

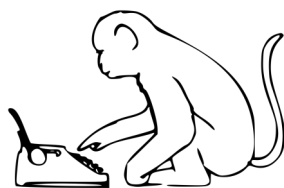
**NEWSLETTER OF HADDINGTON WEST,
GARVALD AND MORHAM PARISH
CHURCHES (CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)
AUTUMN EDITION**



Contents

3	A word From The Editor
4	Mission Statements
5	Letter from The Manse
6	Letter from The Manse
7	Session Clerk's report
8	Prayers
9	West Church Family
10	West Church Guild
11	Where can we find hope?
12	Where can we find hope?
13	Christian Aid update
14	Christian Aid post script
15	Treasurer's update
16	Treasurer's update
17	Crossreach appeal
18	Shoebox appeal
19	Shoebox appeal
20	Garvald & Morham news
21	Communion and Christmas services
22	Weekly Bible Readings (NOV 2020)
23	Weekly Bible Readings (DEC 2020)
24	Weekly Bible Readings (JAN 2021)
25	Laughter in Paradise?
26	Laughter in Paradise?
27	Church Contacts

A word from the Editor



The Editor's an idiot. Sad, but true. Back in the March edition of the church newsletter, I was trying to be clever in matching the year; 2020, with perfect vision; 20:20. Within days of publishing, the country and indeed the church skidded to a halt, the biggest halt in the church's history, I believe. This was down to Covid 19.

Well, I never saw that coming. Nor, when it did come, did I envisage how long it would last. But we're down, not out and that's what counts. As we see the churches starting to re-open, having found their feet, we see the the country's faith blossoming and strengthening. I'll close here, with the opening verses of that favourite old hymn: Onward Christian Soldiers.

Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.

That's us, isn't it?

Robert Wright

EDITOR



West Church Mission Statement

To bring everyone to Jesus
To build them up in the Christian faith
To set them free by God's grace
To send them out to bring others in.

Garvald and Morham Churches Vision

'Garvald and Morham Parish Churches exist to bring people together in God's love, guiding them to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. To give them a basis on which to live good and caring lives to the benefit of the local and wider community, thereby glorifying God'.

Letter from the Manse

Would it not be misguided and somewhat insensitive in testing and strange times such as ours to call upon you *to rejoice*? It would certainly be that if it meant to suggest we defy regulations, act irresponsibly or harden our hearts towards the sorrow, fear and anxiety caused by the pandemic and the measurements put in place to combat it. Yes, it would be.

It would be, were it not for Christ. But it is. Indeed, not to rejoice might signal that the church is in danger of responding to the difficulties it experiences with a lack of faith, failing to take into account Christ, the Lord.

There are pressures, there are fears, there is anxiety and feelings of uncertainty and worry as troubling times lie ahead; and there may be the temptation to grumble, to accuse, to close off. This is similar to the situation Jesus knew his disciples were soon to face because of the suffering and cross that awaited him and then also them. And he said something to them. And what he said had in view his resurrection: "Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ... I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16,22,33)

In the letter to the Philippian church Paul refers us all who are united to Christ to this joy, and he lays out what such joy will do (for "doing" it does!): "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*"

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, He is our joy. Of that let the times remind you. Christ who is the evidence to the world of God's gentleness – see the message of the angel who announces Christ's birth! – is the ground of our gentleness towards others. And this makes for joy.

In these times and as Christmas approaches, I wish us all the knowledge of this joy and that it may be evident in our gentleness towards all.

May the Lord be with you all.

The Manse family

Our Church Is Open for Sunday Services

We were delighted to hold our first Sunday service, since the beginning of lockdown, on the 31st August. Since then, we have been open every Sunday for worship. Hand sanitizing, social distancing and mandatory mask wearing, except for those who are medically exempt, are all in place.

'Is it different?' you might ask. My answer is, 'Yes and no.' We may not sing, but, when one of our organists is available, he/she plays the hymns. John, our minister, reads them to us, while we follow the words on the screen. Sometimes, our music comes from the technology that we have. Two members have said that they have a better understanding of the hymns when they are not singing them! We shall welcome the day when we are allowed to sing in church again, however. John still preaches, although his sermons are slightly shorter than before. The sermon, hymns and prayers take about thirty minutes. We are always pleased to see each other. In spite of social distancing we are still able to chat to each other as well as sharing a time of worship.

Booking a seat is important as we have no wish to turn anyone away once they have arrived. Our numbers are such that we are usually near our limit. That should not preclude you from booking a seat if you have not been attending since lockdown. You will be very welcome and those of us who have been attending regularly, will be happy to take our turn on a rota system. Contact Brenda Thomson by telephone: 01620 843310 or by email: brendathomsonsessionclerk@hotmail.com.

The Sunday services are still available on paper and they are still taking place on U-Tube. If you would like to attend the Sunday service in the church, please join us.

God Bless.

Brenda (Session Clerk)



PSALM 16 1, 2

God is so responsive that you can always reach Him – He bends down and listens to your voice and answers each prayer in order to give you His best.

Heavenly Father, we come into Your presence to give thanks for Your many blessings and to bring before You our many concerns. In these days of uncertainty we can get confused and wonder how things are going to work out. Many are anxious how they will cope with loss of income, health issues and grieving for loved ones. We do not know what the next day may bring. But we know You are in control and can use any situation for good. We turn to you and pray for Your guidance for all who make decisions for our nation. Only by prayer can we bring to You our deepest thoughts and needs, and seek Your peace. We thank You that once again we can come into our church building to share together in worship as we face the challenges ahead. Father, we need Your strength and Your grace today and in the days ahead. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN

Charlotte Crawford

WEST CHURCH FAMILY

It is with great sorrow, we note the passing of

Elizabeth (Betty) Brownlee

Betty died at the age of ninety-six in a care home in Fife. Until quite recently she was a regular attender at morning service in the West Church.

WEST CHURCH GUILD

GREETINGS FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Guild Friend,

I hope that you and your families have all kept safe and well in these unprecedented times.

Preparations for this season's Guild meetings were tentatively under way in March, when it soon became clear that no meetings could be held. Even to start inviting speakers for the second part of the year seemed very improbable, when so much was still unknown.

Although we had to stop before our AGM and the committee meeting at which we finalise the next year's syllabus and discuss our funds, we asked Aileen, our Treasurer, to disburse the following funds:

- ⇒ £700 to Haddington West Church
- ⇒ £200 to the Guild Project: Journeying Together – Empowering Teenage Mothers in Zambia
- ⇒ £50 to Blooming Haddington

I personally am missing our fortnightly get-togethers, but at the moment there seems no light at the end of the tunnel or prospect of meetings resuming. Hopefully we can perhaps arrange a syllabus for 2021-2022 but at the moment even that seems unlikely. We are all getting older too which doesn't help!

Please all keep safe and we can meet again in church – and in Tesco 's smiling behind our masks!

With very best wishes to you all.

Margaret

'Where can we find 'hope' in the Bible?'

A good question, because when we have hope we will not 'be put to shame', we will not be undone by all that tries to do so. Hope is one of the three so-called theological virtues – these being faith, hope and love and it is knowing that your future is from God and is in His hands; it looks to His mercy and faithfulness alone, it lives by His promises.

Bringing two Scripture passages together we learn what Christian hope runs on (1) Psalm 73 v 23: *"Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterwards you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever."* And (2) Romans 8 v 31: *'If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?'* This being so, the conclusion must be that if we have Christ then we own all of God's promises truly. Then they are not just nice sounding words, but true, dependable statements on the matter of what it means that our life is in Christ, our future with God. Then hope has the fuel on which to run and not tire, to light up our way and not go dark.

The recipe for hope: To have Christ – and faith in him does – is to own all of God's promises.

Some promises/words:

Psalm 27 v1: "The LORD is my light and salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 42 v 5: 'Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.'

Isaiah 41 v 10: "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Jeremiah 29 v 11-14: '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. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you', declares the LORD.'

Matthew 11 v 28: Jesus says: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

Romans 8 v 38-39: 'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

1Peter 5 v 6: 'Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.'



Christian Aid update

Because it wasn't possible to hold our planned Afternoon Tea at the end of August, instead we held driveway sales of donated items which raised £482.76 for the work of Christian Aid. Small change boxes were also returned at those times and brought in a further £107.45.

With the ongoing restrictions on numbers of people gathering indoors it will not be possible to fundraise in the usual ways so the committee will be delighted to hear of any new ideas you have which would work in the current circumstances. Please make your suggestions to your church CA representative; Graham Coe (01620 822322) or contact the local CA committee secretary; John Weierter on 822342 or jrweierter@gmail.com

I have now stepped down as co-ordinator of our local CA committee. I was going to write 'of this charity' but Christian Aid declares itself not a charity but a movement for justice and when we read and hear the news from around the world then a movement for justice is surely what is needed.

Thank you for the support, friendship and encouragement you have shown me during my time as co-ordinator. Please continue to support the work of Christian Aid, prayerfully and financially, as this is vital to those less well off than ourselves especially in the challenging times we all face just now.

Janet Chrystal

CHRISTIAN AID POST SCRIPT

Four years ago Janet Chrystal of St Mary's was persuaded to take on the task of co-ordinating the efforts of three churches – St Mary's, Holy Trinity and the West Church – in response to the annual fund-raising week of Christian Aid. Initially this commitment was for three years, but it has stretched to four, and now the search is on for someone to take her place.

It will be a hard role to fill, because Janet has extended the activities of Christian Aid in a number of innovative ways over the whole year, to ensure the crucial message of Christian Aid has been kept highlighted and that the necessary fund-raising has been continued and greatly enhanced.

The West Church congregation has supported Christian Aid generously over the years, both physically and financially, and acknowledges gratefully the energetic and enthusiastic leadership that Janet has provided. It would be wonderful if an equally committed volunteer was to come and take the task forward.

Graham Coe

Treasurer's Update

In thinking of what to include in this article I was reminded of the Bible passage in Luke's Gospel at the beginning of Chapter 21 entitled, "The Widow's Offering" If you recall, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the Temple Treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. Jesus's response was:

"I tell you the truth this poor widow has put in more than all the others".

I have always found this passage to be very humbling and uplifting and I believe it has a message for us all.

We live in unprecedented times; every one is in a situation that is most definitely totally different to what we would call normality.

We had our last normal church service on the 15th April 2020 and we re-opened again with a much reduced capacity on the 30th August 2020. As well as losing the usual income from our Sunday services during this period we lost a significant amount of monthly income because we were unable let our church hall out to community users.

In early April, I wrote to everyone who had received a weekly Free Will Offering Envelope asking them to consider paying by monthly standing order. I am very pleased to report that a large number responded and this has significantly improved our financial stability during the closure.

I regret however, that even with this support, the church has from April to August had an average shortfall of just over £2,000 per month, which I am covering using reserve funds. If the current situation remains unchanged, I am confident that there are sufficient reserve funds to cover the church in the short to medium term.

Continues on pg 17

Like the widow in the opening passage all contributions, however small, are a gift to God.

If you have any financial concerns regarding our current situation please do not hesitate to contact your elder or myself by email at haddingtonwesttreasurer@gmail.com

God Bless,

Ray Silcox

Christmas Cards and Calendars

Crossreach, the Church of Scotland's Social Services arm, has on sale Christmas cards and 2021 calendars. There is a leaflet available at the church door (garden entrance) with illustrations of a selection of what is available. Cards and calendars can be ordered on line at www.crossreach.org.uk/shop, by post or by telephone on 0131 454 4374.

~~~~~

### **Crossreach Appeal**

To help raise funds to meet the cost of running their various services Crossreach would like donations of loose stamps, stamp albums, first day cover collections, war medals, old coins, postcard collections and cigarette card collections.

Donations of stamps and other collectables have been turned into about 1,000 hours of care in the CrossReach Children and Family services.

This means services such as the Perinatal Mental Health Services, Sunflower Garden, the Polmont Bus Prison Visitors Centre and more have already benefitted from your stamps and collectables.

Please, tell everyone you know that we welcome stamps, stamp collections and other collectables and, together, we'll see more children and families receive the loving care and support they need.

To find our more about Stamps and Collectables, phone us on 0131 454 4374 or email [supporters@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:supporters@crossreach.org.uk)

**TOM NEILL**

**Samaritan's Purse**  
**Operation Christmas Child**



**Haddington West Church is organizing a Christmas shoebox appeal for 2020. Would you like to give a gift to a needy child at Christmas?**

What to do:

- \* Find a shoebox or ask Brenda Thomson for one. (Tel: 01 620 843310) or email ([brendathomsonsessionclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:brendathomsonsessionclerk@hotmail.com))
- \* Cover the shoebox and the lid separately with Christmas paper.
- \* Decide whether your gift is for a boy or a girl.
- \* Select an age category: 2-4, 5-9 or 10 – 14.
- \* Fill the shoebox with gifts. (See the list on next page)
- \* Add £5 for shipping and other costs. Please leave the box un-sealed. Label it with boy or girl and the age of the child.
- \* Bring your shoebox to Haddington West Church on Sunday, 1st or 8<sup>th</sup> November between 10 am and 12.30 pm or ask for Brenda to collect it from your home.

**Items to include in your shoebox:**

**Toys:** cuddly toy, truck, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, puzzle.

**School supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpeners, felt tips, crayons, notebook, paper, solar calculator, picture book.

## **Items to include in your shoebox:**

**Toys:** cuddly toy, truck, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, puzzle.

**School supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpeners, felt tips, crayons, notebook, paper, solar calculator, picture book.

**Hygiene:** toothbrush, wrapped soap, comb, hair brush, flannel.

**Other Items:** hat, cap, gloves, scarf, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, slinky spring, matchbox cars.

## **ITEMS WHICH MUST NOT BE INCLUDED IN YOUR SHOEBOX:**

Anything related to war; seeds, sweets, liquids and lotions, medicines, playing cards of the 4-suit variety, religious or political material, sharp or fragile items, books with words mainly.

**Thank you!**

## Garvald and Morham

### Sunday Services Dates Nov '20 to Jan '21

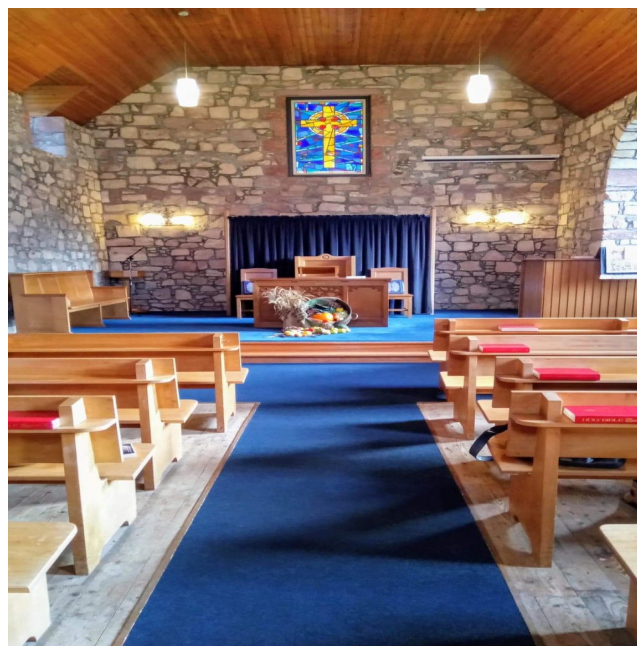
#### Garvald

1 November  
15 November  
29 November.  
13 December  
27 December  
10 January  
24 January

#### Morham

8 November  
22 November  
6 December  
20 December  
3 January  
17 January  
31 January

How lovely it is to be back in our churches for Sunday services. We have only been back since the end of September, but we are looking forward to our Harvest Festival. As our farming members are still working hard in September, we opted to wait until the actual harvest is over to enjoy praising the Lord, so we will be having our thanksgiving on the first Sunday in November. As this is being written, John and his family are on a well earned break, we wish them well from Garvald & Morham.



H O L Y  
  
C O M M U N I O N

Holy Communion

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> November

11 am

and on

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December

2 pm

---



[Christmas Eve Service](#)

Time – See our website or notice board in early November

Christmas Day Service

10.30 am

It is essential to book a seat for all services including our weekly ones.

Tel: 01620 843310

or

email: [brendathomsonsessionclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:brendathomsonsessionclerk@hotmail.com)

## **Scripture Readings: November 2020 to January 2021**

Here follows a collection of readings for Sundays through November to January – for personal meditation. ‘The primary qualification demanded in the reader of the Bible is not scholarship but surrender, not expert knowledge but willingness to be led by the Spirit of God.’ (Martin Anstey)

### **Sunday Nov 1**

Romans 12 v 21: *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

Matthew 5 v 38-48 / Psalm 42

### **Sunday Nov 8**

Matthew 5 v 9: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”*

Micah 4 v 1-5 / Psalm 90

### **Sunday Nov 15**

2 Corinthians 5 v 10: *“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”*

### **Sunday Nov 22**

Luke 12 v 35: *“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning.”*

Isaiah 65 v 17-25 / Matthew 25 v 1-13

### **Sunday Nov 29**

Zechariah 9 v 9: *“See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious.”*

Matthew 21 v 1-11 / Psalm 24

## **Sunday Dec 6**

Luke 21 v 28: *“Stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”*

Isaiah 63 v 15 – 64 v 3 / Psalm 68 v1-19

## **Sunday Dec 13**

Isaiah 40 v 3,10: *“Prepare the way for the LORD; see, the sovereign LORD comes with power.”*

Isaiah 40 v1-11 / Psalm 68 v 20-36

## **Sunday Dec 20**

Philippians 4 v 4,5: *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all.”*

Luke 1 v 26-38 / Psalm 130

## **Sunday Dec 24**

Luke 2 v 10,11: *“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”*

Luke 2 v1-10 / Luke 1 v 67-80

## **Sunday Dec 25**

John 1 v 14: *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”*

John 1 v 1-5, 9-14 / Isaiah 5 v 2, 7-10

## **Sunday Dec 27**

John 1 v 14: *“We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Isaiah 49 v 13-16 / Psalm 2

### **Sunday Jan 3**

John 1 v18: *"No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known."*

Isaiah 61 v 1-11 / 1 John 5 v 11-13

### **Sunday Jan 10**

Romans 8 v 14: *"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God."*

Matthew 3 v 13-17 / Psalm 72

### **Sunday Jan 17**

John 1 v16: *"Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given."*

1 Corinthians 2 v 1-10 / Psalm 40

### **Sunday Jan 24**

Luke 13 v 29: *"People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God."*

Romans 1 v 13-17 / Psalm 16

### **Sunday Jan 31**

Isaiah 60 v 2: *"See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you."*

Matthew 17 v 1-9 / Psalm 18 v 1-20



## LAUGHTER IN PARADISE?

A young boy had just obtained his driving licence. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss his use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little more and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I'm really proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair...."

To which his father replied...."Yes, and they WALKED everywhere they went!"

~~~~~

Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an aeroplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The flight to Egypt," said Kyle.

"I see ... And that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus," Ms. Terri said. "But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius-the-Pilot.

"Mr. Stevens", announced little Thomas, "there's something I can't figure out."

"What's that Thomas?" asked Mr Stevens.

"Well, according to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"Right."

"And the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?"

"Uh-huh..."

"And the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?"

"Again you're right."

"And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians, and the Children of Israel fought the Romans, and the Children of Israel were always doing something important, right?"

"All that is correct, too," agreed Mr Stevens. "So what's your question?"

"What I want to know is this," demanded Thomas.

"What were all the grown-ups doing?"

Contact Details

Minister: Rev John Vischer	Tel: 01620 822213
Session Clerk: Brenda Thomson	Tel: 01620 843310
Session Clerk: Fiona Sheldon (GM)	Tel: 01620 810200
Newsletter Editor: Rob Wright	Tel: 01875 870938

Email:

hwcofs@hotmail.com

Websites:

www.haddingtonwestcofs.org.uk

www.garvald.wix.com/Garvald

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com / westchurchhaddington](http://www.facebook.com/westchurchhaddington)

@westchurchhaddington on Facebook

Articles for the newsletter, clearly marked as such, can be sent in anytime, to: robertrwright@outlook.com

Haddington West Parish Church (Church of Scotland)