

CROWN TERRACE METHODIST CHURCH  
*HARVEST TIME 2018*



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Ask anyone in this picture

## Message from the Manse

There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.' (Psalm 46.4) This scripture seems to me to capture a sense we may get as we pass from one season to the next, and that not just in the seasons of the year but in what I call 'the seasons of the soul'. Each season can have its mood, its feeling. However no matter what season we may be going through, this scripture hints at a promise indicating a myriad of ways we can be refreshed and renewed, all coming from the source, 'the tabernacles of the Most High'.

Nathaniel Hawthorne once described bathing himself in 'the refreshing waters of quietude and open-air nature,' thus pointing to creation which can always be our recreation, an abundant means near at hand whenever we feel the need of calling ourselves away from the excitement and strain of daily life. Amiel once said of a country walk he took when a dark and troubled mind was upon him, 'The sunlight, the green leaves, the sky, all whispered to me, 'Be of good cheer and courage, poor wounded one.'"

I was reminded recently of a second way we can be refreshed when I heard someone say, 'Give me a great thought, that I may refresh myself with it.' Almost any day and hour we may leave the hot and dusty highway for the peace and freshness of some great book that touches all that is best in us. Why should life be the dry and thirsty land when all around us in shining garments stand the poets and prophets of God, waiting to lead us to the fountains of living waters?

The first book of Samuel reminds us of a third means of refreshment, 'when the evil spirit was upon Saul, that David took an harp and played with his hand; so Saul was refreshed, and was well.' (1 Samuel 16.23) What wonderful peace music and song, art and painting has to move the heart strings! In my reckoning, there is no more desirable a thing than a good hobby. They can be a brook by the way to refresh and nourish our souls.

George MacDonald of Huntly points to a fourth source of refreshment, 'To know a person who can be trusted will do more for one's moral nature than all the books of divinity that were ever written.' The beauty of the outward world is full of divine help, but there is more beauty and inspiration in living excellence than in the fairest of natural scenes. How rich the quickening and renewing influences which come from the presence and example of those who set before us the nobler ideals of life.

Bright affluent spirits, breathing but to bless

Whose presence cheers our eyes and warms our hearts

A fifth means of refreshment can be found in the family home. Here is a source of strength that from age to age has been as a spring in the desert. It is in the home we can often cherish and renew our best life. We are far from having exhausted its possibilities. We lose much that is refreshing if we neglect to cultivate its quiet and simple pleasures. Richard Green once wrote, 'What seems to me to grow fairer as life goes by is the love and tenderness of it, the laughter of little children, and the simple talk by the fireside.'

Sixthly, our spiritual forefathers found perennial springs of refreshment in the private and public ordinances of the church. Industry and enterprise are good; but life is not only action, it is thought and feeling as well. We do ourselves a disservice if we allow our activities to crowd out meditation and prayer, robbing us of the secret place of the Most High. To have depth and elevation and tranquillity in life, and our purpose true and steady, it is necessary for mind and heart to have constant access to the throne of grace. Faith and aspiration are the springs of noble and fruitful living. They invite us to drink waters that rise from cool and unpolluted depths for 'they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength' (Isaiah 40.31).

Finally in the words of our Lord, 'Come to me all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11.28) This invitation, so large and tender, encourages us to seek refreshment and renewal through trust and obedience. It is in the fellowship of Jesus that we lose our fears and inhibitions, that we enter into his cause and are persuaded that in the body and out of the body we are compassed about by the atmosphere of infinite Love. This is the ultimate refreshment for the weary of heart and life, trust and obedience which are the secret of Jesus, and which he communicates to us when we put ourselves under his sway and influence.

Trust and obey for there's no other way

To be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.

May we find sources of refreshment and rest for our souls as we journey through a season where the nights grow longer and the days shorter.

John McNeill

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the death on September 20<sup>th</sup>, of our friend, long standing member and local preacher, Andy Dick. His smiling face greeted everyone new to the Church and he and Marjorie were generous with their hospitality. We mourn his loss and remember Marjorie in our prayers. We remember also, Miss Dorothy Smith, who joined us when the Langstane Kirk closed. Her latter years were spent at the Torphins Residential Home.

We were pleased to see Joe McColligan in September and to hear news of Ching and their ministry in Florida. Joe was the inspiration for our Sunday evening "Open Table" project and he seemed pleased to see how it was developing.

Sadly we have had to say "Good Bye" to Rev Aboseh Ngwana, who while writing his PhD thesis on the Book of Amos, contributed in many ways to the life of Crown Terrace. We wish him and his family many blessings in his new role as a minister in Bristol.

In the last few months, it has been good to see Paul and Pauline Ellingworth and Bob Orskov, in sufficiently good health to join us for Sunday morning worship. We continue to remember Hazel Smart, Beryl and Alex Booth, Margaret Anderson, Betty Knowles, Jessie Petrie, Rosalind Peake and Frank Judson who are unable to come.

Our Church Tea Parties have been very successful in bringing together some of our housebound members and younger people. The next Tea Party is on 25<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30 in the Church. Following that will be the Church Weekend at the Burn, Edzell on 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, do you have any special news, e.g. an anniversary or birthday, that you would like to share? Please let us know.

Anne Hubbuck (Pastoral Committee)

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*Memories of Andy (Andrew Duthie Dick) some personal tributes.*

I was at Beryl's to celebrate her 99th birthday on Sunday and one of the ladies there told us this story about Andy, he had come to the school where she was a teacher to do an annual inspection. It was Christmas time and they were stirring the Christmas pudding so she had asked Andy if he would like to give it a stir to which Andy had replied, oh! yes I like stirring things. It seems the headmaster who was a very nervous type was horrified and said to the teacher do you know who you are

talking to. I thought this was typical of Andy.

*May*

Andy was warm and encouraging.. When I was critical of myself he told me that I was doing well and should keep up the good work. I hope that I will not betray this trust

*Carol.*

Sam & Ruth Tsutada, a lovely Japanese couple, had their first baby while Sam was doing his PhD in Aberdeen. The morning after Manami was born Sam went to visit Ruth and their new daughter before church. That Sunday (October 1st 2000) Andy was preaching and Sam, having mistimed his journey from the maternity home to Crown Terrace, was late for service. He crept into the balcony thinking no-one would see him but Andy noticed, stopped what he was saying and much to Sam's embarrassment and the joy of the congregation, welcomed him and the new baby on behalf of their 'Aberdeen family'. The 'baby' is now 18 but I shall never forget that morning!

*Katherine D.*

*I remember that Sunday too. I first went to maternity, and was going to drive to CTM, only the car battery went dead on me. So I walked to church from there! **That's why I was late for service (some excuse!).** Andy was **wanting to know Manami's weight, not in grams but in pounds!** Crown Terrace Methodist was indeed a wonderful family to us. And it remains so. I did not pay enough attention to the notices, so I **wasn't aware of Andy's passing.** May God **comfort his acquaintances... we will miss him** deeply.*

*Sam*

I have many fond memories of Andy. I think of the occasions when he took photographs on my camera and set up my laptop when I found it difficult. He grew lovely flowers. I remember the services he conducted at Crown Terrace, in particular the day when we had no organist, (most unusual) and Andy had to move back and forth between the lectern and the organ. I think of the times he and Marjorie welcomed me at Old Meldrum. I will miss him coming to the front for a chat before the service - I will miss him as many more will too.

*Evelyn*

(On reading the Eulogy) It is a lovely tribute to a wonderful man.

*Liz*

I first met Andy in the 1980's when he was Divisional Education Officer, and he arrived at my hut at the old Kinellar school. I was a peripatetic teacher of music, known in some circles as the "pretty pathetics", and encouraging a P2 class in

their rendition of “Algy met a bear”\* to ostinato accompaniment on tuned percussion. The children performed with enthusiasm, a good Methodist virtue, of which Andy approved, even if the accompaniment was somewhat “hit or miss”. His warmth and smile put the children at their ease and there was some banter about the rotundity of the bear at the conclusion of the song and Andy’s figure. It was a happy introduction and Andy became a dear, reliable friend. He has gone ahead. That’s him with his camera and binoculars and I think he’s humming the tenor line of “Cwm Rhondda”

*Daphne*

\*Algy met a bear – the bear met Algy  
The bear was bulgy – the bulge was Algy!!

An early memory of Andy was when he was Divisional Education officer and I was Vice-chair of the Education Committee. Visiting schools for a day, together with his secretary, we dropped in for lunch at the home of Sticky Toffee Pudding. Having enjoyed a substantial main course the STP still tempted so Andy ordered one portion and three spoons! ( We were generously given three plates as well.) More recently and more importantly, enjoying the Dick hospitality we were discussing ‘prayer’ and Andy said ‘ the more time I spend praying, the more of that time is spent listening’ That has stayed with me – how often we spend the time just speaking to (or at) God.

*Joan*

I remember the first time I met Andy when we moved to Aberdeen and joined Crown Terrace Methodist church, the way he made me feel engraved an everlasting memory, his passion when preaching, his love for music, and life generally and the way he showed love to my girls is far beyond amazing, he is a rare gem that I will forever cherish and miss.

*Treasure.*

I don’t really have two or three lines about him (except that we talked a lot about football ) but I just remember he was always supportive of me and it meant a lot.

*Mark Cooper*

Andy shared his love of the countryside and the natural world with the congregation, and in particular with the children. We all shared his enjoyment through his photos and his descriptions of the different species of birds, leaving us with a thought to ponder about God’s creation and the way we live our lives.

*Anne K.*

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*Seen in the hall at St Nicholas Church –*

*A prayer for busy people – “TA, PA”*

*Let us not be too busy to thank god for his goodness to us, if only to say-  
“TA PA”.*

## Happy 70th birthday NHS.

I had the pleasure of working over 40 years in the NHS. I started my career in 1970 as a student nurse in Paediatrics but worked the majority of my time as Senior Charge Nurse at the haematology department in the Anchor Unit at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary prior to retiring in 2014.

Over the years I saw great changes within haematology in both care and treatment. When I started working with patients who had leukaemia they had a very poor prognosis and had to endure many nasty side effects from chemotherapy and radiotherapy. As a result of medical research and expertise, bone marrow and blood stem cells can now be harvested and transplanted back after the patient has been given intensive chemotherapy to remove the abnormal blood cells.

Advances in medicine like this has transformed a condition which was potentially life threatening to one where there is so much hope.

Joan R

### *Thoughts worth sharing.....*

“Advices and Queries”,

from the Yearly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain  
1995

*1. Take heed dear Friends to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.*

*2. Bring the whole of your life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ. Are you open to the healing power of God's love? Cherish that of God within you, so that this love may grow in you and guide you. Let your worship and your daily life enrich each other. Treasure your experience of God, however it comes to you. Remember that Christianity is not a notion but a way.*

Crown Terrace is blessed with an international congregation who bring their gifts and talents which enrich our witness and worship when they are with us and influences it after they move on. Against this background I share the following quotation from Charles Fox 1656

*“Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one”.*

Daphne

## *Harvest time thoughts*

### Who Cares ?

Now all is safely gathered in  
The Church is like a bower  
With golden corn and harvest loaf  
With scent of fruit and flower

Our hearts are full of gratitude  
For it is good to know  
There is enough for all our needs  
Come wind or frost or snow

But far away across the sea  
A farmer views his land  
A wilderness of withered stalks  
In earth as dry as sand

Too sick at heart to kneel and pray  
His cry sounds piteously  
' My children die for want of food,  
Who cares for such as we?'

Lord all is safely gathered in;  
Now teach us how to share  
These precious fruits of harvest with  
Your children everywhere

Ivy Russell

## **Greenbelt 2018**

For a number of years Elsie and I have spent the English, August Bank Holiday, weekend attending the Greenbelt Festival, a theologically and socially liberal-minded Christian event. Christian Aid are important sponsors, and there is influence from the Iona Community led by John Bell, whose talks, if somewhat predictable, are imaginatively presented and well-received, together with hymn singing for those so inclined. From time to time the Methodist Church has organised a series of talks. Currently it's held in the grounds of Boughton Hall, near Kettering. Most of the twelve thousand or so attending camp, like my daughter, Ruth and family, be we do it more sedately at a farm B&B, ensuring plenty of sleep and the challenge of three full British Breakfasts that meet culinary needs for at least ten hours.

There are a variety of events to choose from at any point during the day, though there is a grand communion service for all on the Sunday morning, which this year included the

gospel choir that sang at Harry and Megan's wedding. Later in the day at the same venue Pussy Riot performed somewhat less reverentially to an audience showing no sign of offence but much bemusement and appreciation of their manic energy. Various activities were organised for children: music, fine art, acting and so on. Elsie and I, however, were more interested in talks, usually led by individuals pushing their recent publications, and discussion panels. Inevitably, there were a number of sessions relating to gender identity and sexuality, one of which commented on passages in scripture hinting at such issues. There was an instructive discussion on the status of Phoebe and the important role in women in the Early Church, which, it was argued, diminished when worship moved from private households to public churches. Perhaps the most valuable aspects of the weekend is to discover where people from differing backgrounds are at in their individual and family lives, not to mention their spiritual needs and concerns. For some Greenbelt grapples with issues important to individuals but are ignored or too embarrassing to discuss in local churches and in sermons. Preachers please note! Greenbelt is also included in our Grand Tour of friends, including those known to CTM. We spent a couple of nights with the Cresswells who attend the same church as my sister in Melton Mowbray, and the Daltons at Longniddry on the Firth of Forth. They all send their regards and love to friends at CTM. We wish them well too!

Michael Dyer.

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## **SOLAS JUNE 2018**

SOLAS is simply an early summer Festival of current culture, music, art, some poetry, some politics, some faith, and a lot of people getting together to enjoy each other's company. The whole thing takes place in the very pleasant surroundings of the Bield Retreat Centre near Perth. Well, not actually in the centre altogether, only partially, and mostly in the adjacent fields. Modern music demands a big stage, amplifiers and microphones with microphone stands for performers to hang onto whilst performing. The music is loud but that's what you get these days. But it's not all about music. A lot of other things take place - discussions, both formal and informal; the meeting together of old friends and new, and especially, unplanned, unscheduled but meaningful conversations. These other things happen in marquees and tents of various sizes, grouped around in a rough circle in a grassy area in the grounds of the centre.

Anne and I have been going to SOLAS for some six years now, helping to run the Methodist tent there. Now, loud music of the "thrash metal" genre is not our favourite way to spend a weekend, so the attraction for us must be elsewhere. Small group work was developed for a time in the Scotland District, in an attempt to encourage more of this type of meeting for bible study and fellowship to give more depth to discipleship in societies which needed that encouragement. Discussion material was developed, and advice made available to give the "how" of starting up a small group/ house group from scratch. Small groups can take a little while for members to become comfortable in sharing their thoughts and feelings in the group, so if we wanted to give a flavour of

small group working in the space of a weekend, Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon, a different approach was needed. This was by means of crafts and things to do in order to give people something to talk about and discuss. Of course, not everyone would see this as a small group exercise, and not everyone would need the stimulus of crafts, themes and the like in order to start talking to each other, but over the years, we have become very popular with families, with some solitary people, who you can still meet at such an event, and even with refugees in our country, who have found an outlet for their feelings despite a lack of practice with the English language.

My very first conversation on my first Friday evening of SOLAS, six years ago, was with a lady who I guess was one of these solitaries. She looked around our tables, set out with challenges and craft materials, and ignored them. She actually started the conversation by telling me in no uncertain terms that she was an atheist. Our notices outside the tent proclaimed us as The Methodist Church in Scotland, so no chance of her mistaking us for something other than advertised. She went on for over half an hour about her situation. I eventually said to her "If you're an atheist, why have you been going on about faith all this time?" "Have I?" she said. I nodded, and we stood in silence for a full minute. "I'll need to think about that," she said and slowly turned and left. Despite my invitation to return tomorrow, she didn't, but I hope she did think about it.

Since then, I have had many other conversations, with people from other denominations, with clergy from other churches, with kids covered in paint or glue, or a mixture of the two, with refugees from Syria, Eritrea, Sudan, and other places the person didn't own up to. Everyone with a story, and coming to the Methodist tent to tell it. I guess they went to the Peace Tent, too, and one or two other organisations, but it was good to hear their stories and be alongside them for a while. A conversation I remember this year was with two ladies who had left their church, but had not left their faith. They said they got fed up with talking about the fabric of the building, how money was going to be raised for its upkeep, and how there was not much in the way of outreach. All I could do was commiserate, and suggest they carried on seeking for somewhere which did provide some outreach. They took away our material on small groups, and I pray they have found a way to live their faith.

A feature of SOLAS has been Communion on the Programme. It didn't happen last year, so as a run up to this year, Gary, our Learning and Development rep made strong representations that it should be on the Programme, rather than impromptu, and that the Methodist Church should run it. So on the Saturday evening, we repaired to the Barn, a large seated area, led by Revs. Nick Baker and Nik Wooler, who led a marvellous Communion Service to a "full house". The said Revs had been doing their thing at the tent all day too, complete with paint, glue and conversations, so well done them.

So, the Methodist presence at SOLAS is really an outreach opportunity. It's a move, or I suppose a brief dip into a significant section of the community and you need to be ready to share your faith with whoever comes along, or even just to listen to someone who wants and needs to share.

Bob Kelley

## *Over to You !*

At the end of a daily meditation passage on Jonah 2 vv 1-4, Graham Dodds (Rector and broadcaster) invites the reader to write a psalm .

Will you respond to the invitation and create a new psalm which could be used in our worship? –

*Write one phrase for each of the following –*

Praise: - something about God that is wonderful.

Thanksgiving: - something God has done for you recently

Enquiry: - a question you've always wanted to ask God.

Emotion: - something that makes you angry

Revelation: - something God has specifically shown to you

Thanksgiving: - something about God and today

Praise: - something about God forever

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### *Recommended Reading*

I was introduced to the book 'Under the Unpredictable Plant' by Eugene H. Peterson when I attended a District Training Day on the book of Jonah. The book explores vocational holiness through the story of Jonah. It is not only ministers who may have grand ideas of where the church should be heading and what we should be doing. Peterson contrasts our desire to head to Tarshish with accepting God's call to go to Ninevah. 'Going to Ninevah to preach was not a coveted assignment for a Hebrew Prophet with good references. But Tarshish was something else.

Tarshish was exotic. Tarshish was adventure'. p15 'God had purposes far exceeding anything Jonah had imagined. Jonah thought he had come to Ninevah to do a religious job, to administer a religious program. God had brought Jonah to Ninevah to give him an experience of amazing grace.' p161 'Holiness cannot be imposed; it must grow from inside. I never know how Christ is going to appear in another person, let alone in a congregation. I must be mindful of the conditions, treating as ever more particular and precious each of these parishioners.' p133 We are all different and all loved. All that we have experienced is part of our story. Experiences, good and bad, have made us who we are. Looking at the needs of our congregation and the community around us should be our focus. Let the Holy Spirit guide us as to what we are being called to do here and now. Maybe we have grand ideas as to what we would like to do in the future but let us not forget the value of the people who are with us now. Let us nurture and enrich the lives of those around us. Carol

***What is the future for our Church? This concerns all who worship at CTM . Please note the date and come if it is at all possible for you. Come and have your say and hear what others are saying***

## **Saturday 24th November**

10:45 -13:15 (Coffee from 10:15)

### **Open Meeting to discuss the District Development Plan**

All churches in the District have been asked to discuss the following questions and come up with a plan:

- Does the congregation have the desire to worship, engage in social action and biblical literacy?
- Does this church have the capacity to do this?
- Are there other local churches (Methodist and other traditions) with whom we could work?
- Is our building a help or a hindrance – can it be a resource?
- How long can we keep paying the assessment and balance the books?

Please come along and let the church council have your views!

## Church Magazine

The next edition should be ready for Christmas/New Year but it will only happen if we get stories, news, opinions etc. from you!

We also really need a small editorial group to work together on its production. This would not involve many meetings – most communication can be done by email .

You don't have to be a long-standing church member – newcomers could bring fresh ideas so if you are at all interested please come and talk to me.

Why not use the following space to note down any unusual Christmas experience you remember while it is fresh in your mind?

For overseas members – how is Christmas celebrated in your home/community?

Any other suggestions of what you would like to see in future editions

Reflections on our weekend at The Burn would be interesting!

Joan Orskov





## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

| DATE        | TIME                  | EVENT  | PLACE           |
|-------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| 22 November | 7pm                   | Christmas Tree Switch On                                 | Castlegate      |
| 24 November | 10:15 for<br>10:45 am | Open meeting to discuss<br>District Development Plan     | CTM             |
| 25 November | 5:30pm                | Christmas Lights Switch on<br>Parade with Nativity float | Union<br>Street |
| 2 December  | 11am                  | Advent Sunday service                                    | CTM             |
| 9 December  | 11am                  | Toy service  | CTM             |
| 16 December | 11am                  | Coffee, Cake and Carols                                  | CTM             |
| 23 December | 11am                  | Nativity and all age service                             | CTM             |
| 24 December | 4pm                   | Christingle service                                      | CTM             |
| 24 December | 7pm                   | Christmas Eve Holy<br>Communion                          | CTM             |
| 25 December | 11am                  | All age service  | CTM             |
| 6 January   | 11am                  | Covenant Service   | CTM             |