



# BRIDGE

October 2021



## The harvest is plentiful ...

As I write we have just celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving service. One of the joys of living in The Manse is being able to watch all the agricultural activity in the fields around us. This year the fields immediately adjacent to the Manse have held crops of oil seed rape, barley and wheat. Not far away though were fields of potatoes and turnips. The farmers have been busy dodging the showers of August and September to get the grain harvest in often working late into the night. That harvest is now all in, the straw baled, collected in and stacked. Currently crops of potatoes and turnips are being harvested. Soon though the activity will turn to ploughing and sowing as preparations are made for next year's harvest.



The field behind us which was oil seed rape has already been harrowed and sown with winter cereals. The seed will germinate and grow enough to survive the winter and be ready for an early start in the spring. The work is never ending.

These days farming is highly mechanised tractor, plough, harrow, seed drill, sprayer, and of course a combine harvester take on the jobs that would have been done by numerous people in the past. The combine harvester makes relatively short work of a field of ripe barley. Imagine that same field being harvested by hand. Men with scythes several abreast cutting the stalk, followed by gangs of women and children gathering the grain laden stalks into sheaves and stacking them in stooks ready to be collected to go to the threshing floor.

Even with the relatively small fields of the Middle East in Jesus time the work of bringing in the harvest was hard and labour intensive. To mix the metaphors it was all hands on deck in order to get the essential harvest in. Against that background Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field." Luke 10:2 & Matthew 9:37&38.

While the words of Jesus are identical the contexts of the two readings are slightly different. In Luke's Gospel he is commissioning the seventy-two to go out and proclaim that the "the kingdom of God has come near". In Matthew's Gospel Jesus himself had been through the towns and villages proclaiming the "good news of kingdom". The force is the same - there is a harvest to be brought in not of grain but of people and there is a great need for workers to go out into the harvest field.

These are times of change in the Kirk. Falling membership means less money to fund ministries and to maintain buildings. Over the next few years there will be a radical reduction in the number of full time workers (Ministers, youth workers, pastoral assistants and the like) that will be able to be employed in the parishes. The number of ministries and the number of buildings are all up for review. We can accept that as inevitable and there is nothing we can do to stop the decline in members across the Kirk. Or....

In this last year and half of Covid pandemic people have re-evaluated what is important to them. Family and family time has undoubtedly been at the top of the list. There is also a yearning for spiritual connection and an openness to the good news of the kingdom of God. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Going forward roles that folk have been content for the minister to do will have to be taken on by other people and in that we all have a part to play. Where do we start? How do you begin? The first thing to recognise is that each one of you is an ambassador of Jesus Christ. Each and every hour or every day you carry and represent his presence. At the heart of Local Houses of Prayer (LHOP) is the reformation principle of the "priesthood of all believers". That is two fold, you each have direct access to the Father through Jesus Christ, there is no requirement for a human intermediary or holy man and you each minister in the name (the power and authority) of Jesus Christ.

The ship of the Kirk is sinking, we can man the pumps to bale her out or we can answer the call to enter the harvest field - Joining in with the LHOP initiative or at least enquiring about it is one way you can simply and easily help in the labour of bringing in the harvest.

Blessings *Geoff*

## In- Person Services and Live streaming

Thankfully we are now back in church on Sundays. Yes, we are checking in, sanitising hands on arrival, wearing masks and sitting well spaced out to satisfy Covid regulations, but these restrictions seem minimal compared with the blessing of worshipping God altogether again.

For those who are not yet ready to meet together in a group and for those who are too infirm, we now have the technology to bring the service to you in your own home each week. Thanks to the new 'live streaming' equipment described in the Summer issue of Bridge, we are able to broadcast 'live' to our

**YouTube channel - MS&F Church - 11.00am each Sunday**

And through our website, you can catch up - choosing either to watch the videos or to listen to the service

**[www.MSandFchurch.com](http://www.MSandFchurch.com)**

These options are available on the Home page of the web site. If you don't have the necessary equipment to access the services by any of these means, then if you would like to receive a CD with a recording of the service then please contact Edith on 01674 671879.



*This is a screen capture from the service on 26th September, broadcast for Harvest Thanksgiving.*

This has been a steep learning curve for the volunteers manning the production desk, and it hasn't been without hiccups. Now that most of the glitches have been identified and dealt with, this is an ideal time to step forward and offer your support by joining the rota of helpers - your church needs you!

Despite the possibly daunting appearance of the equipment, it seems to be relatively easy to pick up the skills. Interested? Speak to Pete, Jamie or Edith.

### STILL WANTED - WINDOW CLEANER

After many years of grime and bird droppings, as well as the latest craze of the school kids of throwing large wet lumps of tissue paper which stick very well on the Wilson Hall windows, we now urgently require a window cleaner.

#### Ex Melville South members!

Who did you employ in past years, as I have had no success persuading my window cleaner to take over the job?

Otherwise, anyone in the Property team with abseiling experience?

*Douglas*



## Re-opening News ...

### ... Philos Friendship Café

Along with all our other activities, Philos Café had to close in Spring 2020. At the beginning of September 2021, a meeting was called of all the former volunteers to discuss if and when we could reopen Philos to our friends. Re-starting any activity is daunting in the current climate and we had a sincere talk about whether this was something we wished to take on.

The original aims of the café were “To provide a safe and friendly environment for people. To provide opportunities for support - mental and physical - by involvement of council homelessness workers etc.”

We agreed this still described what we wished to do. We are very short of volunteers so the decision was taken that we would reopen only one day per week, Wednesday, and everyone will come every week when they are available.

There are complications with the preparation of food and so on but we believe these can be overcome. Table service will be essential of course and the new kitchen and servery make this very practical. We plan to reopen at 1 pm on Wednesday, October 27, after the Tattie Holidays. Unfortunately the activities on offer will be much reduced due to the need to sterilise everything so we will be limited mainly to quizzes - the snooker table, dartboard and dominoes etc are not feasible. If people wish to colour in they can, provided they work on a single picture with crayons/pencils which cannot be shared around.

It won't be the same, but then as we're all finding out - nothing is at the moment. As you can imagine, any new volunteers would be welcomed with open arms (socially distanced arms of course) so if you can be free on even some Wednesdays, talk to Di Millar or Ann Craig.

We are so grateful to God (and the hard work of several people) for the wonderful building we now have at the Philos Hub. Here are two photos so you can see a little of what has been done - to get the full picture you must come in person - please do, it would be great to see you, and the café is open to all. *Di*



### ... Craft 'n Café

After 18 months of lockdown and restrictions our Friday church cafe has begun to meet again from 2 - 4pm in Ferryden Hall. At present we are obliged to have some safety measures in place - 1 metre distancing and face coverings unless you are sitting down. We have hand sanitisers throughout the hall.

The cafe is a safe place to make friends and talk. Most people bring their own knitting projects and over the past few years many blankets, hats and tops have been posted out to Malawi. At present we are collecting items for the Blythswood Box Appeal. We have a small donation for tea and coffee (because of restrictions we are bringing our own snack, however if you forget we have some wrapped biscuits to share) which is collected each week and sent to various charities both here and abroad.

By the way you don't have to be a crafter or a knitter to fit in. A small group play cribbage (the game is still a mystery to me!) and Binnie usually plays scrabble. Her beautiful Guide dog Amber usually snoozes under the table and is the most spoilt of all those that come. At 3pm we have a 5 minute 'Thought', a very short talk with a Christian theme. Our church hall is right opposite the Ferryden Pier and if you are very lucky you might see one of the big supply ships coming in or leaving, escorted by the pilot. You are welcome to visit our cafe and see if you would like to come regularly.

Be assured of a welcome!

*Jean Rose 07955760460*

## ... 10:10

After a successful summer holiday club in August it was really encouraging to be asked by some of the young people whether we would be restarting the 10:10 club. A core group of leaders have now met a couple of times and arrangements are being made as per the flyer below. You will see that there are a couple of changes; we are now meeting on a Thursday evening and the age group is Primary 6 and upwards. Both Southesk and Ferryden primary schools in this age group have been invited, along with the Messy Bags families and previous 10:10 and Holiday Club members.

Please pray for the young people and the leaders as we embark on this relaunch with a new group of young people. It is an exciting time to be starting to meet in person again but there are many new considerations which will require careful planning and preparation.

If you know of anyone in this age group who would like to come along please encourage them to join us, they will be given a very warm welcome in a club which has always been a lot of fun in a supportive family environment.



### **Relaunch of the 10:10 Youth Club!**

We are excited to announce that Ferryden youth club will be restarting after the October holidays

#### **Who?**

The club is for young people from P6 and upwards.

#### **Where?**

The club meets in Ferryden Church Hall.

#### **When?**

Each Thursday during term time from 7-8.30pm.

#### **What?**

The club has been running for over 10 years now and is a lot of fun - it's different every week.

We have an exciting programme which in the past has included:

indoor and outdoor games  
quizzes  
outings  
talent contests and lip synch battles  
baking  
beach campfires  
and lots of parties!

Every week we have a TFL which stands for a thought for life where we learn more about what the Bible says about living life to the full. There is no charge for the club but if you can afford to put £1 in the honesty piggy bank each week then that helps to cover the cost of our snack.

We will have to limit the number attending the club so places will be on a first come first serve basis, if you are interested can you please get in touch as soon as possible. Email [meg.cowan@icloud.com](mailto:meg.cowan@icloud.com) for an application form and any more information you need. Hope you can come along and join us; you'll be very welcome!

## Other news ...

### ... From Shona Barakat

As most of you will now be aware I, Shona, am the new youth and children's worker for the Montrose parish. I have to thank you for your welcome and the prayers that you have and are continuing to pray for me and my family as we settle into Montrose. The family and I have now been back in Scotland for 2 months. My husband, Elie, will be returning to Lebanon shortly to continue with his commitments to the church that he pastors there. We are praying that a way will be made for him to join us more permanently but for now he will be here every few months for a short period of time.

Our three oldest children, Stephen, Daniel and Esther, are now students in Montrose Academy. This has been a major change from them coming from a kindergarten to grade 12, evangelical school in Beirut with 600 students to a public school of around 800. However, they are enjoying the chance to try things that they never had the opportunity to do in Lebanon. Peter, our youngest, is in P7 at Ferryden Primary and loving it. He is enjoying being different from his siblings and seems to have settled into the different method of education very quickly.



We are in the process of moving into a flat in Montrose. We are so blessed that we have been provided for with everything we need to begin again here in Scotland. With this move into Montrose, I am excited to be able to become more involved in the community. It has been a privilege to be able to hear from so many different people what the needs of the community are and begin to look at different ways I can help the churches develop to meet the needs of the younger generations. Plus, I am excited about coming alongside some of the schools to help with their religious education classes and the chaplaincy needs within them. To help me understand my role as a chaplain I will also be studying a course at the University of the West of Scotland, this is going to be a challenge as it has been many years since I undertook formal studies.

#### Prayer points:

- My children as they continue to settle into life in Scotland and make new friends.
- For open doors into the correct schools in the area and wisdom as to how best to support the teachers and students in each one.
- For my studies that I will be able to focus and complete the course well.

### ... From Growing Young

MS&F has now completed the first year of the Scottish Growing Young Cohort and is now moving onto year two. This year the MS&F Growing Young Team has attended evening webinars, coaching calls, and 4 weekend virtual summits. We have been given a wealth of knowledge to draw upon from Fuller Youth Institute and with this knowledge and learning we have been able to begin formulating plans for the future of MS&F which is intergenerational and a place where young people are not only made to feel welcome, but are encouraged and motivated to not only grow in their faith, but to take on roles which are important to the running of the church and its activities.

The cohort was initially designed to run for a single year, but due to the impact of COVID-19 and numerous lockdowns and a flurry of restrictions to navigate it has been decided to add the additional year. So whilst we have spent a year learning the principles and the core commitments of Growing Young during the first year, the second year will focus on implementation of these principles and maintaining momentum to truly allow us as a church to Grow Young.

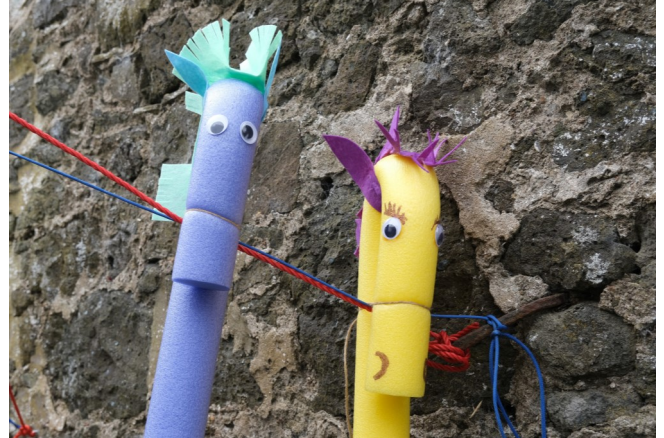
If anyone has any questions relating to Growing Young, any member of the team would be more than happy to answer them.

*Jamie*



## ... Holiday Club 2021 - "Return to the Wild West"

It's hard to think where to begin. It had been 2 years since the last holiday club and going back to it was like reuniting with an old friend. There was a lot of additional considerations due to the ongoing COVID situation, but we were soon back in the saddle (pardon the pun) and the Ferryden Hall was once again full of excitement and laughter. This year, there were fewer kids and a small number of leaders and a lot more safety precautions but that didn't mean there was any less fun!



Our bible theme this year was "people who have met Jesus" and everyday we had a 'surprise visitor' who came to tell the children their story and how they had come to know Jesus, and this really engaged with the children. We also had all of the usual activities, games and crafts all with a wild west theme to them. One of the favourite crafts this year was when we made "noodle horses" and set up jumps in the newly completed outdoor area. We tried our best to utilise this area as much as we could and thankfully the weather was good for the majority of the week.

Everyone really enjoyed the week, it was a return to normality giving hope for the future. So, until next year, it's back to the drawing board and planning all of the fun we will have at Holiday Club 2022.

*Jamie*

Congregations are being encouraged to participate in a National Giving Day on the day of their choosing between 5 and 31 October 2021 to provide people of all ages an opportunity to reflect on God's presence with us through these challenging times and to offer gifts of thanksgiving to God.



The Church of Scotland

# NATIONAL GIVING DAY

We have chosen Saturday 30th October for our Giving Day at our newly refurbished Philos Hub in Castle Street. We invite you to come to see the new halls and for refreshments between 10.30am and 3.30pm. (COVID restrictions will be in place.)

If you would like to and can afford to, gifts of money can be handed in that day - envelopes and Gift Aid forms will be available. All moneys gifted will help to replenish funds which have been used for the improvements.

*An Invitation*

*For you*

*With love*



## What are Local Houses of Prayer and what part might they play in the life of MS&F Church?

The story for us starts 2-3 years ago when I took to the Kirk Session the notion that MS&F Church should become a "House of Prayer". Looking back I only had a vague notion of what that might mean and I was probably thinking about more prayer events like the Prayer Concerts that we have featured at times. Fast forward to lockdown and I started reading a book along with a few others entitled "*The Grace Outpouring - Becoming a people of blessing*" by Roy Godwin. This book is the story of a remarkable movement of God centred around a retreat centre in Wales. At the heart of that was a 'rhythm of prayer' within the centre, based on some sound Scriptural principles. As I read each chapter I wondered how some of these principles and the 'rhythm of prayer' might translate into a parish setting. Before long, that phrase "House of Prayer" popped up and it immediately resonated with what I had taken to the Kirk Session those months earlier. It was quite late in the book that "Local Houses of Prayer" were mentioned, an extension of the work surrounding the Retreat Centre. So I investigated more, attended a training event myself and realized that here was something that would fit into parish life without laying undue burden on anyone but also was something that could unleash the potentials of the Kingdom of God here in this place for our Church, our parish, our communities. And I am excited that we have this opportunity to be part of it.

A couple of things need to be said. Firstly if you have read the first paragraph and the shutters have already coming down and you are saying that this is not for me then please re-consider with an open mind. This is for everyone no matter how little or how vast your experience in the arena of prayer. Secondly, every great movement of God in history has been preceded by a movement of prayer - this is our opportunity to be involved in an exciting movement of prayer for the people in our local communities. This is your opportunity to play a part in what God has planned for the people around us. And you can play a part whether you are stuck at home or out and about in town, whether you regularly spend hours in prayer or whether you find prayer a chore.

The training events last month were informative, scriptural, enlightening as well as challenging. They expounded some Scriptural principles on which we will be able to move forward as a people of blessing. They also laid some practical foundations for being a "Local House of Prayer". The vision is for a network of households across our communities interceding for and blessing their local community. This initiative has the potential not just to open up and revolutionise our prayer lives but see the release of the Kingdom of God in our streets.

Did you miss the training? There will be more opportunities to get involved. Just want to know more - then please do be in touch with myself.

Blessings Geoff

Web: [www.MSandFChurch.com](http://www.MSandFChurch.com)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/MSandFChurch](https://www.facebook.com/MSandFChurch)

Minister  
Geoff Redmayne  
01674 675634  
[GRedmayne@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:GRedmayne@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Session Clerk  
Alan Fraser  
01674 671879  
[alan.fraser12@gmail.com](mailto:alan.fraser12@gmail.com)