

The festive season also saw quite a few of the Youth front and centre in our Christmas services. In the Nativity Service several teenagers adopted characters in Jane Campbell's sketch, or led our prayers. A big thank you to all who took part. A special thank you also goes out to the hardy ones who stayed up late enough to lead the Watchnight Service on Christmas Eve.

The 2026 session started with our Sunday morning group stepping out, to be silent for a few minutes and listen to the sounds of the street we usually do not notice. We came back in to talk about prophets, and to learn what it means to listen to God over the modern living that fills our senses. As we were still in the season of Christmas, we read some of the prophecies of Isaiah, which foretold the coming of the Messiah, and which we have witnessed in Jesus.

Our first manna meeting had the usual snacks, games, and chat, and also time to look at identity and to talk about what the Apostle Paul in Colossians chapter 3 called being "hidden with Christ in God". And hot chocolate. We don't forget the hot chocolate!

manna is still running on alternate Sundays, with sessions due on 25th January, and 8th and 22nd February, and we will be popping some corn for a movie night once the older ones have finished their prelims.

Please keep the Youth of our church and our community in your prayers.

Graham Johnston

Monthly Prayer Requests

"For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation."
Psalm 62:1

We all have a part to play in our church family. The main theme appears to be 'Love'. Not always easy but remember that God loves us and so we can ask His help to love each other. Asking in Jesus name. Amen.

Newport Church Prayer Group

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



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!

Used Stamp Collection

The appeal for stamps has now closed. This year, donated stamps will go to the appeal to help a hospital in Gaza.

Many thanks to everyone who has handed in their stamps over the years but thanks especially go to Muriel McCabe for coordinating this and passing on the stamps.



A conversation with ... Steven McIntyre

This month I've decided to do something a bit different and I've had a chat with Steven which I'm going to share with you all!

Tell us a bit about yourself and your musical journey.

I was born in Grangemouth and began musical studies rather late, being in my mid teens before I took up the organ. Thanks to a local organist's society meeting, I was informed of a scheme to teach young people at Dunblane Cathedral where I began to study with Matthew Beetschen (now at Dunfermline Abbey). From here I read Music at the University of Glasgow and was assistant to George McPhee at Paisley Abbey. After a year at Peterborough Cathedral, I returned to Scotland and spent 12 very rewarding years as organist to St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow. I've been fortunate to receive a number of awards and scholarships, including the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians and I'm always grateful for the opportunities these have brought me.



Congratulations on your new post as Director of Music at Dunblane Cathedral! How has it been so far?

Incredibly rewarding and challenging in equal measure. My previous post was as the Cathedral Organist, which focussed on accompaniment of the choir rather than directing. Now, I'm doing both! It's good to be planning new and exciting ventures, including a children's choir. Playing the magnificent Flentrop organ (1990) always brings joy.

What obstacles do you think organists are dealing with regularly, particularly ones which people don't see?

Increased difficulty finding access to good instruments on which to teach and rehearse. Church closures and lack of funds to maintain instruments is becoming more prevalent.

From a playing point of view, we often are hidden around corners or behind communion tables which mean staying 'connected' with what is happening in the liturgy can be difficult.

What advice would you offer to young musicians today?

Play to an audience as often as you can. There is no better practice than playing at a service to boost your confidence. It's challenging, nerve wracking but hugely rewarding. Secondly, join a local organists society to help network with people who can help you progress.

And finally, who is your favourite composer and can you recommend a piece for us to listen to?

JS Bach is the obvious answer that everyone on the planet would surely say. I'll take that as given and suggest Louis Vierne, his chromatic language is dark yet lyrical. The Adagio from Organ Symphony number three is a masterpiece.

Thank you Steven for the insight into your organ journey!

Hannah Chan



*"If music be the food of love, play on."
Shakespeare's Twelfth Night*

*Others were given in exchange for you.
I traded their lives for yours
because you are precious to me.
You are honoured, and I love you.*

Isaiah 43:4



*The faithful love of the Lord never ends!
His mercies never cease.
Great is his faithfulness;
his mercies begin afresh each morning.*

Lamentations 3:22-23

Calendar of Worship

Sunday 1st February 2026 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : A Heywood **Reader** : A Heywood

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

Sunday 8th February 2026 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : G Johnston **Reader** : K Campbell

Welcome : F Robertson

Flowers : M Robertson **Delivery** : E Thomson

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

Crèche : F Harris

Sunday Club : J Wylie, F Hutchinson

Young Persons' Elder : M Imlay

Sunday 15th February 2026 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : M Imlay **Reader** : S Johnston

Welcome : D Miller

Flowers : J Johnstone **Delivery** : G Smith

Coffee : P Broadbent, M Cuthbertson, K Farquhar + S Kent

Crèche : J Johnston

Sunday Club : Funday Sunday

Young Persons' Elder : J Campbell

Sunday 22nd February 2026 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : W Imlay **Reader** : G Johnston

Welcome : F Harris

Flowers : **Delivery** : A Barona

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

Crèche : D Miller

Sunday Club : S Kent, S McCowan

Young Persons' Elder : E Owen

Sunday 22nd February 2026 at 6:30pm

Communion Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Sunday 1st March 2026 at 11am

Service led by Rev Dr A Chewachong

Beadle : C Johnston **Reader** : C Owen

Welcome : J Johnston

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

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

Crèche : J Taylor

Sunday Club: A Gray, E Wisher

Young Persons' Elder : M Shiels

Contact Numbers

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Next Edition

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

newportcos@btinternet.com
or have it in the hands of Claire Owen

by **Sunday 15th February 2026.**