

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE



He was the Christ

'You will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' Acts 1:8

Joseph Ben Mathias was a Jew who was born around 37 AD and died in 101 AD. He was born in Jerusalem in Israel and became a Pharisee and a leading General in the Jewish Army while still in his twenties. He was captured by the Romans in 67 AD and became a friend of the Emperor Vespasian. They had a mutual respect for each other as generals and tacticians. He became a Roman Citizen and took the Roman name Josephus as well as the family name of the emperor, Flavius. He lived in Rome, where he did most of his writing, until his death. Now that's all very interesting but you may be wondering what on earth it has to do with Easter.

Josephus Flavius was not just a Pharisee and a General, he was also a historian. He wrote several books about the history of the Jewish people including one called 'The Antiquities of the Jews' which was made up of 20 volumes. This man Josephus was not a Christian but followed the Jewish faith until he died, and was one of the intelligentsia of his day.

It's his role as a historian which is of most interest to us today because in his writings he often refers to Jesus Christ, for example in this extract from the 18th volume of 'The Antiquities of the Jews' where he is writing about the time of Pontius Pilate.

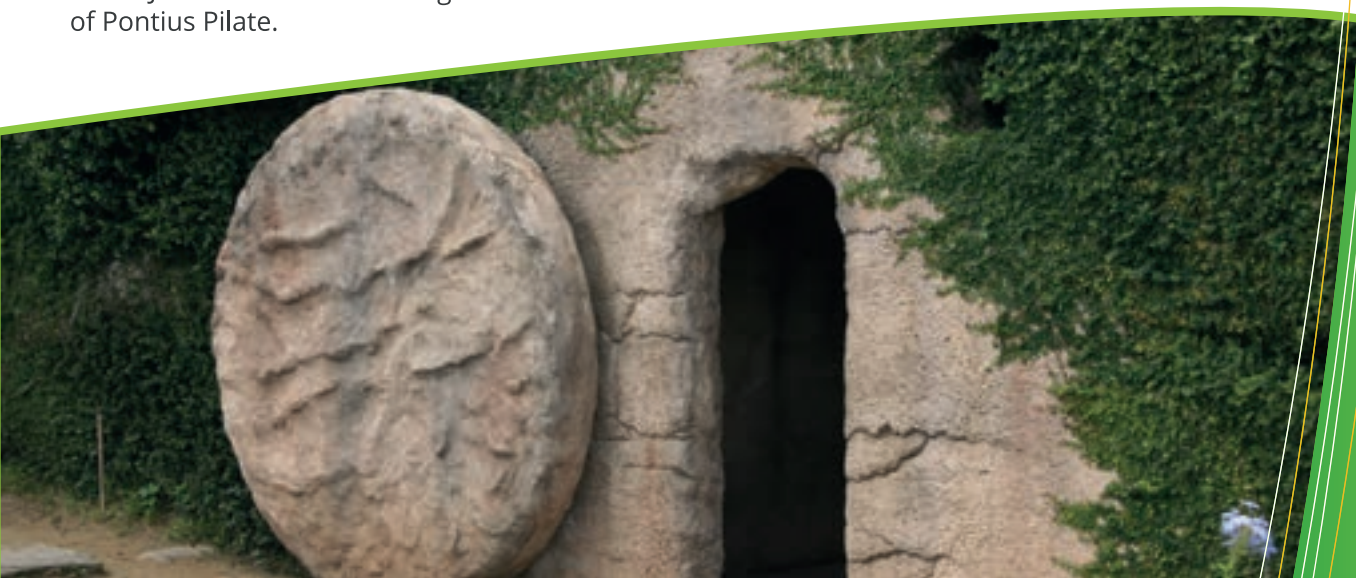
'Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him many Jews and many Gentiles. He was the Christ.'

This is what we believe as Christians. It's this resurrection which all Christians are celebrating at Easter. The resurrection did happen exactly as the Bible tells us. There were many witnesses, starting with Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome and then the rest of His disciples as He appeared to them.

Josephus did not witness the resurrection himself, but he investigated the phenomena which was Jesus Christ. Like any good researcher he would have interviewed people who were there and the conclusion that he came to is recorded in his writing when he says 'He was the Christ'.

But for us as Christians there is more. There is faith. The faith that we have comes from our own personal experience of Jesus Christ as well as from the things that God has done for us, from the teaching of the Bible, and the generations of witnesses who have passed the story to us. Now we are his witnesses.

God bless you at this Easter time
Rev Alan Hamilton-Messer



Editor's Note

Many thanks to everyone who suggested names for the magazine. There were lots of suggestions, from retaining the name 'Contact' to a whole range of great new ideas, but the one which received most comments was to simply keep 'Queensferry Parish Church Magazine'.

Focus on the Worship Team

Introducing the team. In the photograph we have from left to right: Elizabeth Grubb, Huw Thomas (Team Leader), Paula Cameron, Sally McNeish (Assistant Leader), David Cameron, Ian Harrower, Martin Corbett, Paul Nisbet and Robert Simpson. Missing from the photograph, but completing the team line up, are Steve Drake (representing Dalmeny Kirk), Marie Littlejohn and Alan Hamilton-Messer.



The core activity of the worship team as you might expect is to plan and lead worship. However, in order to do this, a large number of people need to be involved. The team has a wide remit which covers preaching, music, occasional drama and provision of sound and vision (involving the techie bits at the back!).

Music is an integral part of worship and requires input and planning from our organists, Worship Group and Junior Choir leaders working together as a team. Easter in particular is an exciting time and we look forward to choosing some inspiring worship music, including songs new and old.

One of the most challenging activities organised last year was to move our whole 10 o'clock service to Queensferry High School one particular Sunday. The service included a visiting preacher (Gavin Calver) from 'Youth for Christ' combined with a celebration of baptism in the adjoining swimming pool! The feedback was generally very positive and a lot of people seemed to like the informal, come and go, café style nature of the service.

One of our main challenges for the future is to grow wider as a congregation and finding ways of connecting with the overwhelming majority of the population of Queensferry and surrounding areas which have little or no link with church.

A recent experiment was to trial a 'Mini Mess' up in our top hall one Sunday morning during the latter part of the 10 o'clock service. This proved to be very popular with our young families and looks to have great potential for expansion. The buzz, excitement and joy of those participating really was a pleasure to witness.

Finally, we can never have too many volunteers for the multitude of activities that our team is involved in. Therefore if you want to try your hand at singing or playing with the Worship Group, projecting the words, operating the sound desk or be involved in other ways then please don't be shy in coming forward.

YOUR WORSHIP TEAM NEEDS YOU !!!

Best wishes

Huw Thomas (Team Leader) [email: worship@qpcweb.org](mailto:worship@qpcweb.org)

Girls' Brigade

The company will be holding its annual open night and presentation of awards on Wednesday 28th May at 7pm in the St Andrew Hall. The girls will be sharing with us this year's theme, 'Bridges into the Bible'. We hope to have as our guest of honour a member of the Forth Bridge Consortium team. Come and give the girls your support you will be most welcome.



Due to family reasons the company will be one member of staff down next session. If you think you could help in any way, particularly with the older girls from 7:15-8:45pm, please contact Sheena Leslie via the church office, or come to the open night and make yourself known.

Prayer

We are in the early stages of planning a congregational visit to Lindisfarne for an away day and retreat in early Autumn possibly September. More information coming soon. Watch this space!

The Guild

It's getting near the end of our Guild season with just a couple of meetings left. The Guild will be taking part in the Monday evening service of Holy Week and on 28th April, 7.30pm, it's our AGM with Artie Tresize of Singing Kettle fame. We hope to get together with a Coffee Morning during the summer where all will be welcome. Our summer outing will be in May. A team from the Guild will be taking part in Bridge Cross. Look out for them and their sponsor sheets. Also, Catherine, our President, is throwing herself off the Rail Bridge on 18th May, to raise money for QCCC - it's an abseil, really! She too has a sponsor sheet!

Forth Bridge 50th Challenge

A reminder that you can celebrate the 50th year of the Forth Road Bridge by taking part in the bridge cross challenge on Saturday 26 April 2014. The February edition of the Magazine has more details, but you can find out more and register at www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/events/walking/scotland.aspx. Look out for sponsor forms from Tom Williamson nearer the date.

2014 Christian Aid Booksale



10th-16th May at St Andrew's and St George's West, George Street, Edinburgh. If you have books you wish to dispose of contact Tom and Gwenneth Williamson (331 2185) who will deliver the books to a cellar in Dublin Street!

Within a few days they will be removed to an adjacent basement flat for pricing, as this task takes place throughout the year. From there the books are taken to a storage unit until two weeks before the sale begins.

Book donations before Easter would be appreciated. Last year the sale raised over £105,000.00 for the work of Christian Aid.

Mini Mess



If you had accidentally walked into the St Andrew's hall on Sunday 2nd March hoping for a cup of coffee and somewhere to sit, you might well have wondered where you had landed! Children, parents and grandparents were huddled round tables smearing now

infamous blue icing atop sticky buns and catching little jelly baby men amidst the netting of strawberry laces. Others were blowing 'speech bubble' prayers and still more hooking questions for discussion from the end of a fishing rod.

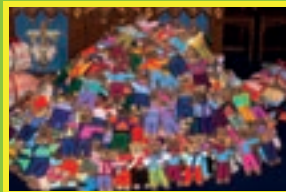
Questions like 'what does it mean to be a fisher of men' and 'why follow Jesus?' were answered by those old in their faith journey and those who have barely begun. Music, stories, videos, crafts and confusion – welcome to Mini Mess, an interactive space for children and their families to explore faith and worship God together in their own special blue icing kind of way. A huge thanks to all the team who took part from setting up tables, organising cables and clearing up cake crumbs at the end, well done. The children certainly loved it, the parents enjoyed it and many of us are looking forward to the next time we have an opportunity to be creative in expressing our faith together as the family of God.
Paula Cameron

Who is My Neighbour?

Did you know that over 700 people in our parish provide unpaid care for someone, most probably a family member? Around 150 people provide over 50 hours of unpaid care each week. 14 per cent of folk said that their health was a limiting factor in their day to day activities – that's not far short of 1000 people! This information, and so much more, comes from the 2011 Scottish Census, and you can find out more about Queensferry using the Church of Scotland's Statistics for Mission parish profiles at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/stats_for_mission. During this Easter season, when we think about the good news of Jesus' resurrection, think and pray about what would be 'good news' to some of our neighbours.

Teddies for Tragedies

Just a reminder, before the really good weather comes in and you want to spend time in the garden, that it's never too early to be knitting teddies (or making blankets/hats/scarves/mitts). Patterns are available in Claire Bears 2013 folder in the Hillstop Lounge. (Have a look through the folder while you are at it!) The 2014 folder will be available soon hopefully), nothing to put in it yet!



If you are going away somewhere nice for a day, a weekend or longer, and would like to take a teddy with you to make friends and help spread the awareness of the wonderful work these teddies do, for children, just contact Norma Brown, or email clairebear_tf@yahoo.co.uk. Collection date will be the end of September/beginning of October 2014

Look out for our Fundraising coffee morning which will be later in the year. Happy knitting!
Norma Brown, Teddies Co-ordinator

By Royal Invitation

Monday 28th July to Friday 1st August, 10am-12.30pm at Queensferry Parish Church.

Our very own commonwealth games adventure for primary aged children. Keep fit with Auntie Jessie, sing songs, join in the games, make crafts, eat biscuits and enjoy the show stopper drama 'Party at the Palace' £5 for the week.

Pre-register or volunteer: paula@qpcweb.org



Kidz Corner

Easter Holiday Boredom?... try these ideas:

Dyeing coloured Eggs:

1 cup water/ 1 teaspoon vinegar/ food dye
Hard boil an egg, cool and peel off the shell
Lower the egg into dye on a soup spoon
The longer its in the darker it will be!



Rainy day activity:

Ask an adult to rent out "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe"

Why do we have Eggs at Easter anyway?

Eggs remind us about how the stone that covered Jesus' grave was rolled away. That's why we roll eggs on Easter Sunday. Eggs are also a sign of new life. Jesus is Alive! Easter is a time for the church family to come together and celebrate that life.

What chocolate might I want to munch on?

Go online www.realeasteregg.co.uk



Happy Easter!

Church Diary

Here you will find all the dates mentioned within the magazine. Also dates included in the church diary on the website will be included, so there is no need to contact the magazine editor if the information is already online. Please note that dates may be subject to alteration, and for up to date information please check the weekly Notice Sheets or calendar on the website.

Weekly Worship Services

Sunday
10:00 - 10:25 am Family Service (at 10:25 children leave for learning in their own age groups).
11:30 - 12:30am A more traditional worship service

Thursday
9:30 - 10:00am A reflective service with a Celtic tradition of responses.

Youth Fellowship meets every Sunday evening from 7:30 - 9pm

April 2014

12th 10am Litter Pick: Meet at church. See website calendar for details.
13th Palm Sunday
14th - 19th Holy Week Services
18th Good Friday: Joint Evening Service
19th 2pm The Edinburgh Passion: Easter Play in Princes St Gardens. Free.
20th Easter Sunday
23rd 7:30 - 9:30pm Homegroups
24th 7:30 - 9:30pm Homegroups
26th Forth Bridge 50th Challenge
27th 7pm 'Sanctury' at Dalmeny Kirk: Easter Promise
28th 7:30pm The Guild AGM with Artie Tresize (Singing Kettle)
29th 7:30pm Prayer meeting in the Harbour Room

May 2014

10th - 16th Christian Aid Book Sale at St Andrews and St Georges West, Edinburgh
14th 7:30 - 9:30pm Homegroups
15th 7:30 - 9:30pm Homegroups
17th - 23rd General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
18th 'Heart and Soul: HandS Across the World' in Princes St Gardens
29th 7:30pm Prayer meeting in the Harbour Room
28th 7pm Girls' Brigade open night in St Andrew Hall
28th 7:30 - 9:30pm Homegroups
29th 7:30 - 9:30pm Homegroups

June 2014

11th 7:30 - 9:30pm Homegroups
12th 7:30 - 9:30pm Homegroups
24th 7:30pm Prayer meeting in the Harbour Room

Church Register

Baptisms

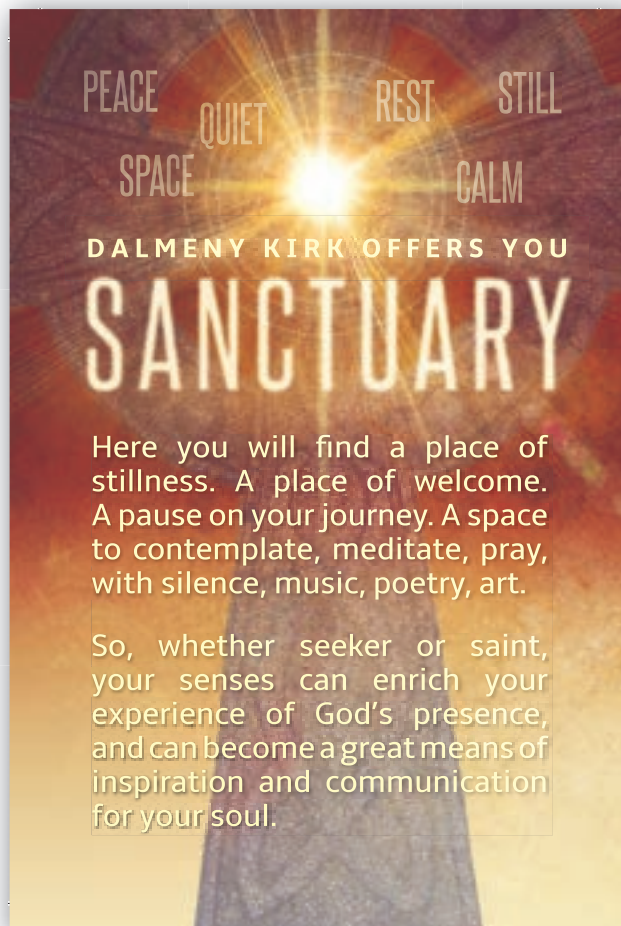
16th Feb Jessica Anne Laing, Lawson Crescent
23rd Feb James Andrew Deans, Stoneyflatts Crescent

Deaths

16th Jan Arthur Morrison, Ashburnham Road
2nd Feb Margaret Freeman, Inchcolm Avenue
18th Feb Patricia Muir, Provost Milne Grove
26th Feb Muriel Morrell, Charteris Park, Longniddrie
1st Mar Deans Thomson, Echline Drive

Dalmeny Kirk offers you Sanctuary

If you enjoy, or would like to experience, a more reflective, contemplative style of worship, please come along to the last of the special evening services held in our linked church at Dalmeny at 7pm on 27th April, as we celebrate the Easter Promise.



Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from 8th June 2014. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by 17th May 2014.