



SCOTLAND FOR THE LORD

AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2019.

Belated happy thanksgiving to all our lovely supporters in the States from us both, here is our latest newsletter, sorry its been so long in coming.

Early August found us on a visitation round of calls. Coventry was first, to see Maurice's only remaining sibling Margaret and her husband Bernard. Lots to catch up on – with sepia coloured photographs of his younger years that he had never seen before. Then, we went on to Stoke-on-Trent to see Polly's youngest son, Alex. On the return journey we stopped in Newcastle upon Tyne, where Maurice grew up and served as a police officer. We visited with two sisters in Christ in South Shields, and brother Graeme Stickings in Newcastle. We also had to stay with us James Lindeman, the preacher, and his wife Tiffany from Willis, Texas.

We had a partial family reunion of Polly's family. Her eldest son Theo and Jackie, and her second son Tim and Sylvia, with their four daughters, joined us at the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. A follow up to Theo and Jackie coming up from Jersey, in the Channel Islands, was that we went to see them and their children, Pierre and Lauren, for a six day visit in mid-November. While there we met up with David and Ruth Brunton to break bread on the Sunday – they are the only two known members of the church on the island of Jersey. They really miss the fellowship of the church. However, they plan to retire in two years and move just north of Atlanta, Georgia, where their children and grand-children are living. When we arrived home we found our car had lost the function of the power steering. What a great way to build up arm and shoulder muscles. It is in the repair shop now – and we are using a two door compact until we get it back.



A cold trip to Jersey, Channel Islands.

During mid-August we visited the Cumbernauld congregation's evening service where our few young people in Perth love to visit with Cumbernauld's larger

group of teenagers. Our Wednesday noon 'coffee shop' Bible study continues with our evening youth club continuing under the guise of mayhem. Several of the older teens are engaged in Bible studies during the week. Polly's ladies Bible study, at the Glenrothes home of Moyra Strachen, continues to be well attended.

On the Sunday, 15th September, we held our last service in the North Inch Community Centre as we transferred a week later to the Letham Community Hub – in the area where most of our young people reside. We can hold both services here – with no interruptions from noise emanating from others using the facilities.

The annual 'social' held on 28th September by the congregation at Peterhead



– north of Aberdeen, on Scotland's east coast – was an opportunity for some 25% of our brethren in Scotland (150) to meet together for a meal, fellowship, congregational singing and an excellent lesson of spiritual encouragement. We loaded our car with three brethren, Jan Duncan and Willie and Angie Stewart, from the Glenrothes area, and did the 300-mile round trip on a wonderful, spiritually uplifting

day.

The small congregation at Newtongrange – 10 miles south of Edinburgh – also decided to hold a 'social' again, on 5th October, after an interval of several years. The very small congregation at Tranent had decided to join Newtongrange – with Haddington also thinking of joining with them shortly. All three were strong congregations from the mid 1800's but their industries and mining have closed down with the resulting migration of their peoples seeking jobs elsewhere. It was another great day to be a part of a gathering of eighty brethren. We managed a bus load of mixed age groups for this as several of the youth club wanted to see what "socials" were about, they enjoyed themselves and mixed well.

During November Polly travelled with thirty-one other church members on an eleven-day visit to Israel. She had Norma Pearson, a retired lady from our congregation, as her roommate. Ian Starr and his wife organised the trip and they all had a wonderful, if tiring, experience. The whole trip went very well and lots of photos were taken.

Again, thanks for all the prayers and support that you give us, it means so much to us and our small congregation. May you all have a blessed Christmas and new year.

Maurice and Polly