



# Annual Activity Reports for the year 2018

## **Baby and Toddler**

As you will know this is one of Hebron's longstanding and well-established community groups. For many years we have provided a space for parents to come along with their young children/babies for a couple of hours each Thursday (1pm-3pm). It has been faithfully supported by a team of dedicated volunteers and staff who provide snacks and refreshments, help to set-up and clear away, entertain the kids (& adults!) with songs, bible stories and crafts. The wonderful team we have, along with the mums from Hebron who attend are all essential to creating a welcoming atmosphere for the parents and kids. The Baby & Toddler group is a real opportunity to display genuine care and Christlike love, to share our faith and the hope of the gospel. It is a joy to be able to chat with the parents who come along about deeper and more meaningful realities that nappies, toddler tantrums, and sleep deprivation (although these can be good to talk about too!).

Every week we have around 15-20 parents plus children. We have tried to be very intentional this past year with developing relationship with room for the gospel to be shared. A couple of the women from the group attended an evangelistic talk during Summer on the Street 2018 along with some women from Hebron. After many conversations, one dad has taken a couple of apologetics books to examine the evidence for Christianity. There have also been countless snippets of life shared and seeds sown in ways that are almost imperceptible – we know the Holy Spirit can work in these seemingly insignificant moments too! We are so grateful for these ongoing relationships and conversations – please be praying for them and for everyone involved in this outreach: the volunteers and staff, and the Hebron members who attend with the intention of showing and sharing the love of God.

One great encouragement over the past year has been the influx of teenage mums we have had join our group on the recommendation of an NHS family nurse. As a result, we are starting a parenting course for these young mums called: 'Wonderfully Made'. A 7-week course exploring the joys and challenges of parenting and introducing non-Christians to bigger questions about God and faith. Please remember this in your prayers.

## **Bible Class**

It's been a year of transition in Bible Class. We have been blessed to see some young people move on from Bible Class and become more involved in other

areas of service in the church and to have others join us from Sunday School. Back in August at our leaders meeting we agreed the following set of aims for Bible Class:

- Use Bible teaching to reinforce Gospel truths so that each young person is aware of their personal need of a saving relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Spur each young person on in their personal walk with the Lord in terms of their prayer life, daily quiet times, everyday conduct and witness for the Lord leading to participation in church life and service.
- Facilitate group discussion and prayer times around Bible themes and topics and how they relate to current affairs and relevant issues each young person is facing.

I'm sure that none of these will surprise anyone but we have found it helpful in setting our lesson programme and in what we are focusing on in our studies each week. We also slightly altered the age group we are teaching with S1-3 pupils attending Bible Class and S4 pupils and beyond staying in the Family Service and being offered the opportunity to participate in one to one or small group studies, led by a range of individuals from Hebron. This resulted in all of our previous members of Bible Class leaving in June and a brand new group of S1 pupils joining us in September. We can have up to five young people join us on a Sunday, if they are all able to attend, and it has been great to see them eagerly participate in our studies then pray at the end of our time together about what we've just been studying. We are using Gospel Project material to take us through the Old Testament at the moment and up to this point we've reached the end of Deuteronomy. As well as providing us all with a better understanding of key events and characters in these books we are also looking at how these point us toward God's plan of redemption through the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have a dedicated group of leaders including Phil Sutcliffe, Samuel Nixon, Andrew Millar and Ruth Innes. We'd like to thank Ruth, in particular, for all the work she has put in over the last few years as a leader at Bible Class as she embarks on her maternity leave. As a consequence, we are looking for at least one woman to take on a leadership role in Bible Class. If you are keen to get involved in this area of service please speak to Duncan Reaves if you need any further information.

Finally, we'd like to ask everyone in the congregation to continue to pray for all the leaders and young people involved in Bible Class as we seek to share the Gospel with them and build them up in their faith and walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Care Group**

The function of the Care Group within the church is primarily looking out for and caring for those who are in need. There is a variety of needs within the Fellowship among the older members, the mums with babies and young children, young adults and students.

We supply meals to mums with new babies and also to those who are ill. We have a busy few months ahead with new babies expected. We have just organised a 90th birthday afternoon tea for Annie Wood which was well attended, and appreciated, by friends of Annie's and church members alike. Visitation in homes and hospitals is ongoing and we have a team of willing workers who get involved in a variety of different ways.

Thanks to many members of the Fellowship, as well as the Care Group members, who get involved in this very important work.

We appreciate the interest and prayers of the Elders and church members who encourage us in this work.

### **Community Outreach Activities**

**Friday Prayer Breakfast:** Prayer is vital. It is the foundation on which our work is built, it is the engine room of the Church. Every Friday morning at 7:30am a group meet to spend a short time in the Word and have a focused time of sharing and prayer for personal and corporate evangelism. Currently this is very poorly attended. It would be great to see more of you there if you can make it.

**Indoor Bowling:** An indoor bowling group was started in May 2018 with a view to attracting men from the community to a primarily social activity, but as with all the community activities the underlying purpose and aim was to develop relationships that produced opportunities for sharing the gospel. This has been well supported by men in the Church, but as yet the number of community folk attending is very low, with only one regular attender.

**Essentials Course:** The Essentials course is a simple 4-session course that looks at the heart of Christianity. It explains how God has revealed himself to

us, how we have rejected him, but how he has a plan to rescue us to be in relationship with him! It is a superb course and has been run once at the end of 2018 with a modest attendance. It would be great to see demand for this course increase as we bring non-Christian friends, neighbours, colleagues along to hear the wonderful news of the Gospel.

**CAP Course:** In Feb/March 2018 Angus Smith and I ran a short CAP Money course with a couple of attendees. This is something we are ready to run again and will look to doing this when the demand arises. The CAP Money course is a potentially valuable course that gives us an opportunity to display Christlike love to our neighbours in our community here in a very practical way.

**Christmas 2018:** There were a few notable outreach activities this Christmas, including our carol concert, puppet show, community Christmas meal, and cookies and carol service. In particular, the puppet show, organised by Sally and performed by the 'Out of the Box' Christian performance company was a great success in drawing many families into the building from the surrounding area. The Community Christmas meal was also a well-attended event with approx. 60 people coming to this, of which about 10 were not regulars at the church.

**Summer on The Street 2018:** Summer on the Street 2018 ran for two weeks from 16th July 2018. It was a fortnight of intensive programmed evangelism. The first week was our 'Truth Sleuths' holiday club which Helena has mentioned in the Holiday club section. The week culminated in a big family BBQ and fun day for the community. It was well attended, and we had a packed-out building with many coming from families connected to the holiday clubs and various other children's work in the Church.

The second week we had an early afternoon pop-up café followed by evening talks tackling tough questions. The pop-up café was very well used and provided some great opportunities for sharing the gospel. For the evening talks we had various visiting speakers, Andy Bannister (SOLAS), David Robertson (SOLAS), and Jim Crooks (Tayside Christian Fellowship), as well as Duncan and Willie from Hebron doing sessions on issues of religion, the Bible, science, sex, and suffering. The calibre of talks was excellent, but on reflection we perhaps were answering questions that our community aren't actually asking. For the coming year we will plan to have a more basic presentation of

core Christian issues (e.g. who is Jesus? what is the gospel? etc.). One discouragement from this outreach was the relatively low numbers of non-Christians brought along by folks from our church. But there were real reasons to be thankful and encouraged too with a large proportion of the non-Christians who did attend going home with a bible and a head full of questions. Please pray for the fruit that may come from this event, perhaps without our knowledge, and perhaps many months or even years after the event.

**Community outreach (General):** In addition to reporting on the outreach activities at Hebron I wanted to take a few lines to talk about our community outreach more generally. Our Church building is situated in an area of Aberdeen with many and various needs. Chief amongst these needs is the need for Christ. To that end, my primary ambition as Hebron's community worker is to try to bring Christ and the message of the Gospel to those that live on our doorstep. Several initiatives have been tried. Some with success, others with no obvious fruit. It is apparent to me that 'successful' initiatives are not based on developing just the right format or program (although this may help). Those initiatives that work, work when ordinary Christians from Hebron, in the power of God, intentionally sacrifice time and comfort to get alongside and serve lost people: Build relationships, share hope, love neighbours. If we are to see more fruit for the work of community outreach, this is what we need more of.

The work of community outreach needs more of you and me stepping out in faith and obedience to the call of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring glory to the Father. This requires sacrifice. It may involve re-ordering our diaries to make space for meeting regularly with a non-Christian friend, it may involve joining colleagues for lunch at work to engage in meaningful conversation instead of eating alone at our desk, it may involve giving up an evening of down-time for an evening spent befriending an elderly person, it may involve getting out of bed earlier to dedicate time to prayer. You know best what this might look like for you. It isn't easy and doesn't come naturally to most of us (me included).

It is an incredible privilege to be included in God's mission of seeking and saving the lost, and we are all called to this! It is important to remember that the motivation for this kind of sacrificial service ought not to be guilt, but joy.

Paul in Romans 15:13 gives the Church at Rome a model for evangelism that I pray might be our aspiration also. He prays, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Have you known the joy and hope of God that comes from trusting in Christ? I pray that you and I may know it more and that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. If this kind of overflowing hope characterised us as individuals and as a church, evangelism and outreach would cease to be a task to do. It would be the inevitable overflow of our lives in Christ! This is my prayer for myself, for you, and for Hebron Evangelical Church in 2019.

### **Connect Groups**

The Ladies Connect groups are still running well. Around 40 women have signed up to meet once a month for a time of prayer and encouragement. These will meet at various places and times throughout the first week of the month. We are hoping our groups grow and that we develop spiritual friendships that are centred around a love for God and His Word.

### **Deacons**

The deacons are very grateful for the continued support of Matthew Jack in sharing duty deacon rota duties on Sunday mornings. We are also grateful to Allan Pirie who has retired from that role during the latter part of last year. The deacons also lost Gary Smith who had been a member of the team for several years, and we wish him and Amy well for the future.

Those who were appointed to the deacon role last year, Samuel Scott and Mark Buchan, have settled in well and have quickly taken to the role.

The deacons thank other members of the church family who from time to time provide support at a number of events and meetings in the year, particular thanks to Sally who has often been the church member in the building when outside organizations use our premises.

The stewarding teams continue faithfully to perform an essential service in their weekly duties of welcoming and support of the deacons for Sunday Services. The deacons extend their sincere thanks to all who have been involved in these steward teams last year. As every year there are a large number leaving the teams for other duties or moving on in their work to other parts of the country. We are very pleased to welcome new members to

this team for 2019 who include Lorna Eadie, Anfinn Askildsen, Matt Havers, and Ronnie Hardie. We hope the others in the church family will join us in appreciation of their willingness to serve God and the church family in this role.

Over the course of the past year a few general maintenance and upgrade projects have been undertaken, and we are grateful to Kenny, and Andrew Cheyne, and Jim Ritchie for the hours they put in doing odd jobs (and big jobs) around the building. The most notable work of the year is the upgrade to the area of land around the building and we hope that work can be completed in the coming months.

**AV & Comms:** There have been a few changes and upgrades to the church sound system over the last year. Mics and a drum screen have been added to the drums, which give us much better control over the percussion sound, so the drums are now much more part of the overall sound in the auditorium, without drowning the other musicians on stage. Two more radio mic channels have been added, giving us a total of four systems now, all with the headset microphone sets which give by far the best audio quality for speech (avoiding the difficult audio, feedback ringing and bass thumps common with the lectern mic). We’ve sadly lost two from the PA rota in the last year, Matt Jack (snr) has stepped down (mainly due to his other responsibilities -particularly Sunday school), and Hannah Johns has also had to step down, having accepted a job south. This now leaves Donald, Matthew and Richard on the PA rota. So we could do with one or two new volunteers to get trained up – particularly before summer period when both Donald and Richard will be away quite a bit.

On the projector side we have also had fewer on the rota over the last year, with Alwis and Kieran on regularly and Donald and Samuel supporting when needed. We have recently been training Jonathan Gray and Patrick Rae, who will now be added to the rota.

The deacons thank all those who have provided their support and services for AV over the last year.

## **Holiday Clubs**

Holiday clubs provide an excellent opportunity to make contact with many, many children and their families from the community with the aim of teaching them the good news of the Gospel.

In the second week of April 2018 we ran our Easter Holiday Club – this year rewriting the teaching material from an older SU holiday club, “Going Bananas!”. Each morning, the children heard about God’s great rescue plan for the world through different characters: Noah, Moses, David, Daniel and Jonah. They learnt that God had always planned to send Jesus the Rescuer. As has happened each year, we were surprised by the number of children who came along – it keeps growing and growing! We finished the week with a Sunday service which wrapped up the week looking at God’s great Rescuer and an invitation to the families to come along and stay for a hot dog lunch afterwards.

Summer 2018 brought with it the return of Summer on the Street. The first week was a five day kids club looking at the signs in John’s gospel and the corresponding ‘I am’ statements. “Truth Sleuths” was well attended, with about 45-50 kids coming each day to hear about the true identity of Jesus.

For our October Holiday Club 2018 we had a very encouraging club, despite it initially almost having to be cancelled due to a lack of helpers. However, God is faithful and we ended up having more than enough volunteers to run the club well. Approximately 60 children came each day to our Shipwrecked themed club. The children learned about how the gospel speaks into their lives in a real way: when they feel lonely, sad, confused, weak, or they do wrong, the good news of the gospel is that Jesus rescues because of his perfect life, his atoning death and his powerful resurrection. We enjoyed games, craft and Bible teaching together and took as our memory verse Colossians 1:13-14: “He has rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the son he loves. In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” It was a real joy to be able to teach the kids what this meant and to hear them reciting the verses.

We are only a few weeks away from Easter Holiday Club 2019 now! Our theme is MegaQuest: God’s big plan for the world. Please be praying for the families that will be attending and pray for the team organising and running

the holiday club. Please also pray for a dedicated and passionate volunteer team to share the gospel with our community through this valuable outreach. We are so grateful that for each club over the last year we were blessed to have a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers who have a real heart for the Gospel and the kids attending the club. We want to thank you all for the support that you give to the Holiday Clubs, through prayer, food, volunteering and general encouragement. These are all vital to this work of outreach.

## **House Groups**

House groups have continued to be a valuable way of studying God’s word together as well as building meaningful fellowship with one another, and I have been encouraged over the last year to hear of group flourishing in both these areas. Similar to last year we opted to have two longer sessions in the year, with the continuity of meeting seeming to help keep numbers consistent. From March-May we were ambitious in embarking on a series studying the book of Hosea. This is an often overlooked book of the Bible, but (despite some challenging bits) Hosea presents a powerful message of God’s jealous love for his people.

For our second session (October-December) we studied the letter to the Hebrews, which was so helpful for us to really focus in on the person of Jesus Christ - and we were helped greatly by the Good Book study guide Hebrews: Consider Jesus by Justin Buzzard (if you missed the session, this guide will help you have a very fruitful personal study). I want to again say thank you to all the hosts, and to those who lead the groups - we could not have house groups without you. Thank you for your consistent commitment and for the ways you are encouraging your brothers and sisters in Christ. If you are not part of a group, please be sure to sign up when we restart in March.

## **Inter Church Holiday Club**

ICHC 2018 returned to its traditional slot in the last week of the school summer holidays, after a change of week in 2017, and we were glad to have some of our old regulars back on the team because of this. Our team was as big as ever, although it was pulled together fairly last minute which gave us a bit of an anxious couple of weeks in July! The number of children was still high – with 104 registered and an average of 77 attending each day.

Usually for the Inter Church week we use the newest Holiday Club publication from Scripture Union which provides a programme of teaching, upfront scripts, drama scripts and crafts and games suggestions to follow the theme, but, on getting to grips with the material this year, we had a bit of a re-write to bring the teaching focus more gospel-centric rather than moralistic, so we owe a very big thanks to Mark and Helena for pulling together the teaching programme; Alex for writing a whole new drama script; and Katie, Jax and Iain from Gilc for writing the upfront scripts. It came together brilliantly as we learned from the stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, David and Jesus that God is building His Kingdom and we can be part of it!

We rounded off the week with a Sunday service in Bon Accord Free Church which was a great testament to how God is still working to build his Kingdom and that as a group of volunteers working together from different churches we are all part of one big team: Team Builders!

Please keep praying for the impact these events have on the hearts of the families who are reached, and for the planning which is already underway for "Backpackers" in August 2019!

### **Ladies Missionary Fellowship**

The Ladies Missionary Fellowship has enjoyed another interesting and varied programme this year. It is always exciting and encouraging to hear how God is working in many places at home and abroad. If you are free on a Monday afternoon at 2 p.m. once a month (dates in the Newsletter) please come and join us.

- *In January*, Mrs Sandra Campbell told us about her visit to Benin, West Africa, as a volunteer with the Mercy Ship 'The Africa Mercy'.
- *In February* Lisa Scott from the Lighthouse Project in Tillydrone gave us an illustrated talk of the work, which was very informative, interesting and challenging.
- *At the March* meeting we had a visit from Margaret Finlay, a former member of Hebron. She told us about her work in Benaladena in Spain. She oversees the music at Bil Bil and with others does an amazing outreach work with visitors and ex-pats there.

- *In April* Norman Liddle from the Scottish Bible Society reported on his visit to Malawi. He shared some very moving stories of people receiving Bibles.
- *In May* Mrs Wilma Taylor told us of the work done by Emmanuel Ministries in Kolkata (Calcutta).
- *In June* we packed boxes to send to missionaries in Zambia.
- *At the September* meeting we heard from Mr and Mrs David Wood about their work in Grace International School in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- *In November* Mrs Premila Pavamani from Kolkata told us of her work in with the homeless. The work, from 1971 has expanded and now includes work with drug addicts, a school up to year 12, community projects and work with Dalits.
- *In December* Helena Counsell, our own woman and children's worker in Hebron, gave a very interesting and informative report on her first year in Hebron.

This year we sent 28 boxes of clothes and other items to Zambia. Thank you to all who knitted and crocheted and donated to the boxes. The contents of the boxes are very much appreciated by those who receive them, as shown by thank-you letters we receive.

Finally, a big thank you to all the ladies who regularly support the Ladies Missionary Fellowship.

### **Ladies Prayer Meeting.**

We meet every Thursday morning during term time in the conference room area.

There is always a warm welcome and a cup of coffee/ tea each Thursday, and it is a time when women of all ages come together to reflect on the week ahead and the week gone by, and spend time together in prayer. A volunteer each week leads the hour of prayer and offers a short devotional to focus us all. Some come and offer up their silent prayers, others bring a list so we don't miss anyone in need, and there are always prayers of thanks and praise. Please let us know if you would like us to pray for any situation needing prayer, or better still, come along if you can. All are very welcome. We are

pleased that our numbers have grown this year, so don't be shy, come along and see for yourself what a difference praying together can make.

Please see Rhoda, Angela or Jane for more info or just come along and pray with us.

### **Legacy**

Legacy is our inter-church youth initiative that has been running for the past 5 years. We are pleased we can continue this ministry in association with Bon Accord Free Church. This year we were able to continue with 1 event each term as well as the week-long event during the Interchurch Holiday Club in August. Legacy is a great opportunity to get to know the youth that go to church in the area, but also the community teens and the extended community of the teens who come along, as they bring their friends to the events.

Legacy meets once a term, we play games, followed by a gospel talk, challenging the worldviews of the teens and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. This year, we had a great Christmas social, with festive themed games and sharing the true message of Christmas with the teens. We also had our first training day back in June, we invited leaders and junior leaders to a day of looking at the biblical reasons we do Legacy and had training on how to share their testimony.

It's been a real encouragement and joy to be a part of the Legacy team. To see not only Hebron teens come along and enjoy gospel unity with those from Bon Accord, but to see them take advantage and bring friends along to hear the gospel, and being brilliant examples in evangelism to the leaders! During our Legacy week we looked at the gospel through Romans, and it was really encouraging to see teens engage with it. During the week one boy noticed that nobody else was swearing, after multiple conversations with his leader he said that he wanted to follow Jesus and has been going along to youth events at Bon Accord!

Due to the nature of the revolving door of Aberdeen we will be looking to recruit and train new leaders. Please be praying for suitable leaders, who have a passion for youth, who understand the fundamental importance of mentorship, and who are committed to the local church! Be praying for the

youth who come from the church and those who will potentially be hearing the gospel for the first time through Legacy.

### **Mainly Music**

Mainly Music started in 1990 in New Zealand by Jo Hood who is still involved with the programme. It is a fun music group for parents and very young children who are introduced to music and rhymes, interacting with each other and with the music during each session. The main aim of the programme however is to introduce families to the "God-part" of life, by including 2 or 3 "God songs" each week... *"Creation sings of his praise, the sparrow and the tiny babe, and we can sing and say well done... Hip Hip Hooray God made all of us!"* or, *"Why did God send Jesus to die? L-O-V-E Love, that's why! Why on the third day did he rise? L-O-V-E Love that's why! Why does Jesus live again? Why does he forgive my sin... L-O-V-E Love that's why!"*.

The programme runs once a week on a Tuesday at Hebron when between twelve to eighteen children plus their grown ups meet together in a friendly atmosphere. The children play, sing and interact together after which all enjoy snacks provided by various helpers from the church family. Over the year the group has changed with the terms with some families leaving us as children begin nursery and new families joining.

The success of Mainly Music continues only through the availability of volunteers from the church who have committed to praying, providing snacks for the children and adults, working the laptop, and helping with the programme, which includes befriending those who attend. Some of our volunteers rarely miss a week, others come alternate weeks and others come when they are free. We are grateful to all who are helping at the moment. If you would like more information or would like to help in any way, please talk to Sally or Helena.

### **Men's Group**

The last year has been a bit quieter for the Men's Group - we still meet on the 4th Saturday of the month (8-9.30am), and our focus is still on studying the Word of God together. We have struggled for consistency in numbers, but recognise that there are lots of demands on time - with Saturdays being a precious commodity. Our studies in Philippians have been encouraging, and the opportunities to share with and pray for each other are valuable. In the

year ahead we hope to have another men's away morning, but we would value your feedback or suggestions on how this ministry could be improved. Men of all ages are very welcome to be part of this - we would love to see you on Saturday mornings.

### **Missionary Committee**

In 2018 Hebron had the privilege of supporting the following missions and missionaries:

- Emma Hietanen @ Brazil
- Kirsty and Suffering Churches
- Sergey and Irina @ South Russia
- Colin and Elida Stephen @ Albania
- Dòchas Education Trust – Donnie and Sandra MacLeod @ Malawi
- Andy Holt with UCCF
- Football Camp @ Shetland
- WorldLink
- Sat-7
- Howard Peebles with Shared Hope
- Nkhoma Hospital @ Malawi

To encourage the congregation's involvement, the elders have agreed to dedicate the second Sunday's collection each month for mission support.

In November, we were glad to have Howard Peebles joining us for our annual missionary weekend. He shared his work and vision of Shared Hope which supports many projects in developing countries. We are happy to be supporting this mission in 2019.

Meanwhile, we are privileged to have Rod and Debbie Jones who serve the Lord at Naples, Italy, joining our missionary partners in 2019. We look forward to hearing their stories in April.

From January 2019, Phil Moon has taken over from Miki to coordinate the monthly updates and bookmarks.

Your interest, prayer and financial support are very much appreciated. If anyone wishes to get involved in the committee or have any ideas for

highlighting or promoting mission needs, please feel free to speak to Isobel, Kevin or Willie.

### **Monday Club**

This year we have continued with our Monday Club activities for primary school children. Monday club is an after-school activity that runs during term-time every Monday at 6:15pm-7.30pm.

This Club was started as an attempt to get to know the families of the children who come along to the Holiday Clubs. It is a continuation of the relationship between the church and the families in the community. I have been greatly encouraged by the Monday Club over the past months of my involvement in it. Although the group is not very large (about 10 kids), it has provided a great opportunity to get to know the kids better and to share the truth of the Gospel with them. Over 2018 we have been keen to make sure the kids from the community have a basic understanding of the Gospel. We first worked through a Gospel overview called 'The King, The Snake and The Promise', where the kids created the banner which now hangs in the side hall. We then moved on to work through Mark's gospel in a programme called 'Meet the King' where we saw Jesus' true identity as both God and King. We are now working through an SU resource called 'Rocky Road', which looks at the God the Rescuer and the Exodus.

I am so often amazed at the depth of questions asked by the kids and really encouraged that when I had assumed they weren't listening at all, they have been able to recount in good detail the facts of a Bible story. Please pray that the Monday Club and the Bible teaching given there will have a lasting impact on the lives of these kids and on the lives of their families, almost all of whom are non-Christian families.

Without the dedicated team of volunteers we have at Monday Club, it simply couldn't happen. We are so blessed to have a wonderful team running this Club week-on-week who give so much of their own time and talents to show the kids the love of God in word and deed. Please remember this activity, the people running it and the kids and families attending in your prayers. Please also prayerfully consider if this is something that you could commit to helping as a volunteer. We are in fairly desperate need of helpers!



## **Music team**

Our music team has had a fairly stable year this year, other than saying goodbye to Thea when she headed off to university in September! Some of our team are relied on more heavily than others, depending on how often work rotas and university courses allow folk to fit in but we are grateful to all who are able to contribute to our Sunday Services in this way.

We have had a tricky time lately when it comes to filling the chairmen rota, so our musicians are often waiting patiently for songs lists to come through at the last minute, but all have coped admirably with the added suspense!

In the second half of the year we introduced a new system for planning services using an online planner via the church website, which allows song lists and rotas to be uploaded at any time and viewed by everyone involved. The kids' songs are listed there well in advance – often with a YouTube link to listen to the song, so everyone has a chance to learn them! It has taken some getting used to but has been very helpful in terms of keeping everyone up to date.

We continue to be grateful for the dedication of the AV team who join us at the rehearsals every week and are ably managing to sort out technical issues one way or another!

The Hebron Choir, once again led by Elaine and Jenn, met weekly from September to learn and present a Christmas Carol Concert in December, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." As has been the case throughout the church, volunteers were lower than previous years, but we were pleased to welcome friends (old and new) from other local churches to join the choir this year – a fantastic night of Christmas praise was enjoyed by all who came along, and all who took part!

*"Now my soul cries out, 'Hallelujah, Praise and honour unto Thee'."*

## **Student lunches**

Did you know that over 900 lunches have been prepared in the Hebron kitchen this year by our lovely and loyal student lunch hosts and hostesses? We have thankfully been blessed by some new cooks and bottle washers who have joined us this year, and to everyone who helps with this work, we extend a BIG thank you.

Under the shepherding of Alex Hanna, students are encouraged to come and join in a time of food and fellowship, and also help out in the tidying up afterwards. It's good to see that there are a good supply of students helping out and the hosts look forward to this informal time of working together. It is a time for students to make friends, and encourage each other, and also a time for the hosts to chat with the students.

Again in 2018, there have been some successful "Hosts At Home" Sundays where students are invited for Sunday lunch to homes, allowing smaller groups to get to know families.

The students will be pleased to know that the hosts and hostesses were given a Food Hygiene revision course in 2016 and even better, we all passed! We will probably have to do another revision this year.

If anyone wants to join the student lunch team, then we love having new hosts and new ideas, so please see Jane. Any new volunteers will be paired with an existing team to learn the ropes, and then when they have passed the food hygiene course, and gained confidence in the kitchen they will be able to help others. This is a great way to serve in the most practical way possible. Thank you to all hosts, and to Alex, and I know that this work is much appreciated by the church and by the students.

## **Student Supper**

This year Student Supper has replaced Theology Breakfast. We meet on Sunday evenings after the service, where we are going through the New City Catechism. I have been encouraged by seeing students engage with the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. The attendance has been more sustainable with the move to Sunday evenings.

Each week we work through 2 questions in the New City Catechism, reading through the question and answer, an associated Bible passage, a historical commentary and a contemporary commentary before discussing and allowing a platform for questions. Not only do we want Student Supper to challenge the doctrinal understanding of the students but also for it to take effect in how they live their lives. At the end of each question students are asked 'how does this impact how you live as a Christian student?', which has highlighted how the Christian faith can't be compartmentalised.

## **Sunday School**

Jane Stirling stepped down as Sunday School superintendent at the end of June. She left a lasting legacy and some big shoes to fill.

In August 2018 we launched a new Sunday School programme based on 'The Gospel Story Bible'. Aiming to help children understand that the Bible is one story with Jesus as the hero, the Gospel Story Curriculum focuses on Christ as it teaches children key stories from Genesis to Revelation that highlight God's plan of redemption. This 3-year long curriculum grows with children by exploring the same Bible stories at three different learning levels, presenting the material in a fresh way each time to help children grow in their understanding of the Bible. Every year children learn a slightly longer version of each passage.

The Gospel Story Curriculum has an accompanying Bible story book and two devotional books to use in the home: the Long Story Short and Old Story New can be used in partnership with what we're teaching on Sunday and we really encourage parents to use these books, 5 days a week, in devotions time with the children at home.

**Discoverers:** Nursery-P1.

Teachers are Emma Hietanen, Siby Joseph, Amy Harrison and Rufina Rajendran.

Helpers are Deborah Dodds, Emily Page, Joy Kennedy, Hannah Lawrie and Katy McLeod.

**Explorers:** P2-P4

Teachers are Florence Arthur, Helena Counsell, Arlene McLeod, and Frances Ritchie.

**Investigators:** P5-P7

Teachers are Jane Stirling, Matt Jack, Rebecca Binnie and Hazel Taylor.

Please pray for the teachers that they will be able to plan and prepare for the lessons well and communicate the truths of the gospel well to the young people in the classes. Please pray for the children as they learn, that the seed that is sown would reap a great harvest and that many of our young people would come to know and trust in the Lord Jesus. And please pray for the families, as they seek to teach their children the gospel. Pray that the resources that the church provides would be of use and would help equip

parents, and that the church would be supporting families well in the task of raising and discipling children.

Anyone who has questions, or who wants to get involved please contact Helena.

## **Website**

2018 was the year of GDPR and we are grateful to all of you for being so willing to fill in forms and tick boxes on the website to help us comply with the new regulations regarding how we store data in the church. We have now moved all the address and contact details of church members to be stored on the GDPR compliant system provided by our church website and in doing so we have expanded the functions of the website which can hopefully provide some useful tools for us all going ahead. Many of you have already found the news updates and the rota reminder emails useful – if your rota is not yet on the website and you would like reminders send out to your team, please mention it to Sally!

There are a number of new member-only features on the website which we encourage you to make use of: the address book, the members' prayer diary, the rotas for different groups, the weekly update on Sunday School lessons, the church calendar, the service planner for chairmen and musicians, the monthly missionary info, and more – it's a one-stop, paper-free portal for all things Hebron! Do log in and explore – feedback and ideas are always welcome. (If you've not used it yet and you need your login name and/or password renewed please do let Sally know, it's easy to sort out.)

## **Women in the Word**

From August 2018, Women in the Word has been running on the second Saturday of every month. Women in the Word is a bible study which aims to build Bible literacy and Bible handling skills amongst women of all ages throughout the church following the model set out in Titus 2:3-5:

*<sup>3</sup> Older women likewise are to be reverent in behaviour, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, <sup>4</sup> and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.*

It's been such a joy and an encouragement to meet together to study the Word of God together and grow in our understanding of the book of James. We've been using a study by Jen Wilkin which is aimed at equipping women to become better handlers of the Word as they work through the study.

### **Youth Fellowship**

This year at YF we said goodbye to Jackie as she headed to Mongolia, and to Robbie and Gaby as they headed to do the Relay programme with UCCF. We've been very grateful and thankful to bring in Jamie Taggart and Laura Rea as new leaders. We also said goodbye to the girls who headed to university in 2018 and we continue to pray for them as a YF.

At YF we have been sharing what has been good over the past week, and what hasn't been too good (helping us to know what we can praise God for and what we can be praying for), eating snacks, chatting as a group, playing games, a talk or bible study and a time of prayer.

This year we started by finishing our series in Colossians entitled 'Finding fullness and freedom in Christ', and then after the summer break we went through the book of Exodus in our series 'The God who saves his people for a Relationship with him'.

In our Exodus series we saw the leaders having the chance to write and deliver an expositional talk or study to the teens, and it was really encouraging not only to see the leaders develop in their understanding of Exodus, but also in seeing the teens see that the Bible is bigger and better than they previously thought.

Youth Fellowship has lived up to its name, and it has been great to see the teens build valuable church friendships, not only within Hebron, but also with our friends at Bon Accord Free Church – shown with Hebron winning the first winners of the Evangelical Derby.

It was also a joy to see a couple of our teens go to Contagious Camp in the summer, where they not only represented Hebron fantastically but also received wonderful teaching and input. Hopefully we will be able to bring a few more of our teens to Contagious this year. And it was an incredible encouragement to be able to welcome Beth into membership as she got baptised this year, hopefully others will follow this year.

Looking forward we hope to see each of our teens either make that commitment to follow Jesus or grow in their young faith. In YF we are praying that we will find suitable additional leaders, that we would create disciples who will make disciples; have the Gospel at the centre for lasting change; see the teens be integrated members in the church family; have stronger links with the parents of the teens. And we are hoping to create a greater focus on welcoming younger teens from the community into our group, capitalising and following up on the work of holiday clubs, Monday Club and Legacy. Please join us in praying for the YF over the next year.

## **CHANGES TO OUR MEMBERS ROLL AND CHURCH FAMILY OVER THE YEAR FEBRUARY 2018 TO JANUARY 2019**

<b>New Members – 20</b>	<b>Births - 3</b>	<b>Engagements – 4</b>
<b>Members moved away – 6</b>	<b>Deaths – 5</b>	<b>Marriages – 1</b>
	<b>Total members'</b>	<b>Baptisms - 4</b>
<b>Total members 160</b>	<b>children 53</b>	
<b>Deacons/Elders/Trustees changes</b>		
<b>Kevin Binnie</b> joined the Elders in April 2018 and the Trustees on 5 <sup>th</sup> June		
<b>Bruce McLeod</b> joined the Elders in April 2018 and the Trustees on 5 <sup>th</sup> June		
<b>Duncan Reaves</b> joined the Elders in April 2018 and the Trustees on 5 <sup>th</sup> June		
<b>Rod Pirie</b> took a few months' sabbatical from the Eldership in November 2018		
<b>Gary Smith</b> stepped down from the Deacons in August 2018		
<b>Staff changes</b>		
<b>Helena Counsell</b> moved from Part-Time to Full-Time in the Women's and Children's Worker role in August 18		