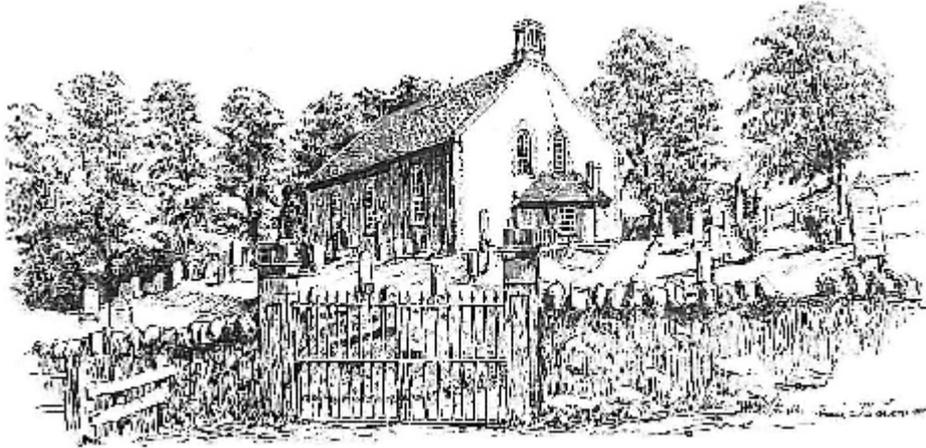


# Tomnacross Tidings



## **Kiltarlity Church of Scotland**

Regular Worship 11.15am - everyone welcome

### March 2015 Diary

1st Rev Bruce Ritchie - communion service

8th Rev Peter Donald

15th Rev Bruce Ritchie

22nd Rev Bruce Ritchie, followed by the Stated Annual Meeting

27th Ordination and Induction of Jonathan Humphrey, 7pm

29th Rev Mark Nicholas

Mondays at 12.50pm Tomnacross Primary School - *'Open the Book'*

### April 2015 Diary

5th Rev Jonathan Humphrey - Easter Sunday

## **From our Interim Moderator, Peter Donald**

Dear friends,

One of my tasks this month was to sign off (with others) a report to the General Assembly which structured itself around the picture of pilgrimage. It is an age-old picture for journeying towards a destination, often with fellow travellers. We can talk about a pilgrimage of faith and recall the old hymn by John Bunyan. Or, as the World Council of Churches recommends, we can take seriously the challenge to be pilgrims for justice and peace in a world where there are conspicuous injustices and too little in the way of peace.

I was thinking of this as I come near the end of my close journey with you as my companions. Fellow travellers can and do change, though we will not forget one another I hope. It has been very good to share on the journey with you, upholding weekly rhythms of worship while altering the times we meet; seeing into completion quite a few visible improvements in the physical space at Tomnacross; becoming involved in the Primary School to supplement the excellent witness of the Open the Book team, and also those great summer Fun Days for children; being present at baptisms and weddings and funerals, not to mention the bringing on board of a new Elder, a new Organist and a new monthly news

format. As I write also to Kirkhill, not a lot stands still – and that is before the new Minister has set foot in the parish!

The month of March will be an exciting one for the church and village. We shall be pleased to host the ordination of the Free Church minister in our building at Tomnacross, and our intentions to continue the strongest possible links between our two congregations will be blessed I trust by that. And then at the end of the month, we shall have a second ordination, also in Tomnacross, of Dr Jonathan Humphrey who comes with his wife and family to be the latest in a long line of parish ministers. Please do put the date of Jonathan's ordination (and Joe's!) firmly in your diary and listen out for opportunities to do a little bit to help, so that there may be a joyous coming together of God's people in service.

Elsewhere in this newsletter some of the practical arrangements will be spelt out, as far as we know them. We owe a debt of thanks to both members of the two congregations and the contractors who are seeing to the Wardlaw Manse refurbishments and improvements. In prayer we ask that our gracious God will as ever see to our needs in the smallest details as well as in the big picture: a family removing to the Highlands, and two congregations and villages and rural areas welcoming the new folk in their midst. God

anchors us and God journeys with us, as we become the people He needs for the year of our Lord 2015.

Thanks be to God that we are journeying forward! Thanks be to God that we should not venture into the future in our own strength. "He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of Christ. God is faithful: by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1: 8-9).

God willing, I shall see you this month and I hope beyond that!

Yours,

*Peter*

## **Church News -**

Peter reminds us that the Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation will happen after church on Sunday 22nd when the annual Accounts will be presented as well as other reports.

## **Do stay on!**

## **Ordination and Induction of Joe Barnard from the Free Church -**

this will take place at 7pm on 13th March in our church, followed by a buffet in the village hall. We have received a very warm invitation from the Free Church - everyone is welcome to attend. There has

been some talk about the beginnings of an initiative to explore an outreach ministry amongst young people, in collaboration with the Free Church congregation. It is hoped to have a joint service in April at which the idea might be seriously opened up to everyone.

### **Even More Important News!**

The Ordination and Induction Service for Rev Jonathan Humphrey will take place on Friday 27th March 2015. The service will be held at 7pm in Kiltarlity Church, followed by a social in Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill. As a linked charge, it is our turn to have the service and Kirkhill's the social, though both churches are organising this event and we may well be asked to help with the catering.

For those who have never been to an ordination, this is a most interesting and moving service. The Inverness Presbyteries Business Committee are organising the service, and the worship will be conducted by Rev Mike Robertson, new minister at the Barn Church, with Rev David Scott of Inshes giving the charges. These arrangements should be agreed at the Presbytery meeting on 3rd March and will also be subject to the Manse renovations being finished by 13th March - all is on schedule at present. More details will follow nearer the time, but please put this important date in your diaries. All will be very welcome. Jonathan will then be

'preached in' by Rev Mark Nicholas from Gorebridge Parish on Sunday 29th March during the normal morning service at each church. Jonathan's first Sunday preaching will then be Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday.

## **Hello from the Humphrey family, Jonathan, Kate, Calum and Robbie!**



It's good to have the opportunity to introduce ourselves and say how excited we are about moving up to join you. We are looking forward to getting to know you all and see God's plans unfolding. We are so grateful to the Manse Committee for the enormous amount of work they have put in to get the manse ready for the week of 24<sup>th</sup> March when we start our move. It's also great news that Inverness Presbytery have now finalised the 27<sup>th</sup> of March for my induction and ordination – praise God! As I write we are very

busy getting our house in Penicuik ready for renting and doing a clear out of cupboards, attic and things stored for 20 years or more. A lot of sifting through photographs, clothes, the toys our boys played with at different ages etc. has brought back many memories of the journey we have been on and God's hand in everything. As we get ready for our journey north I'm reminded that when we put our trust in Jesus as our Saviour and Lord he calls us all to journey in three directions: "upward", "inward" and "outward".

The "upward" journey is about learning to go deeper in worship, both personally - Him and me, and corporately - Him and us. It's about bringing all of ourselves, nothing hidden before Him, by the power of His Spirit (John 4: 23-24). David Watson in his book *You are my God*, talks about his experience of the Holy Spirit moving him from merely singing, to an experiential understanding of worship where he found a new reality of God's presence. The "inward" journey involves healing of hurts, gaining freedom from the hang-ups we have, or negative emotions that can so limit our lives. In the freedom and healing that Jesus brings we discover who we really are in Him, the purposes to which He has called us, and how to live and love with His power at work within us (Romans 8). Lastly we are called to an "outward" journey; sharing our faith with others and

serving with our unique God-given blend of gifts and talents that builds up the body and enables our community to experience the reality of Jesus' love. Our "community" is wherever God places us, an ever-extending family where we honour, love and serve each other and where Jesus is Lord and centre stage (Acts 2: 42-47).

I am looking forward to sharing more on these themes in the weeks and months ahead and also hearing more about your own journeys of "in", "out" and "up". But it's also important to remember that God himself makes a journey towards us. At a particular point in history God became a human being - as Jesus' friend John put it: *"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son. Generous inside and out, true from start to finish."* (John 1: 9-13 - Message Translation).

Jesus still moves into our neighbourhood today by His Spirit, to establish His Kingdom – His rule and reign in the midst of us (Luke 17:21). This is good news! We don't have to do it all ourselves and we don't journey alone. We can live in the security of His love and say yes to His call on our lives, fully confident that He has a place and a purpose for us in His family.

**Jonathan**

## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2014

The accounts have now been prepared and will be presented to the congregation at our AGM to be held after worship on 22nd March next. It is disappointing to see that offerings are down 13% on last year. Full details of our financial position are disclosed in the accounts which will be available at the meeting, but anyone wishing a copy in advance should just please ask. The format the accounts have to be in is a bit long-winded, but, briefly, excluding Fabric expenditure, the figures are -

### RECEIPTS -

Offerings	£13425 [15455]
Giftaid tax	3208
Investments	965

—————  
17598

### PAYMENTS -

Allocation C of S	£5167
Routine costs	12983

—————  
18150

Clearly this shows a small shortfall which was met from cash in the bank, but by the year end our balance there had fallen to £2892. We save money during a vacancy as a significant reduction is made to our Ministries & Mission allocation which is paid monthly to the church's head office. After Jonathan's induction this will increase to about £10k for 2015, having a serious impact on our cash flow.

Turning to Fabric, this past year we spent £12614 on our new kitchen, church halls, electrical work and the final payment for the church roof. Even after that we are fortunate to still have Fabric and reserve funds of £71k, so basically, capital-wise we are fine - it is the revenue situation which is causing some concern.

*Ian Morrison, Treasurer*

## **Our Church Flowers**

I have extracted from our Kiltarlity Church Calendar 2015 the names of our ladies who have undertaken to provide/arrange flowers in our church for the month of March.

You will already have received your personal copy of the Flower Calendar for the year. Following up on a suggestion, it is also intended that each new issue of our Tomnacross Tidings Newsletter will include the rota of names for the ensuing month.

Traditionally there has always been fresh flowers all year round in many of our churches. Thank you so much to all of you for volunteering in ours . This is very much appreciated.

Anyone out there who is not into the mechanics of flower arranging should not fear. Flowers are beautiful in themselves and a few chosen blooms together with some greenery simply placed in a

vase/container can be very effective. If still unsure, Barbara or myself will be happy to help. Our tel. nos. are on your copies of the Flower Calendar and the main one on the Church notice board.

*Marie*

### **Flower Rota for March 2015**

Communion	01 March	Isabel MacColl
	08 March	„ „
Mother's Day	15 March	Barbara Wilton
	22 March	„ „
Palm Sunday	29 March	Marie Harvey

### **A note from our Organist!**

Tonya has been telling us about the Inverness music festival, and we thought you would all be most interested. Her daughter, Sasha, who has played for us so beautifully in church, took third place in a violin class on Monday and first in a cello class on Wednesday. She was especially pleased with winning the cello class as she picked it up only few months ago and is completely self taught. Lots of Tonya's students took part too and two came joint third in an evening piano class on Monday. Tonya herself made her debut appearance in an organ class playing a recital piece by Guilmant and

played at the Ness Bank Church on Tuesday evening. This was a big challenge for her as she had never tried that instrument before and just had to make an educated guess about the registration in the given acoustics (Tonya's own words!). She managed to score a distinction mark from the judge and lots of compliments from the audience - which she was thrilled with, as she only started playing organ a year ago.

### **For your amusement, young and old -**

How many words can you make using only the letters in

## **Tomnacross ?**

Words must be four letters or more, no proper nouns - normally starting with a capital letter, no plurals ending in 's' and no foreign words unless they are commonly used in English. Letters may only be used the number of times they appear in Tomnacross.

Surprisingly, one editor has managed nearly eighty so far - look out for her efforts on the notice board in the next weeks!

**Finally** - formatting the newsletter for the new printer is a little tricky, but it is wonderful to see it printing in booklet form! Please bear with me. *Sheila*