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# SHINING IN SCOTLAND

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven

## Tranent Social and Kirkcaldy Social

Time spent in fellowship with brethren. See page 4 for details.

## Perth Youth Day

Perth youth day a success! See page 5 for more info.

## Youth Work

A busy time for the youth group. See page 3 for an update.

## Perth.

Focus on Perth. Page 2.

## Welcome

Dear friends, it is getting colder here in Perth as we get closer to Christmas and New Year. It is inevitably a time when coughs, colds, and other ailments can keep people away from meeting together. It is also a time, however, when we have been reminded of how vital the work the Lord is doing here is to this community. You are a fundamental part of our efforts here and we are extremely grateful to continue to partner with us here in Perth.

## Personal News

Allana and I have continued to plan for our wedding next year. It has been an interesting time planning a



## Focus on Perth

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This month saw us take steps to continue the Lord's work in Perth

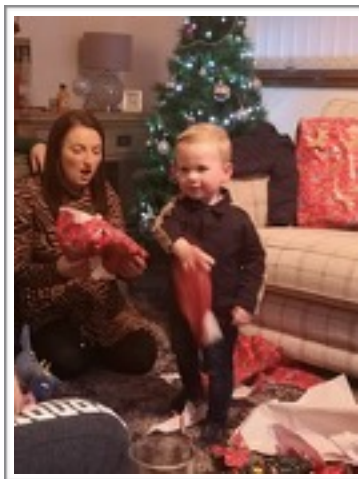
- I have established a number of personal Bible studies with members of our youth group.
- We have moved buildings to a different community where most of our youth club attendees live.
- We attended a number of socials bringing youth and guests along.
- We hosted our annual fancy dress party.
- We launched our new preaching schedule with the focus on changing how we 'see' according to God's Word.
- You have been a huge piece of the puzzle when trying to bring Perth to the Lord. Without you there is no work in Perth and because of your support, God is glorified in the ancient capital of Scotland!

Please continue to pray for the church here in Scotland. confirming support for the next year, if you can keep me in mind when confirming budgets I would be very grateful. God bless.

wedding in the Philippines while here in Scotland, however, we have a lot of help from friends and family members over there. We are hoping that as many of our family and friends from Scotland can make it as possible, but we are also planning another event in Scotland when we return so we can celebrate with as many people as possible.

We are so grateful to everyone for their messages of support and congratulations over the past few months.

Other than this my personal news remains very similar to previous updates. My parents are doing well, they are helping us to plan and are excited to see Allana and I begin a new life together. They are still enjoying looking after their grandchildren and Mikey is coming along well. He is learning new words all the time. There are some things that can make living in another city a little difficult and one of those is not seeing Mikey grow as much as I was blessed to see Mackenzie grow when she was the same age and we lived in the same street. These moments together have become precious and Allana and I take every opportunity to see my family in Cumbernauld.



*Mikey at Christmas*

### Prayers at a glance

- Our new evening services and Bible classes are just beginning and we are praying youth from our club and parents attend.
- Enrika and Taira have started studying the book of Mark with me every Thursday.
- Grace has joined in Roberta's study and we are studying the Gospel of John together.
- Encouragement for Allana and I as we continue to work to plant the church in Perth.
- Allana and I as we plan our wedding.
- Brian as he adjusts to the work in Perth.
- The encouragement of the brethren here in Perth.

## Youth Work

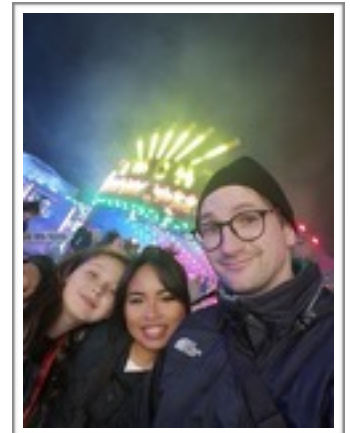
### Connection Youth Club

Our Wednesday club and classes continue to be popular with local children. We have a regular attendance of more than 20 and maintain three classes of separate ages. Most recently I have been covering the book of Genesis with the

high school aged class and we have discussed various accounts from the lives of faithful people in Genesis. The nature of classes here is that we are often working with children with no background in church or knowledge of the Bible at all. However, I have been encourage to notice a change in our high school class. There are many children in this class who have now been with us regularly since we began classes almost five years ago and when it came time to discuss Joseph's life in Egypt he provided almost a point by point summary. Except for a few details he got the story correct and this

prompted other kids to ask how he knew so much. The response he gave was so simple and hopefully will encourage the other high schoolers in the class, he told them how he used to go to church with us before and talked about how he would love to come back. It is small moments like these that encourage us to keep teaching and trying.

We are hopeful that our work can bear fruit before long. However, if not, then we trust that we have given these children a foundation of faith and that, someday, they may just remember the plan that Jesus has for them and that there is a place they were put first



and cared for, by followers of Christ. There are many of the children from the youth club who now regularly attend worship and are hearing the Word of the Lord. Please pray that they may know God and His love.

## Trip to Ryze

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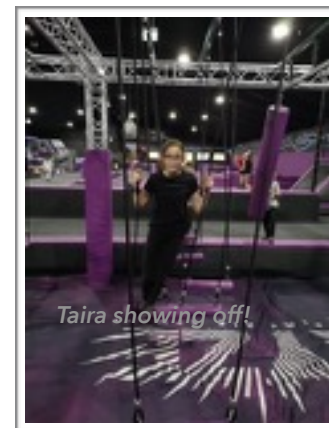
Twice a year we run a reward trip for the youth who come to the club. The trip is open to all, however, we run a competition throughout the year and those who win get free tickets to our trip.



*Jodi and Abbie jumping off the high step!*

This year we chose Ryze, a trampoline park in nearby Dundee, for our trip and we were overwhelmed by the response. In fact, we had to hire a second minibus just to get the kids to Ryze! All of the youth (and the adults) had a great time and the kids were eager that we make a return

trip at some point. I have a feeling that Ryze will become a regular feature in our reward trips. The success of trips like this demonstrates how important our youth work is to the growth of the church here. These children may not all become Christians, however, we plant a seed, we provide experiences they will remember and, as they create relationships with our staff and one another, they have a view of what the church is all about. Serving this community is key to how we work and it is a very encouraging part of our work.



## Guising!

Every October we host a Fancy Dress Party for the youth. This year we were thrown off at the last minute as the school cancelled our let so they could

host their own party. We quickly arranged another location and day for our party and we were blessed to have a number of kids attend. Everyone had a great time playing games together. This was an especially significant event as we were down a few staff members. It was great to see our

younger sisters in the church come together to help plan and run this evening. This is exactly what we have been trying to achieve over the last few years in Perth and it was wonderful to see younger members step up to take responsibility for aspects of this

evening. Please pray that they are encouraged by the success of this night and are able to shoulder more responsibility in Perth.



## Preaching Schedule 2020 - Vision, 'Seeing Differently'

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Over the past few months I have been preparing our preaching schedule for 2020. In an effort to get a headstart, we began our new preaching schedule at the end of October. This allowed us to transition from 'When God Spoke' (our last preaching theme) to 'Vision' at a time when our attendance tends to be higher. The idea of 'Vision' is to implement the commands we discussed in 'When God Spoke'. We have seen the plan God wants for our lives and now we must allow these words to change how we see things; how we see our neighbours, how we see our enemies, how we see our lives and eternity; we will touch upon all of these themes over the next year and I am excited to see where we can take these themes. Please pray for us as we aim to encourage and instruct the Lord's church in Perth.



### St Andrew's Day

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This November we celebrated Scotland's national day, St Andrew's Day. In the afternoon we went to a football game in Dundee as Dundee FC played Queen of the South (and lost 2-1) before heading to the town of Saint Andrew's for a ceilidh, a torch parade accompanied by a pipe band, and fireworks. It was a great day (except for the football score) enjoyed by all.



### Grace Keay

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Some of you may know Grace, who we have been working with for a number of years. Recently, Grace has become much more interested in the Scriptures and began regularly attending worship services. After hearing about Enrika and Taira having a Bible study Grace asked if she could learn more as well. She decided to join Roberta's study and we began studying the Gospel of John. It was a blessing to see how Roberta had grown over the last few months as she was able to discuss much of the beginning of the book, even

though it had been a while since we had covered the material. Roberta was a wonderful encouragement to Grace and the girls are extremely enthusiastic about studying the Word. It is wonderful to see their excitement, please pray for their growth in the Lord.



*Grace, Abbie and Roberta watching the fireworks*

### **Guy Fawke's Night**

In Scotland we have a tradition on the fifth of November. We gather and light bonfires and fireworks to commemorate the attempted destruction of the Houses of Parliament in London by Guy Fawkes in 1605. In truth, the story is secondary as we use the day mainly as an excuse



*Grace and Roberta watching the fireworks.*

for bonfires and fireworks. The kids always enjoy this and we run a trip every year. This year was no different and we again had a number of the youth join us. We had a cold, but fun evening watching the fireworks at the South Inch.

### **Coffee Shop Bible Studies**

Our coffee shop studies have been focusing on the Gospel of Mark over the last few weeks. We have seen how Jesus began His ministry and how His miracles altered the world around Him. It is refreshing to have an opportunity to simply read through the Gospels together and see what plain lessons the Word has for us. So often, as we plant the church, we are caught up in getting material together for classes and lessons and we so often miss the opportunity to simply read together. The Coffee Shop studies are on hold for the Christmas holidays and will resume in January.

### **Peterhead Social**

Back in September we loaded up our minibus and headed to Peterhead for their annual social. We took a number of brethren in the minibus to enjoy a time of fellowship together, kicked off by a hearty lunch, followed by singing and an excellent



## October - December

lesson from Mark Hill, from Northampton in England. Socials seem to be something unique to the church here, they are one part Gospel meeting, one part fellowship meal, but are very important to us here in Scotland. Often, we are separated in congregations across different cities in Scotland and socials represent a rare opportunity to join together as God's family and enjoy one another's fellowship.

### **Newtongrange Social**

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From one social to another we loaded up the bus again and headed off to Newtongrange, near Edinburgh. We took a number of our youth to this social as Roberta,

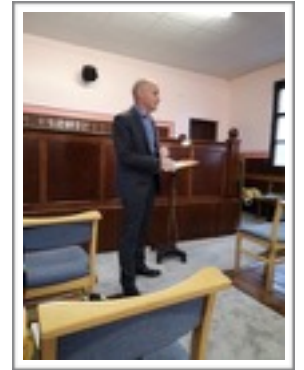
Enrika, and Taira chose to come along. They enjoyed the singing and fellowship and we were also treated to a bit of a history lesson about the church in the Edinburgh area.

The roots of the Lord's church in Edinburgh are very deep and it is a huge encouragement to us to see that the church of the Lord does not disappear and a faithful remnant always remains. We take heart from this example

and pray we can create a lasting legacy in Perth as those who came before created in Edinburgh.



*John Kneller speaking at Newtongrange.*



*Niall Scobbie preaching in Newtongrange.*

### **Perth 5 Year Anniversary**

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This year we passed an important milestone here in Perth. The 5th anniversary of our first worship service in the city. This represents 5 years of hard work by so many people instrumental to building the congregation and 5 years of wonderful support from so many people across Scotland, England and the U.S.A.. These last 5 years have been a huge blessing

as well as an enormous

challenge, through

which we have grown massively. However, there is still much to do. In fact, there was so much to do that we could not organise



*Abbie Ramsay and Allana at the Edinburgh Christmas market*



*Roberta at the Perth Christmas parade*

To every creature ...





## October - December

anything to mark the date in time. We are looking to celebrate the milestone in the new year and pray that we have built a foundation in the last 5 years to build upon for years to come. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in so many ways, we really could not have done it without you.



## Bowling in Dunfermline

Over the last year we have been trying to create time for our



L.E.A.P. youth (our high school

group) to spend time together more socially in order to build their relationships together. We are hoping the unity they build here allows them to support one another through times that

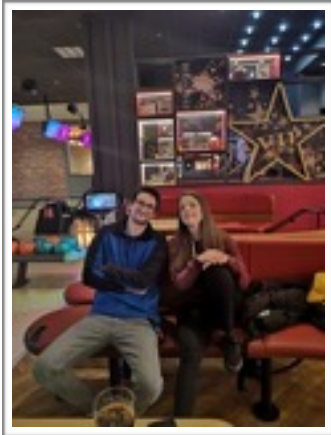
are often difficult and isolating for Christians here in high school. We have already seen

the success of this as Abbie has taken more of

a leadership role in relation to the youth a few years younger than her. The younger kids have not only the staff, but also

Abbie to look up to and emulate. This is a powerful influence for them as they make their own way through high school. We

are hoping to have more of these evenings and devotional times together with the youth over the next year.



*We took some time to head to Perth's annual Christmas parade in December.*



## Enrika and Taira

A little less than a year ago Enrika began to attend the Connection youth club on a Wednesday night. She was brought by Taira, who had been coming to the youth club a while ago but, had taken a break. These two girls began attending in January and immediately wanted to be involved in everything. They came to every class, began attending church on a Sunday, came to Camp Heatherbell in the summer and



starting their own Bible study shortly afterwards. These young girls have shown the beginnings of a faith that must be nourished and allowed to grow. We have been studying the Gospels together over the past few weeks in an effort to help the girls understand God's plan for their lives, however, there is still much to do. Erika and Taira are still at the beginning of their journey and I covet your prayers as they discover God's Word.

## Christmas Party

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On the last Wednesday of the year before the holidays we hosted a Christmas party at Goodlyburn Primary. Twenty-seven children attended and we had a great time playing traditional games like pass the parcel (although some of the kids were disappointed to unwrap brussel sprouts (even more strangely some of them were not that disappointed!!)).



Our party was exactly one week before Christmas and the kids were extremely excited to start their holidays. There were also a number of kids who started attending again in November and December who we have not seen in a while, for some of them a couple of years.

## Sunday Evening Classes

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### “Bear With Me”

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After moving from our last meeting place in North Muirton we began hosting an evening Bible class in Letham. We started with a class entitled ‘Bear With Me’. During this class we examined all the ways that the Bible discusses bearing fruit and how we can help one another bear fruit in our day to day lives. Grace and Roberta, from our youth club, attended every class and we had a short devotional after class with songs we commonly sing at Camp Heatherbell and youth weekends.

## Loughborough Youth Weekend

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## October - December



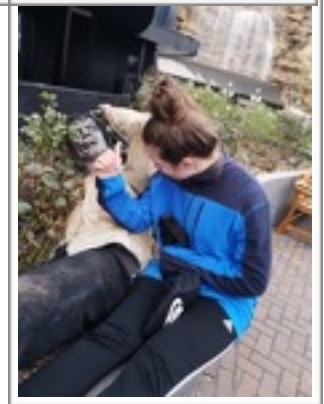
This quarter Brian was speaking at Loughborough Youth Weekend and took Roberta and Layton with him.

They all travelled down in Brian's car

and had a wonderful time making new friends and spending time with kids from many places across Scotland, England, and Wales. Youth weekends are key to our work here. Often, children come from homes and areas where nobody else believes in God. It is vital to them that they have a support network to encourage them to keep learning, keep growing and be faithful to God. These relationships built during youth weekends and similar events such as camp, will sustain these youth through often difficult times.



*Abbie making new friends in Blackpool.*

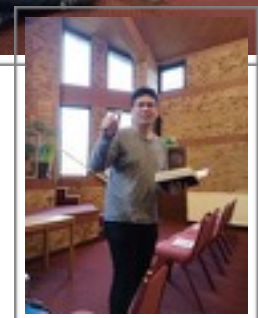
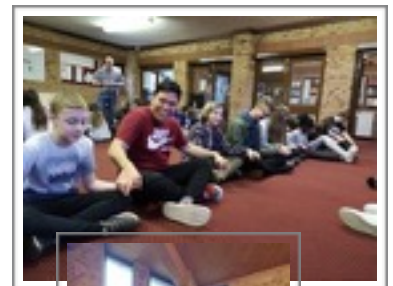


### **Blackpool Trip**

For our October holidays trip this year we took the L.E.A.P. youth to Blackpool. We went to the theme park in Blackpool and spent the whole day going on rides and having fun together. Lots of laughs were had along the way as we drove down together and just enjoyed spending time with one another.

### **Livingston Youth Weekend**

Amid all of the activities we had going on over the last couple of months we also squeezed in a trip to nearby Livingston for a youth weekend. This trip was very successful from our point of view and it was a pleasure to see our youth build relationships with so many youth from across Scotland. Since this event many of our youth have been at every event possible, thus demonstrating the importance of events like these in helping the youth feel part of the church and help support them on their journey to faith in the Lord.



*Paulo Budlong teaching at Livingston Youth Weekend*

## Brian Buchanan

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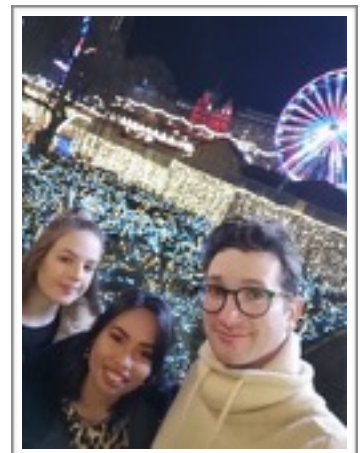
In an effort to boost the work here in Perth, Brian Buchanan has placed membership here with our fledgling congregation. Brian has been worshipping with us periodically for years and was previously a member at Cumbernauld. He has also been helping out with our youth club regularly and has build an excellent relationship with the kids who attend. Brian has come to help organise and run youth events, teach classes and preach. He has also taken over organising the worship plan. Brian has already been a massive part of our work here and I know he will continue to help us build a foundation for future generations.

## Plans for the Future

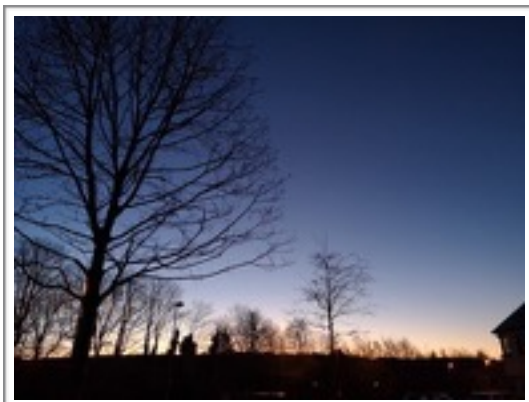
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As we head into the New Year we are already beginning to plan for our Spring and Summer programme. We are preparing to push our Sunday evening classes even more so than previously and build up a consistent attendance among our youth and young adults. We are looking to capitalise on work done throughout this year and further integrate our youth group into the church.

As always, we look to the future with confidence that God is bringing something wonderful through His people all over the world. Glory to God for all He has done and for who He is.



Please continue to pray for us. God bless you!



How beautiful are the feet of those who preach  
the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of  
good things

Romans 10:15

How shall we preach unless we are sent?

Thank you for your support.