



INVERNESS FREE NORTH CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

January 2018

Musings from the Manse

Dear friends,

As 2018 begins, let me take this opportunity to wish you all every blessing for the year. You may have heard the saying, 'we don't know what the future holds but we do know who holds the future', and that is so very true. There are three things that are a great comfort and help to us from this knowledge

Firstly, our times are in his hands (Ps 31. 15). Jesus tells us that walking as a Christian is like taking the hand of our Father in heaven on one side and the hand of Jesus our elder, caring brother on the other. He assures us nothing and no-one will snatch us away, and certainly, the Lord will not let us go. In John 10. 29 he says, 'no-one can snatch them out of my hand....and no-one can snatch them out of my Father's hand'. In all our daily experiences, remember your times are in his hands.

Secondly, our tears are stored up in his bottle (Ps 56. 8). For many, 2017 was a year where many tears were shed through the loss of loved ones, sickness, disappointment or even some unimaginable tragedy. You may have wept all alone for many hours and felt that no-one really cares after all, but the Lord knows and sees and cares. He stores up all the tears shed and sympathises with all his heart. He also was a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering. Remember every day, your tears are stored up in his bottle.

Thirdly, our temptations are by no means outside of his sphere of control. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10. 13, that 'no temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you tempted beyond what you can bear, but will also provide a way out so you can stand up under it'. We do sometimes tell ourselves that no-one has the struggles I have, or no-one has the temptations I have. But this verses says differently. So you are not alone no matter what you face. There is a commonality of trial and temptation which we all face. Others are going through the same or something similar. It is one of the

strengths of a group like Road to Recovery who meet weekly to share in the journey of freedom from the tyranny of addiction. We all acknowledge we are in this together. And supremely important is the promise that there is a way out rather than buckling under pressure or giving in to temptation.

What better way to embark upon a new year than by reminding ourselves daily of these timeless and timely truths from God's Word.

Your friend and Pastor
Colin
Rev Colin MacLeod

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Please remember the following people in your prayers –

Housebound

Mrs Anna Cameron
Mrs Margaret Grant
Mrs Mary MacDonald
Mrs Effie MacIver
Mrs Christine MacRae

Residential Homes

Mrs Mary McCulloch – Aden House
Mrs Anna MacLeod – Ballifeary
Miss Nan MacDonald - Ballifeary
Mrs Joan Macleman – Fairfield Home
Mrs Margaret MacAulay - Highview
Mrs Joan Lamont - Highview
Mr Alasdair & Mrs Barbara Morrison, Isobel Fraser Home
Mrs Ishbel Graham - Kingsmills Home

CONDOLENCES

Mrs Dolly Campbell passed away on 12th January in Raigmore Hospital. The funeral will take place in the Free North on Friday 26th January at 1.30pm with interment in Tomnahurich Cemetery afterwards. We offer our condolences to Dolly's son Iain, his wife Helen and their two daughters and commit them in prayer to the care and keeping of our God and Father in heaven.

DEACONS' COURT NEWS

Repairs & Maintenance

The Deacons' Court would like to hear from the congregation on any potential repairs or improvements to the fabric of the building. If you have any suggestions please contact Brian Cameron on 01463 715429 or bdcameron77@googlemail.com

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Home Groups

These groups continue to meet on a monthly basis for the purpose of encouraging fellowship and discipleship amongst us and as a means of equipping us to be effective witnesses for the Lord in our every-day lives. Please do keep going along to any of the groups which meet throughout the city. If you wish to know which one to attend please speak to Sandy or Archie

R2R

The weekly Road to Recovery meeting takes place in the Free North Hall at 7.30pm, access by the Church Street entrance. We are currently going through the 12 Steps of Recovery using Life Recovery Bibles. The focus and emphasis in Road to Recovery are on faith in Christ and how, by following Christ through the 12 Steps, we can live a forgiven and free life. If you have a dependency issue with alcohol/drugs or perhaps think you might do, but are not sure, why don't you speak to someone in confidence on 07918 775368, or come along to the Thursday meeting.

Colin

GGG

GGG stands for 'Guys Gearing for Growth'. It is a guy's discipleship group that meets at 61 Culduthel Road on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. We meet for about an hour and a half and have been working through John's Gospel, looking at issues which are touched on through various passages in this book. *The God who created us*, *The God who wants to rescue us* and *The God we were made for* are amongst the topics we've been discussing over the last few months. We also discuss topical questions that people, in general, might have,

such as *Are Science and Christianity enemies or friends*, *Why do we suffer?*, and *Do I need to go to church to be a Christian?*

Please do pray for this group, that friendships will be built and maintained, questions answered and faith encouraged. If you are a guy, you are welcome to come along as well!

Colin

Marriage Preparation Course

It may not be the way many folks spent the last Saturday before Christmas, but Jessie and I delivered a *Marriage Preparation Course* to 4 couples in the church who are getting married in 2018. The course was split into 5 main sections, each addressing areas which are crucial to building a solid, lasting and happy marriage. The time was spent together as a group watching various DVD clips, then as couples working their way through questions alone. Lunch together provided a necessary but welcome break and also a time to chat together over all the various plans and preparations for each of the couples' big day.

We believe this to be an important aspect of ministry and pastoral care. Please pray for all the couples planning to marry and for all marriages in the church.

Colin and Jessie

Spring cleaning

It would be good if as many as possible (men and women) could come along to the church hall to help with some much needed cleaning from 10.15am on Tuesday, 23 January. We would like to give the tables and chairs a good clean along with the children's toys and aim to finish at 12.30pm with soup and rolls. Please feel free to come for all or part of the time - Church St entrance.

Iain and Jane Macleod and Alison Waite

Dates for the Diary

January 2018

Monday 1st	New Year's Day service at 11 am
Wednesday 3rd	Prayer round tables in the hall at 7.30pm
Thursday 4 th	Office Bearer's prayer meeting in the Manse at 8 am
	R2R meets weekly in the Fellowship area at 7.30pm
Sunday 7 th	Colin taking both services
Tuesday 9 th	Lunch in the hall from 12.30-2pm. GGG meets in Manse at 7.30pm
Wednesday 10 th	Tumble Tots meets in the hall from 10 am to 11.30am weekly
Saturday 13 th	Likely Dads at 10.30am in the hall every 2 nd and 4 th Saturday
Sunday 14th	Colin taking both services. Isobel Fraser service not on today
Tuesday 16th	Coffee @ Dobbies at 10.30am and 3 rd Tuesday monthly Kirk Session meets at 7 pm
Wednesday 17 th	Home Groups at 7.30pm
Thursday 18 th	Kidzone for ages 4-14 resumes at 6 pm in the Hall
Sunday 21 st	Colin taking both services Service in Cameron House at 3 pm
Monday 22 nd	Presbytery meets at 7 pm in Greyfriars Free Church
Sunday 28 th	Colin taking both services Congregational fellowship at 8 pm in the hall with Chris Davidson

February

Sunday 4 th	Colin taking both services. Communion service at 11 am
Tuesday 6 th	GGG meets at 7.30pm in Manse
Wednesday 7 th	Prayer around tables at 7.30pm in the hall
Thursday 8 th	Office bearer's prayer meeting in manse at 8 am
Sunday 11 th	Colin taking both services Service at Isobel Fraser Home at 3 pm
Sunday 18 th	Joseph Steinberg, CEO of CWI, taking morning service Service in Cameron House at 3 pm
Tuesday 20 th	Deacons' Court at 7 pm
Wednesday 21 st	Home Groups at 7.30pm
Sunday 25 th	Colin taking both services
Monday 26 th	Presbytery at 7 pm in Greyfriars Free Church

OTHER NEWS

Blythswood Care

Charity Shop Manager- Inverness

An innovative and motivated person with excellent people skills is required to manage Blythswood Care's charity shop in Academy Street, Inverness. Retail experience is essential as is experience of working with volunteers.

The position is for 37.5 hours per week over five days, between Monday and Saturday, and requires sympathy with the aims of Blythswood Care.

For an application form and job description:
visit our website www.blythswood.org
or contact Barbara Grace on 01349 830777
or email personnel@blythswood.org

The closing date for completed applications is Monday 22 January 2018. *Previous applicants need not apply*

Barbara Grace
HR and Payroll Co-ordinator
Blythswood Care
Highland Deephaven
Evanton
Ross-shire
IV16 9XJ
Tel: 01349 830777
Fax: 01349 830477

“CV for New Year 2018”

Paul’s CV.....”a servant....of Christ Jesus” (Rom 1:1)

Peter’s CV.....”a servant....of Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:1)

Jude’s CV.....”a servant....of Jesus Christ” (Jude 1:1)

James’s CV....”a servant...of The Lord Jesus Christ” (James 1:1)

My CV.....” You are serving The Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:24)

AM I??