



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING REPORTS



8th May 2016

Minister's Report

I continue to chair Staff, Circuit Leadership Team, Treasurers, Local Preachers, and Circuit Meetings as well as CTM, Findochty, and Portessie Church Councils. Sadly the Society at Banff MC has recently ceased to meet but the building is still being used for outreach purposes. The Portgordon building got a sale which I was pleased about. I am very pleased to say that we will be getting a Probationer Minister Chris Jackson for the Moray Coast who will be in harness at the start of the Connexional Year. I am at present trying to sort out Safeguarding across the Circuit as our Safeguarding Officer stepped down and the position remains vacant. I am also involved with a mission called Celebration of Hope to the NE of Scotland working with Banff Churches Together which will culminate in a week's mission with Will Graham, Billy Graham's grandson. Locally, I continue to be involved ecumenically with Aberdeen Churches Together which has been helping the City Council with the settlement of the Syrian Refugees; with the West Central Aberdeen Churches which had a reasonable attendance for the recent prayer meeting at Gilcomston Church; and also with the University Chaplaincies albeit on a more limited basis this year due to covering the vacancy on the Coast. I continue to support the work of the Chaplaincy Team at Harlaw Academy. The Homeless workshop at CTM proved to be a very practical time for those who gathered. The Church Roof Project is coming on a pace and most of the money we needed to cover a projected shortfall has been raised thanks to the generosity of a number of members in our church. Sadly we have lost various members in recent months who have had to return to their countries of origin for a variety of reasons, mainly work related. I give God thanks for them and also for all in CTM.

Rev Dr John McNeill

Pastoral Committee

As in any community, the past year has brought its sadness as well as joy. During the year, we welcomed Jessica, Benjamin and Ariel in infant baptism and Jenny, Ebenezer, Eniola, David and Meredith, Patrick and Nana, Wendy, Ruby, Isaac, Ebo and Aboseh into adult membership. Sadly, Samuel, Nana and Patrick returned to Ghana in March and Ross and Rachel, Luree and Alma to the USA, while Wendy, Emmanuel and Eniola left earlier in the year. We were truly blessed to have them amongst us and thank God for the contribution they made to our fellowship. We wish them many blessings for the future.

Our Church's great loss before Christmas was the death of our brother in Christ, Howard Marshall. During his long life of service in the Methodist Church he had served as a Circuit Steward, Church Steward, Pastoral Visitor, Organist, collector for Christian Aid and above all a preacher and mentor to many. On January 16th at Crown Terrace a service of remembrance and thanksgiving for his life was held when the Church was filled with friends and colleagues, many from overseas.

A few weeks before Howard's death, we heard the sad news of the death of Stanley Knowles. He had served as minister at Peterhead and preached at Crown Terrace.

Also we mourn the loss of Agnes Jaffray who passed away on 9th April; she and George her husband worshipped at Crown Terrace for many years.

Thanks once again to all Pastoral Visitors and to all who "keep an eye" on our flock. Hopefully all of us can show a friendly face and give a listening ear within the congregation and to newcomers.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
(Romans 12: 12)

O.A.K.

Oak, our joint ecumenical venture with St. Mark's Church of Scotland has continued in the two established areas i.e. worship and service. The joint evening services in CTM on the second Sunday of each month have been led by Rev. Diane Hobson, Rev. Dr John McNeill and local preachers. Rev. Diane Hobson led the United Morning Service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at CTM, which was well supported by both congregations and concluded with a soup and sandwich lunch provided by Oak.

“Brother, sister let me serve you” Oak Cafe continues at St. Mark's Church Hall 10.00am-1.00pm Monday to Friday with the profits of £4,600 being donated to charity. Among this year's recipients are The Scottish Bible Society £800, DEC appeal for Nepal £400, Drugs Action £550 and Macmillan Cancer Support £350. As in previous years we support homes and education for children in Kenya through the Cogwheel Trust.

M.D.C.

Crèche and Sunday Club

The Sunday Club has twelve children ranging from a year to eight years old. This year we used the Scripture Union's well tried and tested teaching resources. Joining in the wider work of the church, Nana joined us one Sunday morning and told the children about Mary Slessor, and then all the children joined in 'the Church's Footprint Project'. On a lighter note, for the first time for many years we had a noisy visit to the pantomime and welcomed back Siobhan and Mikey who are now living in Cruden Bay.

Our plans for next year include exploring a new publication called 'Sharing God's big story'. We would also like to start, with the help of the children's parents, an interactive course called "Welcome to the Lord's Table". This involves parents and children talking about Communion in their home setting.

This report is an opportunity to give special thanks. It is now a year since Jenny joined us in the Sunday Club. I have really valued her support, It is a joy to share the work with her. Our team of helpers in the crèche, Alix, Anne, Chrystl, Daphne, Dawn and Ross and Rachel is very much appreciated, and Anuli has done great work leading the singing at the start of the crèche with songs for the wee ones, and some choruses.

Additional help is always appreciated. If you would like to be part of the Children's group, even on an occasional basis just let me know.

Please give thanks for our families, their children, and all who have been involved in their care and learning this year,

Anne Kelley

Sunday Morning Prayer/Bible Study Group

Numbers attending this group have dropped off due to people moving away or being unable to attend for other reasons. For most of the year two people continued to meet for prayer, but unfortunately at present meetings are suspended, although Sarah is hoping that the group can be restarted; please contact her if you would be interested in taking part. Those of have attended in the past have found it a valuable way to prepare for the morning service.

Midweek Prayer Meeting

A midweek prayer meeting takes place approximately every other Wednesday at 7:30pm in Room 4; please check the notice sheet for details. Different members of the group take turns to lead and we usually spend time in open prayer for the needs of the world and of our congregation as well as having a time of more structured worship, including some hymns or worship songs. We are a small group, and, sadly, we have lost several members in recent months. Howard had been a faithful member of the group from the start, and several others who came occasionally have now returned to their home countries. We would very much welcome others coming along to join us, even if you are only able to attend occasionally.

Jackie

Singing Group

The Lord is helping us progress every Sunday in our contribution to the worship of the Sunday services. The recent months have seen the majority of our members leave and our numbers depleted, as we all know, but we are still moving on and will continue to move on and do the best we can whilst still trusting and praying for more members. Thank you all for all the positive response we get from you, we are really glad that our singing is making a lot of positive impact in the lives of the congregation and pray that it continues that way even beyond our church walls. God bless you all continually.

Much love
Treasure.

Ghana Bible Study

As part of our association with St Peter, Accra, Ghana, we hold a bible study meeting on Thursday evenings, which uses as its base a booklet of notes prepared by the Methodist Church of Ghana for class meetings. If you like bible study with Attitude, then our meetings are for you, whether you are only able to come occasionally or on a regular basis. Our discussions are informative, lively, and accommodate a variety of views. We try to stick to the subject, but are not averse to digressing from the straight and narrow and arriving at unanticipated destinations, hopefully guided by the spirit of Truth. Why not give it a try?

Michael Dyer

Women's Fellowship

Since September 2015 Women's Fellowship has been meeting at 10.30am on the last Monday of the month and this has resulted in an increase in overall attendance. We have welcomed new members and Monday is more convenient for existing members. Our programme has included talks on Railways from Bob Kelley and Violin making from Nigel Herbert. Quantities of white card and glitter pens, along with inspiration and guidance from Anne Hubbuck, helped us produce the Angels which decorated the Church at Advent. Creativity was again the buzz word as we made necklaces from hand made beads brought to us by Paula Hawthorn. Paula told us about the New Life Home for abandoned babies in Kenya which is funded by the sale of hand made beads. The February meeting was led by Sarah Sim when she organised the Mothering Sunday Service at which she preached and members of W.F. took part. The new development this session is the Cafe at the Craft Fair which is held on the first Saturday of the month at CTM. Profits raised from the sale of tea, coffee, soup and sandwiches go to Action for Children whose extensive work with children includes the Torry Family Centre. Our next meeting will be on Monday 23rd May and we shall close our session with a walk and lunch on Monday 27th June.

M.D.C.

Church Flowers

Fresh flowers are placed in the church each week to aid worship. The number of people signing up to put in flowers, or give money to purchase flowers, has declined over the past few years and so most weeks I purchase and arrange the flowers myself.

If you wish flowers to be placed in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a significant event, or just to add colour to the sanctuary please let me know. There is a sign up sheet in the porch for anyone who would like to put in flowers on a chosen day.

Fresh flowers in the porch help to provide a warm welcome. They can last a few weeks in this cool dark space.

The flowers from the sanctuary are distributed by Ron Hughes each week.

Thank you to everyone who has provided flowers, or money for flowers, over the past year. This job would be very difficult without your support.

Carol Reeves

Traidcraft

We are a Fairtrade Church!

Are we a Fairtrade Church?

A year ago, a presentation was made on the work of Traidcraft - ensuring growers in the developing countries get a fair price for their produce, that workers have fair wages and child labour is not employed.

Following this, members were invited to place a pledge card on the collection plate promising to purchase at least one Traidcraft item a month. These were anonymous so we have no idea who returned them.

What we do know is that 18 were returned and this has not been reflected in this year's sales or even in the number visiting the stall. We are in the situation of trying to provide a good range of products to meet all tastes - 7 varieties of tea and a similar number of coffee, sweets and chocolate and biscuits plus basic store cupboard items such as muesli and dried fruits and nuts, but with some items not turning over quickly enough we are presently operating at a loss. In previous years the little profit we have made has offset some the costs of providing Sunday morning refreshments but this won't be possible this year.

Being personally committed to the principle of Fairtrade I have to pose the question – do we as a congregation want to claim to be a Fairtrade Church? Do we think about the people who produce our food and whether they are being treated fairly – enough to buy food that guarantees they are receiving a fair wage for a good product. In deciding what the future of our involvement with Traidcraft should be it would be really helpful to hear your views.

JØ

The Mary Slessor project

The Mary Slessor project was initiated in 2015 to celebrate the centenary of Mary Slessor's death. The project committee comprised 5 individuals including John McNeill the minister.

The project team organised and executed four activities which saw a good turnout from within the church and the extended church family in Aberdeen. The activities were:

1. A visit to Dundee taking in the exhibition of Mary Slessor at the verdant works followed by a visit to the Dundee Museum and lunch.
2. An art project titled 'The hands and feet of Christ' which church members were encouraged to participate in. The end product was a bound book of the art work.
3. A well attended lecture titled 'Aberdeen, Africa and God: reflecting on the centenary of Mary Slessor.' was given by Professor Andrew Walls in the church sanctuary in September
4. The last activity was a bring and share lunch themed around foods that were local to the area in Nigeria in which Mary Slessor worked and died. This was the last activity.

In all, £1000 was raised from the activities and the sales of books which Professor Andrew Walls got a discount on because he was a contributor. We were truly overwhelmed by the generosity of all those who participated in the activities.

The money that was raised was split evenly between two charities:

1. CEE-Hope Nigeria (Centre for Children's Health Education, Orientation and Protection). The money was used to fund a seminar for girls on 'Guard Against Rape' in Ogba, Lagos, Nigeria on Saturday February 13, 2016. This brought together about 100 at-risk girls from poor neighbourhoods across two Nigerian states of Lagos and Ogun.

2. The other half of the money raised was sent to Chain-Of-Happiness, a charity organization which primarily focuses on Junior High Schools in the coastal areas of Accra, Ghana. Parents of these children are mostly "fisher-folks", usually with little or no formal education. Chain-Of-Happiness provides a mentoring platform, where successful professional adults engage young persons, particularly adolescents and teenagers in order to nourish their thoughts and aspirations, and mentor them into creating and focusing on a chosen career.

In January 2016, the project team gave a short presentation to the church to summarise the outcomes and bring it officially to an end. At this point, the project team was also dissolved.

We wish to say a big thank you to all who helped with the organisation, participated in the activities and gave generously.

Thank you.

Anuli

Table Tennis

Newly promoted CTM delivered a strong performance in the top flight of Aberdeen Table Tennis, finishing runners up in Division 1 and beaten finalists in the two Cup competitions. The team was bolstered by the arrival of the experienced Marcin Ziemkowski - who plays with an unusual combination of rubbers - winning 21 of his 27 league games. Other key players were Gregor Ksiazek the team captain, newcomer Bartek Ciechowski and the ever present Dennis Oon (38 wins from 45 games). Strong though this team was, it was unable to overcome the national stars of Aberdeen University Harriers, who ran away with all the silverware. This year we introduced Ladies' Table Tennis on Monday evenings, and have been delighted to attract the assistance of Catherine Inverarity, RGU lecturer and Level 1 coach. We have a couple of ladies who regularly attend the coaching sessions, and more would be welcome. All being well, we hope to have two or three teams in the league next season. Regular weekly practice sessions for all continue. Please contact me if interested.

Nigel Herbert 22/4/16

Tables > ADTTA League 2015-16 > ADTTA Division 1								
#	Team	P	W	D	L	SF	SA	Points
1	Abdn Univ Harriers	17	15	1	1	123	47	123
2	Crown Terrace Methodists A	17	12	1	4	109	61	109
3	Aircon Westhill	17	10	1	6	95	75	95
4	Triangle Athletic	17	7	2	8	83	87	83
5	Abdn Univ Eagles	16	7	0	9	68	92	68
6	Triangle Swifts	16	5	1	10	67	92	67
7	Cs Surfers	15	3	2	10	62	87	62
8	Westburn Gashers	17	3	0	14	52	118	52

Finance

In the year to 31st August 2015 income was £62,209 and we had a surplus of over £5,000 on unrestricted funds. The latest estimates of income and expenditure suggest that, providing collections and donations remain at similar levels to the earlier part of the year for the remaining months, we should again expect to have a small surplus on unrestricted funds at the end of the church financial year in August 2016.

In March an appeal was launched with the objective of raising around £20,000 to complete vital repairs to the Church Roof. The approximate construction budget is £100,000 to replace the roof. When the appeal was launched we had £64,623 in the deposit account. At the time of writing, the appeal has already raised £14,590 and we are extremely grateful to all those who have already given so generously. We are also expecting £10,000 from the Methodist Church's Relief and Extension Fund (half grant and half interest free loan) and £10,000 from the John Ogilvie Mortification Trust. These should give us sufficient funds to meet the expected cost of the building work, but there will be additional costs arising from the leaking roof and gutters (e.g. wet rot in Room 4 and some necessary repairs to the ceiling and electric wiring in the corridor to the car park) and the loan will also need to be repaid.