

FINDLAY NEWS

February 2012



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FINDLAY COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Leadership Structure and Deacons' Nominations

As we approach our Members' Annual General Meeting we have asked the Church to think and pray about Deacons' nominations. We were thankful for the way the Church engaged in this process last year and a number of new Deacons were nominated. Last year as a Church we began a two year pilot of a new Church structure. This structure groups the ministries of the Church into different areas. For each area an elder, a Deacon and a team of members are appointed to give direction to that area of Church life.

In the first year of the pilot we have successfully begun seven ministry areas: Pastoral Care and Prayer; Services; Group ministries; Youth and Children; Finance; and Property and Administration.

These seven teams have formed since the last AGM and we are thankful for the work they are beginning to do. As a leadership we long for more Deacons to be appointed so that we can develop ministry teams for other areas of the Church. Our key priorities, moving into this coming year, is to develop ministry teams in the areas of mission and community services.

We would ask the Church to pray about this, and ask the members of the Church to consider nominating Deacons of Godly character to serve. Following the AGM, the Leadership Team will meet to pray and discuss if these new ministry teams can be formed and which Elders and Deacons will head them up.

Please do continue to pray for the AGM, and if you are not a member and are interested in finding out more about membership, please speak to Michael.

The Rice and Beans Challenge: Sunday 26th Feb - Sunday 4th March

What if you found yourself eating just porridge for breakfast and rice and beans for both lunch and dinner? What if the only drink you could have was water? Do you think that you could do this for a week? For many people this amount of food would actually be more than they receive on a daily basis, all year round.

In order to try to identify and empathise with 800 million to 1 billion people who go hungry each day in our world, we are encouraging individuals, families and small groups in the Church to take on the one week rice and beans challenge. This challenge, which will be taken up by a number of churches in Scotland, is being run in conjunction with Tearfund. And at the end of the week you will have an opportunity to donate the money you save on your weekly shop to Tearfund, This will go towards feeding the hungry.

Peter Collison will be undergoing this challenge, and if you would like to join him why not register your interest with him.

Funds Donated at the Christmas Carol Service: Messages of Appreciation

Thank you to all who contributed towards the special offering collected at the Christmas Carol Service. This amounted to a very generous £1,200 and was donated to the African Children's Choir to help feed the Children in their care, to Dwelling Places, and to Patrick, who works with street children in Uganda. What follows are messages of appreciation from the recipients of the funds.

African Children's Choir

Thanks to all at Findlay who so kindly donated to the Candlelit appeal! It is a real blessing to belong to a Church family who puts others before themselves and see the need of others in different parts of the world. It was amazing to be able to share with the staff over here about your kindness! Parts of Africa have been rocked by a huge increase in food prices in this past year. In just one month food prices in parts of East Africa increased by almost 20%! Your kindness will help ensure that we are able to provide food packets for the children that we work with! I'm missing you all, and I wish you every blessing for this New Year – Kyle

Raising Up Hope for Uganda

Hello everyone at Findlay Church, I greet you all in the Name above all names: Jesus Christ. I would like to send my sincere appreciation to all of you for all you have done for us. Your donation has brought great joy to us, most especially to the destitute children. Thank you very much for the donated funds that were used to purchase children's food and food for the chickens! The children in the RUHU home are now very happy and blessed to be happy, safe and sound. May God bless you so much for all that you have done – Patrick

P.S. Gillian Ferguson received a message from Patrick on Facebook, saying, please tell them that the chickens smiled when they were enjoying their food from Findlay Church!

Dwelling Places International

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the offering at the recent Candlelit service. At the end of last year we undertook more street outreach amongst the street kids of Kampala, and as a result we have recently been able to rescue 13 children, aged 3-11 years old. The donation from Findlay will really help us as we seek to serve these new children. Please continue to remember us in your prayers. As you can imagine, many children find it challenging to settle into their new surroundings in the home and need a lot of support as they begin their rehabilitation. Also, our staff need an extraordinary amount of love, patience, energy, wisdom, devotion and insight. Thank you and God Bless – Gillian

John and Louise Heywood - Life's an Adventure!

Greetings Findlay friends! Can you believe it has been a year since we sat among you? We have seen and experienced so much since leaving you last February. Our year away began with a month of voluntary work with the fantastic Christian charity, ASHA, teaching English to children in the slums in Delhi, India. This first month with ASHA has been followed with extensive travel throughout India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand and finally, California.



It's been quite a year! And as we look back and reflect on how it has impacted us spiritually. There have been many occasions when God has really spoken into the circumstances and situations which we have found ourselves in.

Our time in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka was a time of insight into the Hindu and Buddhist faiths, which represent the cultural context and personal faith of the majority of the populations of these countries. We had never really understood how fundamentally engrained these faiths are into every aspect of daily life until we sat observing inside the temples and talked with locals on train and bus journeys.

As we listened to the locals and watched them line up to offer their gods gifts to 'guarantee' requests for health, wealth and prosperity, the Bible's teaching on idols became very relevant and real. Oh how wonderful that our God is not a God who needs to be appeased!

In the midst of this culture immersed in Hinduism we worked alongside the wonderful women in Trilok Puri slum who pray in Jesus' name for all their needs and concerns, whether big or small. It was only after being with them that we really fully understood the poignant significance of the name in which they prayed. Prayer is not alien to them at all culturally, but to pray to Jesus is!

A time of real privilege for us was during our wedding anniversary, which we spent in Sihanookville, Cambodia. It was there that we were befriended by a young man named Vida, who was trying very hard to improve his English. We gave him a gift of a Bible in English and our email address, even though he did not have one himself. We are pleased to say that we have since heard from him and exchanged several emails. Vida is reading the Bible and using it to improve his understanding of English. We would love for you to join us as we continue to pray that he would come to know Christ as his Saviour.

There are many other issues with which God has touched our hearts while away, including the horrendous prevalence of human trafficking and the severe persecution of Christians in many of the countries we have visited. Unsurprisingly, poverty, in both materialistic and spiritual senses, is also an issue we have had to face at almost every step of our journey.

We have also been very blessed to have been able to share in fellowship with members of God's family across the globe during our time away; particularly the women and young people in Trilok Puri slum, the staff at ASHA in India and God's people in Burma, where we encountered a great kindness and spiritual welcome.

On a personal level, we have greatly missed consistent fellowship and Biblical teaching. God has affirmed to us the great privilege it is to belong to his worldwide family and the importance of connecting into a local fellowship. We have really missed the opportunity to use our spiritual gifts in service within the Church family and have found that without consistent service our relationship with Him is somehow less fulfilled.

On one hand our adventure is almost over, although on the other hand it's just begun. By mid-February we will have finished travelling and plan to return to Northern Ireland, where we feel God has led us to be. The next chapter is very much an open book and we really don't know what God's plans are for our future. We would really value prayer that we would be sensitive to God's guidance with regard to employment, a new church family and a home.

We would also appreciate prayer for the ability to trust God in this upcoming time of uncertainty and to use this time ahead of us as wisely as possible. One thing we know for sure is that our God is a good and kind God. While His ways are beyond our understanding, His intentions for us are no secret (Jer 29:11). So we look forward to our future and whatever God has ahead for us, praying for the wisdom to walk in His way at every turn.

You can find out more about ASHA by visiting www.asha-india.org. For a very interesting insight into the spiritual and political history of Cambodia and the beginnings of the Christian Church in this country, we recommend reading *Killing Fields, Living Fields*, by Don Cormac. Finally, for more detailed information about our travels and what we are doing, please feel welcome to check out our blog at www.johnandlouiseheywood.blogspot.com.

We are really looking forward to seeing all of you very soon!!

John and Louise

"He is the rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just" Deuteronomy 32:4

Becoming a Faith-full Doctor: Matt McHardy

At 17, I had to choose my work experience, and found myself torn between being a vet and being a doctor. Out on the farms and helping in theatre, vet work experience was much more enjoyable than filing notes in the local GP's! And yet, that summer, my life would change forever.

I was brought up knowing the Bible, going to church, and never rebelled from this. I had even gone forward at a Billy Graham Crusade, but something was missing. I knew I was no longer fulfilled by my life. After my initial growth spurt, people were catching up on me at sports. With the change to streamed classes, I was no longer the big fish in the wee pond, eating the prizes. I realised I could not make myself happy, never mind fill my ache for eternity. I knew there had to be something more to my relationship with God: I had seen it in the lives of a special few people at church and SU leaders at camp. I returned to camp, and that summer, with my parents fervently praying at home, God transformed me. I experienced this as the change from a heart of stone to a heart of flesh. He showed me that the whole of Life was about Him, and that it could all be lived for Him. It quickly became clear that God had called me to medicine to care for humans made in His image. He opened up the fountain of His love and compassion inside me, and has been doing so ever since!

6 years of Uni, 5 years of post-grad training later, I am about to embark on a career as a GP with a desire to mentor trainees. I've learned so much, both about medicine, about people and about God; and these all enhance each other. The NHS encourages "Life-long-learning"; God has called for this from the beginning!

A prevailing Western mind-set is that we should keep our ('private/personal') faith and our ('public/secular') job separate. The Bible teaches that the Good News of Jesus Christ is for the whole world. Yes, it is a kingdom of hearts and minds first, but if that transformation stops at our heart and mind, we are not living as ambassadors of the gospel. We need to develop a practical theology of doing whatever we are doing as to the Lord, and not men (Colossians 3v22-24), and this should affect all aspects of our lives.

In recent decades there have been increasingly public cases of Christian doctors and nurses being suspended/fired for offering to pray for patients or to share their faith with them. Interestingly, in most of these cases, it is someone other than the patient who makes the complaint. In 1948, the World Health Organisation said "*Health is not just the absence of disease, it is a state of physical, psychological, social and spiritual well being.*" In recent years, there has been a renewed focus on spiritual care, including acknowledging that spiritual care is often neglected.

As Christians, we are called to submit to governing authorities (Romans 13). For now, the NHS provides Christians the encouragement to ask patients about their

faith, the freedom to ask patients if they would like us to pray for them when appropriate, and the opportunity to share our own faith and perspective when asked by the patient. We should recognise that “All patients, carers and staff should be treated with dignity and respect at all times. This includes sensitivity to people’s religious and cultural needs.” Patients can tell when someone has a caring heart with genuine interest and compassion. God’s strength to live like this shines in a dark world, and people respond.

I’ve had a few conversations like this:

(Mr E) “Don’t you find it hard, being a Christian and a doctor?”

(Matt) “What do you mean?”

(Mr E) “Being a scientist, yet holding beliefs... like evolution...”

(Matt) “I don’t think I could be a doctor if I wasn’t a Christian.”

(Mr E) [Confused look.]

(Matt) “Well, if you believe in survival of the fittest, you should let all the sick people die. I want to care for people and know that I need God’s help to show genuine compassion and care for my patients....”

(Mr E) “I’d never thought of it like that...”



To neglect their spirit, which will last forever (unlike everyone’s deteriorating body) would be to neglect caring for them as whole beings. As with friendships, this involves us being ready (whether it suits us or not!) for opportunities to share the gospel in words and deeds, and not forcing it.

I believe that all the character attributes encouraged/exhorted in the Bible will help people be better employees. Integrity of word and deed is vital, including the type of chat we encourage around the lunch table. However, I will leave Michael to complete his series on this topic, and we can all compare fruit!

I know that by continuing to abide in God, fountains of living water will flow out of my heart (John 7v37-39), and others will be blessed. I am also painfully aware that as a channel to carry this water, I am broken, and I leak. When I do not take on His advice to “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5v18b) I cause suffering in patients and staff, as well as in myself. For me recently, His call has been to put to death my perfectionism as far as it feeds pride and worry. Over time, Christ will increasingly make me free for loving service, with a grateful heart, whilst resting on His resources for everything.

At whatever point God intervenes in our lives, He starts us on a journey. He calls us to put to death our sinful nature, which is selfish and proud, and to put on our new self, because that’s who we really are in Him (study Ephesians!). This affects our whole lives, including growing to become diligent, trustworthy workers who sacrifice for those around us. It means caring for people spiritually and seeking to develop our work environment to honour God.

May His Living Water overflow from our lives into this dry and weary world!

University of Glasgow: Christian Union Events Week

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Findlay,

I'm a student at the University of Glasgow and am writing to you on behalf of the Christian Union there. From 13th to 17th February we'll be running our annual Events Week, and we'd love it if you got involved!

Events Week is a week of outreach events. This year our theme will be '*What if...?*' This will entail holding lunch bars in the centre of the campus and evening events such as an acoustic night, a pub quiz and a jazz night. Each lunch bar and evening event will have talks that discuss difficult '*What if...?*' questions concerning our God and His world. We will also hold prayer meetings each morning, continually handing the week over to God.

The general director of 'Christians in Sport', Graham Daniels, is our speaker for the week and will bring a team who will participate in the events and talk with students.

We feel that Events Week is a fantastic opportunity to share the awesome news of Jesus Christ with our friends and fellow students. However, to do all this we need your support.

The first, and most important, way of supporting us is through prayer, and we'd be really grateful if the congregation would pray that God works through Events Week and that students would have ears to hear the Gospel.

A second means of support is financial. As you're probably aware, these events cost money. For instance, we hope to serve free lunches and hold events in the main unions as well as heavily advertising events before and during the week. And as a non-profit organisation, this can be demanding, so we'd be extremely grateful for any donation you feel able to make. Last year, although we raised almost £900 in a single CU offering, local churches donated generously; and without their help some of the events wouldn't have gone ahead.

Finally, if you can think of any other practical ways in which you could help, we'd love to have you involved!

If you are willing to support us in any way in this project, please contact me; I'd love to hear from you.

With every blessing,

Bethany Arkinstall (Contact details: Bethany.arkinstall@gmail.com)



What's going on at FFN?

The answer to the question above is that there are many good things happening at the Network. And if you would like an idea of our schedule, read on...

Mon: Women of Faith (first Monday in the month 9.30 pm – 11.00 pm)
Parent/teacher board: Oakgrove Primary (monthly)
Joint Support Team Meeting: Hillhead Secondary (monthly)

Tue: Parenting Group (Woodside Nursery): mornings and afternoons for 6 weeks
VIP (very important play together group): 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm.
Play therapy group (7 weeks)
Training for volunteers (2 weeks): 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Wed: Lunch Club (weekly): 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Thu: Self-help group (weekly): 9.30 am – 12.00 pm
Eat 'n' Meet (monthly): 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm
New Beginnings Bible Study for families with addictions (weekly): 7.00 - 8.15 pm
House group (monthly): 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

There is also counselling, one to one parenting, volunteering catch ups, advocacy, practical help, and our teams of befrienders work with families throughout the week.

Please pray on a weekly basis for all the activities of the Network; praying, especially, that God is at the centre and that those who have no hope will find hope.



CSW Meeting @ Findlay Memorial Church

Christian Solidarity Worldwide has their next meeting on Friday, 17th February at 7.30 pm at the Church in the side hall. The speaker will be Mervyn Thomas, CEO of CSW. He will be speaking on the general work of the organisation as well as the changing nature of situations of Christians in Nigeria, North Korea and Burma.



**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

You are warmly invited to attend this meeting. Mervyn is an excellent speaker and well worth hearing.

Church Survey

If you have not yet completed your Church Survey, there is still time to do so and return the same. Alternatively, the survey is still available on the website.

Your lifestyle and views on Church life are important to us!



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Secretary: secretary@findlaymem.co.uk

The Social @ Findlay

Please join the Social @ Findlay at Sloans Bar and Restaurant at 9.00 pm on Friday, 24th February, where we will be enjoying the great time-honoured tradition of the Scottish Ceilidh and dancing our shoes off to energetic favourites including The Gay Gordons, Strip the Willow and the Canadian Barn Dance.



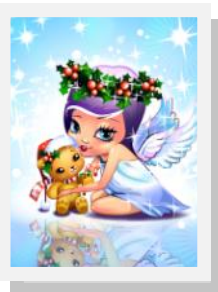
Paul Barnett understands that there may be another activity happening in the Church that Friday. However, given that The Ceilidh starts around 9.00 pm and finishes at midnight, you can always go to the Church and then go on to The Ceilidh.

Sloans Bar can be found just off Buchanan Street and Argyle Street at 62 Argyle Arcade, 108 Argyle Street, Glasgow. Paul has 40 tickets and they cost £5 each.

Please speak to him (preferably on Sunday, 29th January) to be put on the list for a ticket. His mobile telephone number is 079170224989

Angel Curry Night

All 'angels' at Findlay are cordially invited to Angel Curry Night at 7.00 pm on Friday, 10th February in the Church. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to enter into the spirit of the event by affixing to their person wings and a halo. At the end of the evening it will be revealed who our secret angels have been throughout the past year. This promises to be a real fun evening – so don't miss out! There will be a small charge to cover food served.



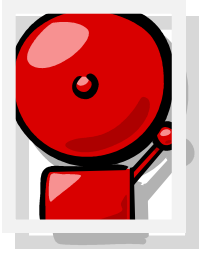
Jeanette

Food 4 Thought



Ladies please remember that Food 4 Thought will meet this month on Wednesday, 8th and Wednesday, 22nd of February at 12.30 pm. It would be lovely if you could join us for an informal light lunch and thought for the day.

Fire Alarm



We have now fitted a fire alarm system which will sound automatically if the sensors in the cafe, kitchen or boiler house are activated.

Please note that the control unit is in the electrical cupboard in the vestibule. Manual call points are situated in the vestibule and at the back door, to be activated in the event of a fire being discovered.

Church Members' AGM: Wednesday 29th February @ 7.30pm

We are seeking new nominations for Deacons for this meeting. Members are advised to begin praying and considering about whom they may wish to nominate.

If you are not a member, but are interested in membership, please speak to Michael Healy about the next membership class on 10 February, 2012.

Please note that Deacon Nomination Forms are available from either Rachel Sutherland or Peter Collison, and should be returned no later than Sunday 5th, February. Please note that if you are a member you will be issued with a copy of the AGM Reports, which your Deacon will distribute prior to the meeting.



Finance Team

On 1 March Peter MacDonald will take over from Ewan MacPhillimy as treasurer. The Church would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Ewan for his years of sterling service on the Finance Team.

Contributions for Publication in the March Issue of Findlay News

Could contributors please send notices and articles for inclusion in the March edition of Findlay News to news@findlaychurch.co.uk with a copy to Donald Fleming at df@donaldfleming.plus.com by 21st February.

Announcements

Births

Congratulations to two couples within the Church family: Peter and Lynne Hamilton on the birth of their son, Aaron Andrew Hamilton; and Robert and Vanderlea on the birth of their daughter, Deborah

Engagements

Congratulations to Murdo McLeod and Csilla Gyori, who have recently become engaged.

Tea Rota (February)



5th - Hannah Daniels & TBC

12th - John Harrison & Alex Dewar

19th - No Tea

26th - Heather Knox & Christine Sawers

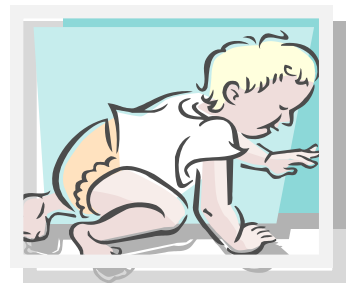
Crèche Rota (February)

5th - Lewis Dorant Liz Deborah

12th - Rachel Judith Carol V Carol B

19th - Jill Mavis Janice Deborah

26th - Liz Lewis Dorant Tamara



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Wed	1st	12:00 pm	FFN Lunch Club
Wed	1st	8:00 pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Thu	2nd	6:30 pm	Zumba Classes
Thu	2nd	7:00 pm	FFN Community Small Group
Sun	5th	11:00 am	Morning Worship (Communion)
Sun	5th	6:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
Sun	5th	6:30 pm	Evening Worship
Mon	6th	10:00 am	Drop In (English Classes)
Tue	7th	10:00 am	Bumps and Bundles
Tue	7th	11:30 am	Tuesday Cafe
Tue	7th	7:30 pm	Leadership Team Meeting
Wed	8th	12:00 pm	FFN Lunch Club
Wed	8th	12:30 pm	Food 4 Thought
Wed	8th	8:00 pm	Small Groups
Thu	9th	6:30 pm	Zumba Classes
Thu	9th	8:00 pm	Small Groups
Fri	10th	7.00 pm	Angel Curry Night
Thu	10th	7.30 pm	New members Class
Sun	12th	11:00 am	Morning Worship
Sun	12th	6:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
Sun	12th	6:30 pm	Evening Worship
Mon	13th	10:00 am	Drop In (English Classes)
Tue	14th	10:00 am	Bumps and Bundles
Tue	14th	11:30 am	Tuesday Cafe
Wed	15th	12:00 pm	FFN Lunch Club
Wed	15th	8:00 pm	Small Groups
Thu	16th	6:30 pm	Zumba Classes
Thu	16th	7:00 pm	FFN Community Small Group
Thu	16th	8:00 pm	Small Groups
Fri	17th	7.30 pm	CSW Meeting (at the Church in the side hall)
Sun	19th	11:00 am	Morning Worship
Sun	19th	6:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
Sun	19th	6.00 pm	Evening Worship (Communion)
Mon	20th	10:00 am	Drop In (English Classes)
Tue	21st	10:00 am	Bumps and Bundles
Tue	21st	11:30 am	Tuesday Cafe
Wed	22nd	12:00 pm	FFN Lunch Club
Wed	22nd	12:30 pm	Food 4 Thought
Wed	22nd	8:00 pm	Small Groups
Thu	23rd	6:30 pm	Zumba Classes
Thu	23rd	8:00 pm	Small Groups
Fri	24th	9:00 pm	The Social (Ceilidh at Sloans)
Sat	25th	6.00 pm	CAP Clients Dinner
Sun	26th	11:00 am	Morning Worship
Sun	26th	6:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
Sun	26th	6:30 pm	Evening Worship
Mon	27th	10:00 am	Drop In (English Classes)
Tue	28th	10:00 am	Bumps and Bundles
Tue	28th	11:30 am	Tuesday Cafe
Wed	29th	12:00 pm	FFN Lunch Club
Wed	29th	7:30 pm	Members AGM



Partners in Mission with Middle Eastern Churches

Mission Weekend: 17-18 March 2012

Saturday 5.30pm Coffee and Tea

6.00pm Arab Spring Christian Autumn?

Finger buffet

Q and A Session

Sunday Services 11.00am and 6.30pm



Guest Speaker is Rev John Carrick: International Director of MECO

Findlay Memorial Church

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 29 February 2012 at 7.30pm



An opportunity to vote for additional Deacons (provided they have been proposed)

Hear an update on the new structure arrangements after 12 months through the two year pilot.

Any matters for discussion should be provided in writing before the Leadership Meeting on 7 February 2012