

# QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE



October 2014

## The Word on the Street

In 2002 I became Minister of Dennistoun Baptist Church in Glasgow. The church had closed its large building and moved into smaller accommodation, and many folk didn't know where to find us. So we opened a Charity Shop on the main road as a way to meet local people. It worked! We encountered around 200 people each week and it also provided income for the church. That shop is still going strong.

In 2007 we started an emerging church project, or 'fresh expression'. With others who shared the vision we opened a shop in Dennistoun selling second-hand books and CDs, and offered good quality complementary tea and coffee to our visitors and customers. We called it 'The Word on the Street' - a play on words that reflected our books, but also that the Word was God. The shop was modern, airy and inviting, with comfy seating for people to sit and chat over coffee. And the people came! This gave us an opportunity to explain the ethos of the shop. We had decided that we would be a Christian outreach through our relationships, being good neighbours, and in the way we interacted with local folk.

We held a weekly worship service in the shop on Sundays. At first there were just eight people, mostly in their early twenties, but soon several others, with no previous church connection, joined us. We had a Baptism service in the shop, and another in Loch Lomond, and the church grew.

One memory that remains with me is a conversation one morning between myself, a Catholic Priest, a Church of Scotland Minister and a Buddhist theologian. We sat and drank coffee and did our best to answer the questions we all had about each other. Sadly the shop is no longer open, but we know that we had an impact both on ourselves, and on the lives of many people.

With blessings, Alan Hamilton-Messer



## North and South Churches Celebrate the 50th Anniversary



Representatives from Queensferry, Dalmenny, North Queensferry and Inverkeithing Parish Churches met in the middle of the Forth Road Bridge on the afternoon of Sunday 14th September in recognition of its 50th Anniversary. The Ministers of the respective linked charges, Rev David Cameron and Rev Colin Alston offered a brief (it was windy!) prayer and reflection in the middle of the Forth before the gathering made its way to North Queensferry Parish Church. There, gifts were exchanged and a welcome snack lunch was enjoyed by all. One of the gifts from South to North was a certificate designed by Janet Thomas to mark the occasion. Thanks go to Laura Stewart and the Community Team for having the idea in the first place and for making it happen.

# Focus on the Children's and Youth Ministry Team

*"A team comprises a group of people linked in a common purpose. Teams are especially appropriate for conducting tasks that are high in complexity and have many interdependent subtasks."*

I guess the Children's and Youth Ministry team can identify with that description! 'Team' in our case means a large and fluid group of people, and in fact is a 'team of teams'.

So ... what is the 'common purpose' that links us together? There are many possible descriptions, but one of the best is based on the Youth for Christ approach:

**Demonstrate** ... God's love

**Declare** ... relevantly the Good News about Jesus

**Decision** ... Give young people the opportunity to invite Jesus to be their saviour and friend

**Disciple** ... Help young people to find out more about what it means to live as a Christian

Everything that we do relates in some way to one or more of those 'Four Ds'.

## What are we up to?

You'll have seen lots of activity and energy coming from our children's and youth ministry groups and activities recently. Whether it's our Fit for a King holiday club, or JC Kids and our teenage group YF re-starting after the summer; whether it's our Boys' and Girls' Brigade companies parading along the High Street with other uniformed organisations, Nomad playing cage football and sharing their faith with teenagers, or folk supporting SU groups in our schools; a group of dedicated folk willingly give up their time to run and support all these activities and more. Why? – because they want to see young people getting to know Jesus better, and to know that they are valued members of our church family. Also – it's great fun!

## Where are we headed?

A couple of years ago, our elders set four top priorities for our '2020 Vision'. One of these was to develop a project to reach children, young people and families. Some of that is already in place, e.g. Fit for a King and Nomad. Some is still to come - perhaps a youth café, or support for families with pre-school children, or... And the exciting thing is that we are not doing this alone: we are working with other local churches, and with agencies like Youth for Christ and Care for the Family.

But there's one more definition of 'team':

*"A group of people with a full set of complementary skills required to complete a task, job or project."*

We don't think that describes us yet – so maybe you could help us complete the set?



## Sacred Space

Every year the Church of Scotland offers its ministers two weeks Study Leave, which can be accrued for up to seven years. I have deferred study leave since coming to Queensferry and Dalmeny, and on 6 October I begin a period of leave to explore 'Sacred Space' through some time overseas, at a retreat centre near Perth and engaging with local folks such as architects, theologians and our own worship team. This has particular significance for us given the age and style of our church buildings and also the plans to launch 'Messy Church', which may in time find a home in a non-church building.

After four weeks leave, a week's holiday and a week back at church leading up to our remembrance day services, 'normal service' will resume on 17 November. Over this period I'm delighted to say that Rev Bob Gemmell and Mrs Fiona Devoy will provide pulpit cover and for pastoral cover our Associate Minister, Rev Alan Hamilton-Messer will be supported by the minister of Ratho Church of Scotland, Rev Ian Wells. As ever our Session Clerk, Guy Douglas, will be at the end of the phone or email.

Blessings, David

## Fabric Works

Many of you will recall we undertook major planned (and some emergency) works on the Church premises in 2014. Works have now been completed at the Church, Vennel Hall, and Manse premises.

At the Vennel Hall masonry repairs were needed at the mutual chimney and gable with the properties at Smith's Land. The Church's share of these works was approximately £2,500, including repairs to a crack that had opened up within the Hall. Other roof maintenance repairs were completed amounting to £650. At the Manse, emergency repairs to the front rainwater downpipe and drain that were fully blocked and cracked amounted to £1,100. The largest piece of work was the necessary stone repairs and re-pointing of the Church's main West elevation. We replaced damaged and missing protective glazing to the stained glass window. Internally rusting glazing restraint bars at gallery level had caused damage to the stonework and these were carefully cut out, the stone repaired and the bars re-instated after the damaged ends had been treated. These extensive works cost approximately £15,000 and along with roof maintenance repairs of a further £1,000 led to a significant overall expenditure on the fabric of our premises this year. Also, the St Andrew Hall was re-decorated and the notice boards refurbished. The above works have only been possible through the generous giving from the Congregation and we thank you all for your continuing support.

## It's Autumn so it must be Guild Time!

The theme for The Guild this year is "A World to Serve" and that is what we hope to do. We meet at 2pm on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month and at 7.30pm on the second and fourth Monday evenings. We aim for a varied programme covering all sorts of topics, including our Projects, which this year are Mary's Meals (Liberia) and the Julius Project. We have music, fun and laughter, and we look forward to welcoming all to our meetings. Our new session starts on Tuesday 7th October (see Church Diary on the back page) and don't forget The Winter Fayre on 22nd November.

Please come along and sample some of the fun and fellowship. We always have time for tea and a chat! Please contact me (331 3803) if you need a lift to any of our meetings or maybe just someone to chum you along.

Catherine Lambe  
President



## 12th Global Bazaar



Since our first 'FairTrade Fair' during World Fairtrade Week in May 2004, the members of Queensferry Fair Trade Group have arranged a similar event at the end of October each year. The name changed to 'Global Bazaar' and a core group of stallholders - One World Shop, Hadeel, Tearcraft and Kwai River Crafts - heading up the seven stalls, has been supplemented with other stall holders to add variety to the bazaars.

On Saturday 25th October we will celebrate our 12th fair/bazaar from 10am - 3pm in Queensferry Parish Church Centre, admission £2 for adults, accompanied children free, refreshments included. This year will include a return visit by Comfort Rwanda and the Green Gift Company. Newcomer Gogo Olive joins us for the first time. As usual there will be an opportunity to taste tea and coffee from Equal Exchange before purchasing from the food stall.

Since 2004 the policy of the QFTG has been to offer free stalls to the visiting stallholders. However, the money raised through ticket sales supports fairtrade projects across the world. Look out for our beautiful poster, designed by Alister Bain, and come and enjoy this special event in October.

## Teddies for Tragedies



Norma Brown wishes to thank all who helped to make the 'Teddies for Tragedies' fund raising coffee morning a success on 6th September, which raised the grand sum of £475.26, including donations. Grateful thanks to those who donated Cake & Candy and Tombola and to the volunteers who helped, with special thanks to June Gaw who is a great Assistant. Norma is now having fun choosing lovely Teddy patterned material to make the drawstring bags, which the Teddies are in when they reach the children, knitted and donated by caring hands. I have been looking for some time for another outlet for our wonderful Teddies and am delighted that this year we are working with Kirkliston Parish Church, to help them raise their target of 500 Teddies to go to children in the Syrian Refugee Camps, which are mostly in Lebanon and Jordan, through the charity 'Tearfund'.

I have pledged at least 250 of our Teddies, which they will receive after our Teddy Blessing Service in October/November (date to be arranged). To find out more, or if you want to help, contact Norma, Co-ordinator, at [clairebear\\_tft@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clairebear_tft@yahoo.co.uk).

Thank you all,  
Norma Brown, Co-ordinator

## Fit for a King



Whilst many were enjoying sunny Glasgow, or taking it easy as a sofa athlete, some of us chose to get active! The manse back garden was transformed, as were our church halls, to be our commonwealth stadium.

With forty children coming each day, team Wales (rawr), Canada (mooo), Australia (oi oi oi), Kenya (gives us a K) and England (they're not scared!) raced, jumped, swam, hopped, leaped and flung themselves into Fit for a King. Topped off with the show-stopping drama Party at the Palace and finishing with a showroom's worth of cardboard palaces fit for a children's worker, the week was a tremendous success.

Thanks to Clyde for his gymnastic antics which won't be forgotten quickly! What's more, many children got to hear about Jesus, the true King who came to invite each and every one of them into his kingdom.

THANK YOU to everyone who made the week possible....

Sign up for holiday club 2015 coming to a church near you soon!!!

Well done team!

## Messy Church

The Priory Church was filled with excitement and creativity for the first ever Messy Church Queensferry on Sunday 7th September. Messy Church happens again from 4pm to 5.30pm on 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December. It's for all the family: children, parents/carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles. You don't need to be religious or churchy to enjoy Messy Church - but adults need to bring a child, and children need to bring an adult! For more information, contact [childrenyouth@qpcweb.org](mailto:childrenyouth@qpcweb.org)



## KIDZ CORNER

Children who need food in our country

So often we think of hungry children as being far off in Africa or India, but these two stories are from right here in Britain! A primary school boy skipped school recently because he couldn't face the embarrassment of having no money for lunch. When he got caught out the school liaison officer took a visit to his home! She discovered there was no food, except a little oats and milk. The mother's purse was completely empty. They received a food bank parcel to help them through and with the aid of school dinners the little boy went back to school!

A borrowed can of tomato soup from the neighbours kept 18 month Tia from getting too cold and hungry. Mum and Dad had run out of food entirely, turned their heating off and were all sleeping in one bed with ice on the windows trying to stay warm! A tin of soup was used to feed little Tia, until an emergency food parcel was delivered to them.

### How can I help?

Next time Mum or Dad takes you shopping why not pick up something for the food bank instead of getting your sweetie, you'll be helping other kids by stopping them from going hungry!

Nearest permanent donation point - Tesco South Queensferry



### Shopping List!

Things that are urgently needed!!

Instant Coffee  
Jam  
Pasta  
Rice  
Sugar  
Teabags  
Tinned Vegetables  
UHT Milk

# 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

## October 2014

5th, 4pm Messy Church at The Priory  
7th, 2pm The Guild: Doreen Arnott and Friends, Musical Entertainment  
8th Homegroup\*  
13th, 7:30pm The Guild: 'Spirit of Love', Musical Entertainment  
22nd Homegroup  
27th, 7:30pm The Guild: Mrs E Grubb – Wartime Childhood in the Far East and Beyond

## November 2014

2nd, 4pm Messy Church at The Priory  
4th, 2pm The Guild: John Helliwell, Mary's Meals, and update on Liberia  
10th, 7:30pm The Guild: Alistair McEwan, Edinburgh's War  
12th Homegroup  
22nd The Guild Winter Fayre  
24th, 7:30pm The Guild: Disbursement of Funds – our own Paula Cameron  
25th, 10am Global Bazaar  
26th Homegroup

## December 2014

2nd, 2pm The Guild: Ferry Blend, Christmas Entertainment  
7th, 4pm Messy Church at The Priory  
8th, 7:30pm The Guild: Worship Group / Junior Choir, Christmas Entertainment  
10th Homegroup  
17th Homegroup

\*For details of Wednesday Homegroups contact Paula Cameron.

# Church Register

## Baptisms

31st August Ruaridh John Oakley, Longcrook

## Thanksgiving & Blessing

31st August Maisie Helen Lois Haig, Stewart Clark Avenue

## Marriages

19th July Fraser High and Heather McLuckie  
13th September Julia Walker and George Downie, Johnston Court, Uphall

## Deaths

1st August George Murdoch, Linn Mill  
4th August Alex Hobb, Echline Gardens  
16th August Neil Lafferty, Rosebery Avenue  
21st August Graham Holmes, Loch Place  
24th August Douglas Grahamslaw, Kinloch View, Linlithgow

## Follow-up to the Penny Gospel Distribution.

In July, just prior to the Commonwealth Games, lots of volunteers from our congregation as well as from the other local churches, distributed a Penny Gospel to every home in Queensferry and Dalmeny. A leaflet was enclosed which described a number of follow-up activities. Fit for a King and Messy Church have already been mentioned. A third follow-up event, Queensferry Quench, was held in Orocco Pier on 24th September. After a time for coffee and chat, Elaine Duncan, CEO of the Scottish Bible Society, spoke to the topic, "Why I am not an atheist, facing the inadequacies of unbelief". There was then an opportunity for everyone to ask questions in an informal atmosphere.

The fourth follow-up activity is an Alpha Course for those who would like to discover more about Christianity in a relaxed environment. On Wed 8th October, an introductory evening will be held in Queensferry Rugby Club seeking to address the question: "Christianity – Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?"



If you would like to receive your magazine in a larger print format, please contact the Church Office with your details.

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the magazine will be available from 23rd November 2014. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at [magazine@qpcweb.org](mailto:magazine@qpcweb.org) by 1 November 2014.