

SCOPE

Penicuik
Parish

South
Church



Autumn 2016

Scottish Charity SCO11871

Fond Farewells

It's hard to imagine that it is all but 3-years since Joyce and I came to Howgate and Penicuik South. Three whirlwind years that have just flown by.

As I cast my mind back I think it is fair to say that as a family you were still pulling yourselves together again after what was a very painful time that had left more of you broken than might care to admit it. You were certainly divided and much reduced in numbers. Yet from that place of brokenness and weakness you saw fit to not just accept us but went the extra mile to make us feel welcome, to feel part of the family, to shower us with such amazing love.

In these past three years some folks have left, others have come, but in the main we have witnessed healing and restoration as God has been slowly rebuilding his Church, in case you still don't get it that is you, not the building, you - each and every one individually as you have allowed Him.

There have been sad times too as incredible people have been called home. There have also been some who have simply slipped under the radar and never come back but there have also been new faces who have come along and become familiar faces too. So, as it comes time to say good-bye I need to start by celebrating some of the highlights.

The honour of not just taking Communion with you but of presiding, of taking Christ's place at his table is one of the highlights I will cherish for a long, long time. Interestingly at the last Communion service Ian asked if I wanted to preside but I chose to take communion with Joyce with Ian presiding instead. A nice way I felt to begin drawing my ministry time with you to a close.

I was also privileged to be locum at Cockpen and Carrington linked with Lasswade and Rosewell, a parish that sees quite a large number of funerals and weddings and as fate would have it I conducted a fair number of both including a wedding for a young couple and only a few months later had the unfortunate honour of talking the funeral of the mother of the bride. Bitter sweet sorrow indeed.

Ministry, it turns out, is a helter-skelter of highs and lows punctuated with too much to do in the hours available.

Cherish your minister Ian and his family, I know I do! The old adage of the swan principle is certainly a true one, not much to see on the surface sometimes but hidden from sight just under the water things are frantic just trying to stay still against the current. Uphold them in your prayers but more than that help support them practically too, it isn't a lot to get in a can of cola but if it should be that Ian has cause to call it may mean the world to him that you thought about him beforehand. Simple things make such a difference sometimes, take for example the occasion just as we arrived and we heard Mary and Les were needing to vacate their house 6 weeks before their new one would be ready for them, well the long and the short of it is we invited them, as complete strangers, to come live with us and they are now such an important part of our lives. I don't recommend inviting strangers into your homes in that way but if God is speaking, we would all do well to be listening.

So may kind folks have expressed sadness that we are leaving, a sadness we share and yet here is that sweet sorrow once more, we are also excited to be moving into a new chapter at Newbattle Parish. I received an email today saying that the Session are keen for us to go and that Presbytery will be so advised at it's next meeting. Then if they agree, a formality as I understand it but it is never the less their decision to make, we are Newtongrange, Newbattle, Mayfield and Easthouses bound. We hope not to be strangers but as I only get six Sundays off in the year from which to fit in all our holidays there will be little opportunity to visit.

You will always be in our hearts and in our prayers. Leaving sits gently on my heart as I know that it is the fertile soil of such a loving family into which God chose to plant such a simple seed that has seen me grow as a person and as a minister and that he can and will plant more good seed if you will share your love with whoever God calls to minister to you as you have with us.

As I reflect on God's call to leave you all I recall saying to you that God may be calling you to make a cup of tea and that may mean someone can come off the tea rota to do something else.

Perhaps there is someone who could lead evening services and free up some of Ian's time who can't do so because they are opening up their home to a house group and making the tea. God may call you to open your home and make the tea and also call someone else to lead the group who couldn't open their house.

I leave you with that thought, one that has stood and stands me in good stead. Please know that just like me and countless others, I, and I mean you here, can do all things in him who strengthens me. We pray your relationship with God grows stronger each day until we gather in glory.

Love and prayers, now and always.
Fred and Joyce

A Scots lady was testing children in her Glasgow Sunday School class to see if they understood the concept of getting into heaven. I asked them, she said, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big jumble sale and give all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?"

"No!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the garden and kept everything tidy, would that get me into heaven?"

Again, the answer was "No!"

By now I was starting to smile.

"Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave sweets to all the children and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven?"

Again, they all answered "No!"

I was just bursting with pride for them. I continued, "Then how can I get into heaven?"

A six year old boy shouted,

"Yuv got tae be deid!"

Kinda brings a wee tear tae yir eye....!

Notes from Kirk Session Meeting 3rd September 2016

1. South Kirk mission statement which was discussed and revamped at KS meeting in May is confirmed as follows:

Vision

To be a people in whom God is working, growing disciples and building his Kingdom.

Values

A reliance upon God and His word

An openness to the Holy Spirit

A Spirit of grace and forgiveness reflecting Jesus love

2. Fabric Convenor – David Boal has agreed to take on the role of Fabric Convenor. David and fabric committee to be asked to prepare a list of the repairs and maintenance needs of the church buildings to be discussed and prioritised at the next meeting of the KS.
3. Lothian Glass estimate to repair/replace damaged hall windows agreed.
4. Fabric convenor to be asked to look at options for replacing the church boiler.
5. Scope – not enough material being submitted to make a monthly edition viable, it was agreed there will be an October edition then produced quarterly from January 2017 and reviewed one year later.
6. Discussed use of SU notes. Ian is trying to find something for sermons that connects with the congregation. Those who use the notes see the connections but others who use alternative bible readings find there are links with the sermons anyway. The Spirit at work in our lives.
7. Long service certificates to be given to elders who have resigned in recent years who have not previously received them.
8. Presbytery news: Rev. Sean Swindell is leaving Newbattle Church. Fred is being moved by presbytery to be assistant minister there; he will leave South Kirk at the end of September. This will have implications for the evening service to be discussed with those who attend the evening services.
9. Ian and Jackie requested prayer for PCWT meeting on 5th September when future holiday clubs will be discussed.
10. Next meeting of KS on Saturday 8th October – David and Bonus to be invited to discuss church maintenance and finances. Jackie will send out a doddle poll to find a meeting date in January.

Rosie Townsley, Session Clerk.

Calling all children – its competition time again!

Two chances to win, depending on your age that is:-

1. Pre-school to primary 4 draw a picture telling the Christmas story.
2. Primary 5 to S6 write a Christmas story that depicts the real meaning of Christmas.

Get your entries to Mary Darling before 1st December and she will arrange to have them judged with the best entries being announced in church round about Christmas

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

I wanted to say a massive thank you to those people who continue to bring bags of shopping to church so that I can distribute it to my clients. Some people are on a tighter budget than others and whilst they are developing skills to live on a 'budget' it is sometimes hard to make ends meet. An additional bag of food is so welcome.

Thank you for your amazing hearts and please continue to support people in this way if you can.

God Bless

Joyce

Operation Christmas Child

Leaflets are now available in each vestibule at the church for this year's Shoebox Appeal.

Please obtain one to be part of this outreach to bring the joy of Christmas to needy children throughout the world by showing God's love in a tangible way.

Completed shoeboxes should be handed in to E-Clips Hairdressing Salon, 19 High Street, Penicuik between the 1st and 18th November.

Please consider being part of this worthwhile outreach.

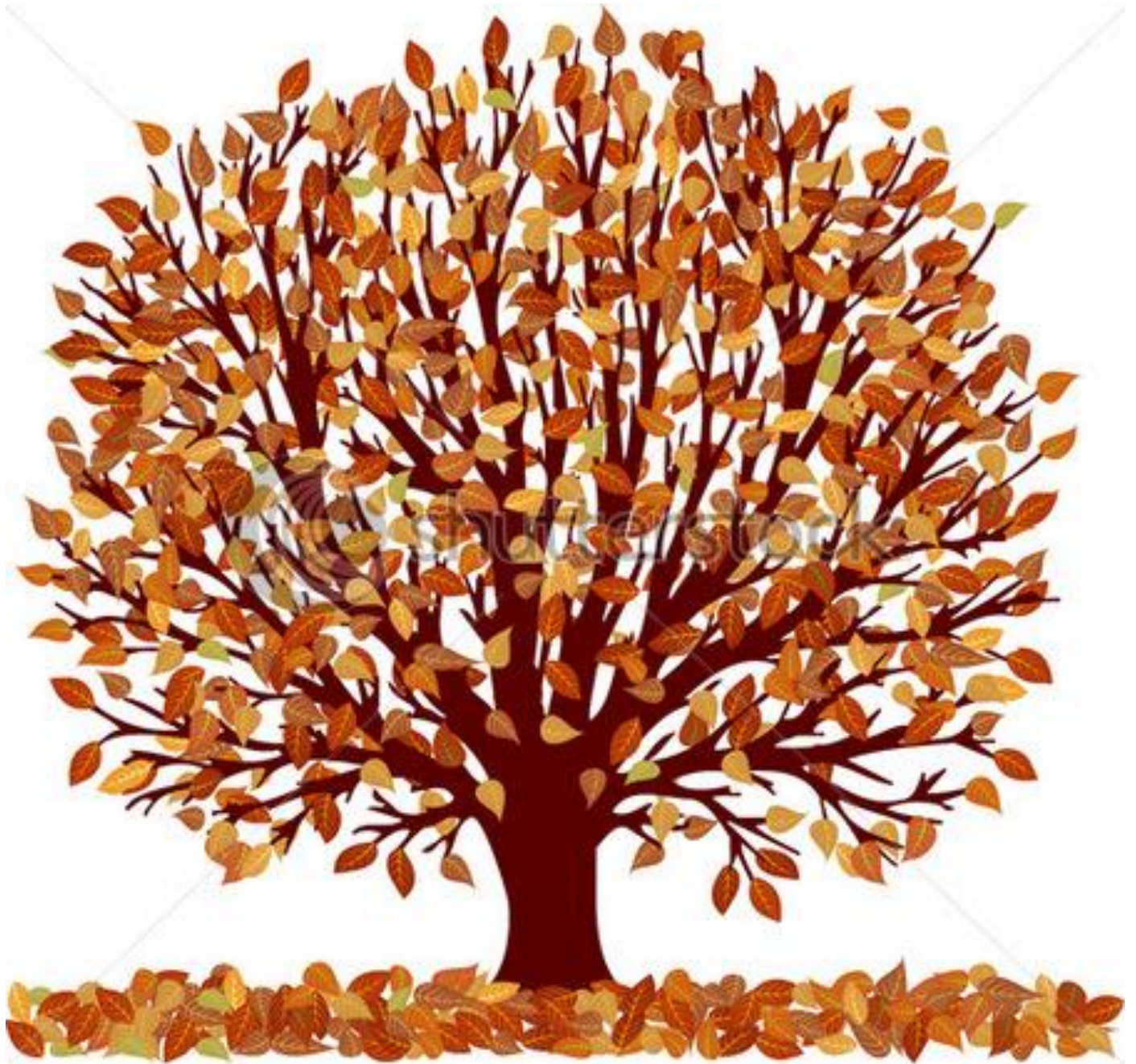
Thank you

Bill Bruce

Oct Sun Services	Worship Theme	Readings
2 nd 11.15am	Living a Life Pleasing to the Lord: We have a new manifesto to live by – a new commandment to follow – we're orders who to love ... and who not to love + communion	1 John 2:7-17
9 th 11.15am	Living a Life Pleasing to the Lord: Harvest Sunday All-Age Service. We need to care not just the people of the world but the world it's self – Creation Care today.	TBC
9 th – 3pm	Traditional Service god is love overcoming the world Walking in the truth support & opposition	1 John 4:7 3 John 14
16 th 11.15am	Living a Life Pleasing to the Lord: Joseph is our example for how to deal with adversity – do we copy or shake our fists at God when the trials of life come to us	Genesis 39:11-23
23 rd 11.15am	Living a Life Pleasing to the Lord: I know you <i>know</i> the right answer here-but what did you actually do when the people who have bad-mouthed you are in front of you?	Genesis 45:1-15
30 th 11.15am	Living a Life Pleasing to the Lord: Looked back over this month of reading – the life that pleases God is the one where person does the right thing for Jesus – how often do we just believe the right thing – Matthew 25 is always with Matthew 28 and vice versa.	1 Thess 4: 1-12
30 th – 7pm	Living a Life Pleasing to the Lord: Evening Service + communion. Living a Life pleasing to the Lord means living this life knowing it's not the end – living your life in light of the Lord's Return	1 Thess 4: 13-18

Autumn Challenge

How many Leaves?



Which option is correct?

God Knows? Or God Knows!

He has you counted too!