



A View from the Manse

Dear Friends,

This is our first Messenger of the New Year, so let me start by wishing you all a very happy and blessed year.

February is the month that we begin to see signs of change – a little longer day light – some green shoots pushing their way up above the cold ground – snowdrops beginning to lift their little heads and so there are signs that the season is changing and spring is not too far away.

Signs are important for our lives – signs can point us in the right direction and they can warn us of danger. The Bible is a book full of signs – some warning us of danger and some pointing us to God. When we study the Bible we begin to see God`s signs there for us all. The life of Jesus is also a life full of signs.

But when we look specifically to the life of Jesus, we see that He is God`s signpost for the world. Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8 v12.

There is a lovely illustration that shows us the importance of discerning signs.

Two battleships assigned to the training squadron had been at sea on manoeuvres in heavy weather for several days.. The visibility was poor with patchy fog, so the captain remained on the bridge keeping an eye on all activities.

Shortly after dark, the lookout on the wing reported, "Light, bearing on the starboard bow."

"Is it steady or moving astern?" the captain called out.

The lookout replied, "Steady, Captain," which meant a dangerous collision course with a ship.

The captain then called to the signalman, "Signal that ship: 'We are on a collision course, advise you change course twenty degrees.'"

Back came the signal, "Advisable for you to change course twenty degrees."

The captain said, "Send: 'I'm a captain, change course twenty degrees.'"

"I'm a seaman second-class," came the reply. "You had better change course twenty degrees."

By that time the captain was furious. He shouted out, "Send: 'I'm a battleship. Change course twenty degrees.'"

Back came the flashing light, "I'm a lighthouse."

Jesus is God's lighthouse to the world. A light that shines in the darkness and the darkness will never put it out.

His life points to better world, a new heaven and earth. His birth in a humble stable, brought up in a small village, his death on a lonely cross and then his resurrection was the sign that points us to God.

It is good for us to remember that the resurrection of Jesus is God's great signpost to us, that there is an eternity awaiting us, that is full of purpose and joy.

As we begin the New Year, let us stay close to Jesus and learn from all the signposts that he placed in his life. He showed that God is compassionate...He likened Him to the Loving father in the story of the prodigal...God's heart is full of compassion for all of his children.

Jesus showed us that God is actively searching for all who are lost, as the parable of the Lost sheep shows us, that when the Shepherd found his lost sheep he went home rejoicing.

In his parable of the judgement, between the sheep and the goats, Jesus shows us that God is concerned for the weak and the vulnerable.

So the gospel is full of signposts pointing us to God, who is ultimately revealed as loving and compassionate. But we have a choice to make – we can pay attention to the signs and do what they tell us i.e. Trust in the Lord with all of our hearts or we can ignore the signs and like the captain of the ship, live in danger of shipwreck.

I hope we will choose to look for God's signs and to trust in them.

As we journey through 2014, let us be confident that we have someone who shows us the way; we have someone who walks by our side and we have someone who takes our hand and is there with us even when the sign posts are hard to find.

With Every Blessing,

Your minister and friend,

John

GUILD

The items in the syllabus for the month of February are as follows:-

MONDAYS at 7.30 p.m. in the North Hall

3rd Feb– Whizz Kids

17th Feb– Helen Dunbar– Mercy Ships

TUESDAYS at 2 p.m. in the Large Hall

11th Feb– Doreen's Digest

25th Feb– Musi in Hospitals

On Sunday, 26th January, (Homeless Sunday) after the morning service we will be holding a soup and roll lunch at £2.60 pp in aid of the Lodging House Mission.



LLANDUDNO TRIP

THERE WILL BE A SHORT MEETING AFTER THE SERVICE ON SUN 9th FEBRUARY 2014 FOR THOSE WHO ARE BOOKED TO GO ON OUR HOLIDAY TO LLANDUDNO. DUE TO A FEW CANCELLATIONS WE NOW HAVE A COUPLE OF PLACES AVAILABLE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING US ON THE 5 DAY TRIP, PLEASE COME ALONG ON THE 9th TO FIND OUT MORE.



THE CRAFT CLASS

We have restarted and the dates for February are as follows:

Monday 10th February

Monday 24th February

We meet in the Large Hall at 2:00pm

ALL WELCOME



Art Club

The Art Club restarted on Monday the 13th January and will run through until the summer from 1.30 pm– 3.30 p.m. in the Large Hall

Why not come along and try your hand at a new skill or renew an old one? We are on every Monday afternoon and have a lot of fun as well as learning new techniques. You don't have to bring anything, we supply lots of materials. We look forward to seeing you there.



The Flower circle



The ladies of the flower circle would like to thank the following people for donating towards the flowers in the month of November.

Mrs E Breingan
Mrs A Smith
Mrs N Cairns

Once more I would like to thank the ladies for doing the flowers so beautifully. They are much admired every week. Also for their hard work in making the church look so lovely for Christmas.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



On behalf of the Flower Circle I would like to thank all who gave to the Poinsettias for the Church. Once again the generous people of Hillington park enables us to decorate the Church and to share the spirit of Christmas with the many people who received the plants.

Isabell Nugent



I would like to thank John McGregor for his visit to me after the recent death of my brother, Jim, also the concern and prayers during his illness by friends in the congregation. I would like to thank everyone for the sympathy cards I received, all were greatly appreciated.

Mary Young

Jesus

HE BEGAN HIS MINISTRY BY BEING HUNGRY, YET HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE.

JESUS ENDED HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY BY BEING THIRSTY, YET HE IS THE LIVING WATER.

JESUS WAS WEARY, YET HE IS OUR REST.

JESUS PAID TRIBUTE, YET HE IS THE KING.

JESUS WAS ACCUSED OF HAVING A DEMON, YET HE CAST OUT DEMONS.

JESUS WEPT, YET HE WIPES AWAY OUR TEARS.

JESUS WAS SOLD FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER, YET HE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

JESUS WAS BROUGHT AS A LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER, YET HE IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

JESUS DIED, YET BY HIS DEATH HE DESTROYED THE POWER OF DEATH.

GREGORY OF NAZIANZUS; A.D. 381

PARISH REGISTER

DEATHS

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE	MEMBER
Angus Matheson	5 Lourdes Avenue	15th November 2013	No
Mai Hood	35 Forfar Avenue	18th November 2013	Yes
Robert Fraser	33 Dunelm Street	14th December 2013	No
Jean Bisland	27 St Andrews Drive	21st December 2013	No
Jim McLean	107 Ralston Path	5th January 2014	Yes

*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life"
"In my Father's house there are many rooms if it were not so I would
have told you".*



PRAYER REQUESTS

Matthew 7:7 " Ask and it shall be given, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you "

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers;

- All our members who are ill at home, in hospital or Care homes.
- Pray for those on the prayer list
- All who are struggle with loneliness or depression.
- All who are grieving the loss of a loved one.
- All who are unemployed and struggling to pay bills especially after the Christmas season.
- Remember all the countries who are at war and people who have had to flee their country.
- Pray for Asylum seekers and refugees.
- Pray for the children of Dwelling Places and Luwero.
- Pray for those who have suffered in the United Kingdom due to the storms and floods.
- Remember those who are serving their country in Afghanistan.
- Remember all our elderly in the dark and cold nights.
- Remember CAP – (Christians Against Poverty) and ROC (Redeeming Our Communities).
- Pray for the work of The Trussel Trust Food banks in our church - pray that we get the support and the resources to run this organisation.
- Pray for the development of our young people in the church.
- Pray for all our Office bearers as they lead us forward.
- Pray for our Ministry Team.
- Pray for Cindy as she settles into her role as Youth Developer.
- Pray for our community and all who make important decisions for it.

MESSENGER

All articles for inclusion in the March 2014 issue of the Messenger must be submitted no later than **Tuesday 11th February 2014.**

Articles can be left in the Pigeonhole marked “Messenger” or e-mailed to us at

L.Drummond@sky.com

All submissions should include a name and contact number.