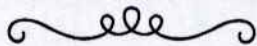
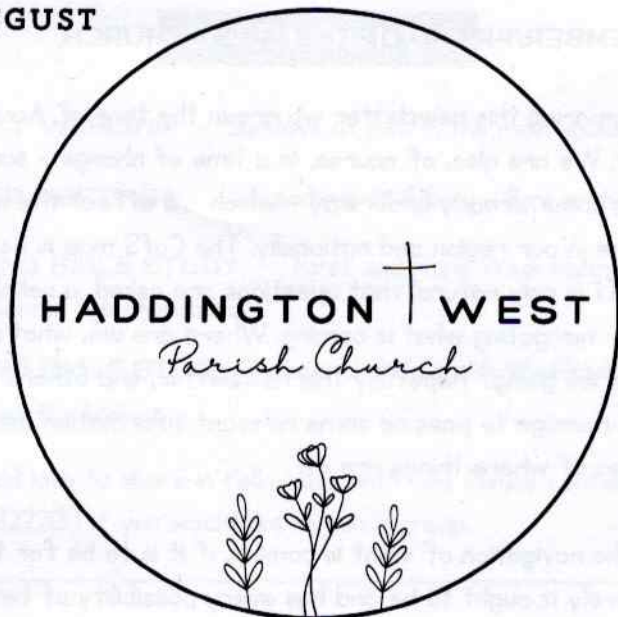


NEWSLETTER
JUNE - AUGUST
2024



**"MAY THE GOD OF PEACE HIMSELF
SANCTIFY YOU COMPLETELY, AND MAY
YOUR WHOLE SPIRIT AND SOUL AND
BODY BE KEPT BLAMELESS AT THE
COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
HE WHO CALLS YOU IS FAITHFUL;
HE WILL SURELY DO IT."**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23



DEAR MEMBER/FRIEND OF THE WEST CHURCH,

As I'm preparing this newsletter we are in the time of Ascension and Pentecost. We are also, of course, in a time of change - some changes impending, some already underway - which will affect the way church will be done in our region and nationally. The CofS map is being redrawn. It is only natural that questions are asked, a reliable footing sought for navigating what is coming. Where are we, what's happening, where are we going? Hopefully this newsletter, and others still to come, will manage to pass on some relevant information and to give you an idea of where things are at.

Yet for the navigation of what is coming, if it is to be for the glory of God as surely it ought to be and has every possibility of being (!), the requirement is not just for us to be informed - it is renewal. Hence the mention of that "other" time, of Ascension and Pentecost. "Be renewed in the spirit of your minds" (Eph.4:23), says Paul, calling the church to opt for transformation, for change, in one's own self, one's inner being - a transformation which issues in a new way of understanding, of being in the world and going about life. As Paul makes clear when he adds: "and ... put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (v.24)

This option has come into existence and has become available to all the church through Christ's ascension into heaven and through the coming of the Holy Spirit to the church from there. And all avail themselves of this option through union with Jesus Christ by faith in him. Christ in-forming the believer, that is what it means 'to be renewed in the spirit of your minds'. Which is why it is so important to immerse oneself often and enduringly in the life, work and word of our Lord and to do so with a good and seeking heart.



GATHERINGS

- * SUNDAY WORSHIP - Sundays at 11am in the main space
 - * PRAYER MEETING - Tuesdays at 8.15am - 9am in the church hall
 - * MORNING BIBLE STUDY - First and third Wednesday of the month, 10am - 11am in the church hall
 - * EVENING BIBLE STUDY - Second and fourth Wednesday of the month 7.30pm at the Manse
- We would love to share in fellowship with you. Please contact John (01620 822213) if you would like to join a group.

CHURCH LIFE

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ADMIT TO FULL COMMUNION
AND MEMBERSHIP IN OUR CHURCH

THROUGH BAPTISM AND PROFESSION OF FAITH:

John Trendle (10th Dec 2023); Aaron Wright & Hannah Cheyne (19th Jun 2024)

BY RESOLUTION OF THE KIRK SESSION:

Emily Wright & Fraser Cheyne

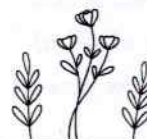
SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION:

Finlay Vischer

TRANSFERENCE OF LINES:

Gerald & Roberta Wilson

from Crossford Parish Church (CofS)





LETTER FROM SILIGOURI

JACQUELINE WAUGH

Dear All,

A little note to keep you up to date with our Sister Church in Siligouri. Below is one of the emails I have received from Marolina. She is our new contact and she is brilliant at keeping in touch with what is happening with them. Everything had gone a bit quiet but since she has taken up the correspondence link, it has greatly improved. She is always upbeat and very chatty and it is a pleasure to read her correspondence. She has sent photos which we have put up on the West Church Facebook page, and we sent photos of us in the hall after the service and some during one of the services. With permission of course due to safeguarding. If you want to add to any emails to her I will gladly pass them along. I will add the photos received.

God bless,
Jacqueline

HI JACQUELINE,

GREETINGS OF THE DAY! IT'S SUMMER TIME NOW IN INDIA, TEMPERATURE IS RISING DAY BY DAY. WE'RE PLANNING FOR A THREE DAY SUMMER CAMP FOR OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN SOMETIME AROUND THE MONTH OF MAY. CHILDREN ARE EXCITED AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT. OUR SOCIAL SERVICE WING IS ALSO BUSY RAISING FUNDS FOR THEIR UPCOMING MINISTRY AMONG THE UNDERPRIVILEGED OF A VILLAGE NEAR SILIGURI. LOTS OF OTHER CHURCH EVENTS ARE LINED UP FOR SUMMERS. DO KEEP OUR SILIGURI C.N.I CHURCH IN YOUR PRAYERS! LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU REAL SOON!

REGARDS,
MAROLINA

BABY & TODDLER GROUP

ANNE WILCOX

On the 7th September 2023 a new Baby and Toddler group started meeting in the church hall every Thursday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am. There are many young mums in the town and living with a small baby can be very lonely. The B&T group is a safe place where they can meet other mums and the children can socialise. There is home baking every week for the mums with tea or coffee and fresh fruit and crispy snacks with juice for the little ones. We don't have an entrance fee but give them the opportunity of giving a donation towards the snacks.

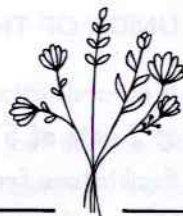
Stella was very enthusiastic in getting it started and attached posters advertising the group around Haddington. She, along with the help of her daughters posted notices on Facebook and asked for donations of toys. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of the response and now the hall is full of toys for every age from newborn to 4-years old every Thursday morning. Unbelievably the bulk of them fit into the cupboard under the stairs

Since the group started, 176 children have come through the doors. They don't all come every week. On average about 20 children are there with a parent or grandparent. It's a very happy place on a Thursday morning and the mums and children love going into the kitchen for snacks but also to chat and share some fun with the lovely, friendly volunteers in the kitchen. The 4 leaders who've all had PVG training are Stella, Jaqueline, Helen and Anne.

It's been so worthwhile; a mission to the young, as we share the love of Jesus with them all. Thanks, in particular, to Stella for her enthusiastic drive, but also to the whole team who bring such a lot of joy.



**"NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER,
BUT BY MY SPIRIT,
SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS."**



ZECHARIAH 4:6

PRAYER

Thinking of those among us who are afflicted by illness, unable for various reason to participate in the life of the church at the moment or long-term or are otherwise experiencing hardship and difficulties - a prayer (for personal use):

Lord God, hear my prayer and draw near me, for I'm finding things hard, sometimes very hard. In my weakness I say: but you are strong, in my trouble: but with you is peace. Will you let me know your help, according to your 'Saviour' name? You are the Most High and the Almighty, the exalted One, yet as your Word says you are mindful of us and care for us even though we cause you so much grief with our sins and our unbelief. In your mercy, for Jesus' sake forgive: give me strength for holding out, patience for hoping, wisdom for peace and for knowing the way forward, and all things that make for healing in your sight. I commend myself, body and mind, into your hands, and all my loved ones, and the events of my day and the one to come - you know best and you do not forsake those who seek you. Let me know your help, for I hope in you and shall praise you.

Amen

PS. And may you not be far, for I shall be back soon.



PENTECOST / CHURCH FOR THOUGHT

'No distant Lord have I,
Loving afar to be.
Made flesh for me He cannot rest
Until He rests in me...

Ascended now to God
My witness there to be,
His witness here am I because
His Spirit dwells in me.'


MALTBIE D. BABCOCK

'Unless there is that which is above us,
we shall soon yield to that which is about us.'

P T FORSYTH

'Before Pentecost, the disciples found it hard
to do easy things; after Pentecost,
they found it easy to do hard things.'

A J GORDON



'As the soul does not live idly in the body,
but gives motion and vigour to every member and part,
so the Spirit of God cannot dwell in us
without manifesting himself by the outward effects.'

J CALVIN

'To be much like Christ, be much with Christ.'

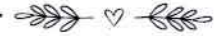
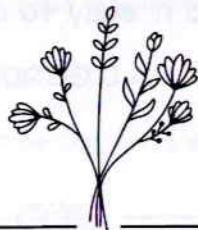
ANON.

'Putting on Christ' is not one among many jobs a
Christian has to do, and it is not a sort of special exercise
for the top class. It is the whole of Christianity,
Christianity offers nothing else at all.'

C S LEWIS

'Holiness is not the laborious acquisition of virtue from without,
but the expression of the Christ-life from within.'

J W C WAND



**THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU;
THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE
UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU;
THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE
UPON YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE.**