

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3 verse 1

On a recent trip to York to visit my granddaughters (and of course their mum and dad!) we took off for the beach at Filey for the first picnic of the season. Travelling with us in the back seat was 5 year old Thea who, from out of the blue, asked her Gran the question: ‘Gran - what is it that makes nature start up again?’ After a few insights on the warmth of the sun getting warmer she had moved on to the next question, which was about nail varnish...

The observational powers of a five year old had noted that around us were the signs of a new season emerging - first sign was the snowdrop then the crocuses and by the time you read this the daffodils will be in full flight. In nature God has set a special time for every activity and likewise in our journey of life and faith there are such times and seasons.

While he was among us, Jesus would often take time out in his Father’s presence so that he could discern the time and also discover what the Father would have him do. As he ventured towards the cross whose shadow had been cast over his life, he would often say: ‘my time has not yet come’ and on other occasions would note that: ‘I only do what I see the Father doing.’ He was, on his journey, well tuned in to the times and seasons for every activity under heaven.

Let us, like Jesus, tune in to the times and seasons on our journey and in the process discover anew something of the



plans and purposes that God has for us - time to give something up, let something go or start something new?

Through all the changing seasons one thing is sure: God is with us, so let me encourage you to embrace all that the new season brings - even if it’s a springtime picnic with ice cream to finish in 7 degrees of bracing wind!

Blessings
David

News from the LaunchPad

Well here we are on an overcast March afternoon sipping warm tomato and courgette soup and mulling over a rather chilly prospect – heading off to explore the ice caps. This year’s team has already got planning well underway for Polar Explorers, a summer holiday club aimed at primary aged children. Together we shall set off to bring an important message to a young scientist. Along the way there will be carbon footprints to consider, warnings about preparing for blizzards and a friendly guide in the form of Blitz, the husky. Well known BBC presenter Gemma Hunt will be on hand, or rather remote link, to point our way into the theme – you are NEVER too ANYTHING to be used by God. Not too ordinary, nor too bad, or even too young! And certainly never too old ;)

And so just as we gather to prepare and plan, as momentum gathers and excitement builds can I ask you all to join us in praying. Pray for the core planning team - they have a lot of work ahead of them! Pray and give thanks for the volunteers, as we couldn’t do this without them. And pray also for the children who will come, that they will have fun!



Sign up and get involved!! Even if you are too busy in the office to come on an Arctic adventure you can still be part of the mission! We need lots of:

Cardboard tubes (gift wrapping etc); Shoeboxes; Old maps; Plastic 4-pint milk cartons (lots and lots of them!)

A loan of any of these items– a sledge(!); Old skis; Boots; Jackets; Goggles; Backpacks; Ice picks; Tents; Ski poles; Wooden tennis rackets; Transmitter radio set.

It’s time to check what’s lurking in the lofts!! Please let Explorer-in-Chief, Paula Cameron know what you find childrenyouth@qpcweb.org

Focus on the Discipleship Team

It's not urgent for the Discipleship Team

The late Steven Covey was famous for his book "The 7 habits of highly effective people". Less well known, but very powerful, is his book "First things First". In this book he asks, "What is the one activity that you know if you did superbly well and consistently, would have significant positive results in your personal life". That includes your spiritual life. He then asks a further question. "If you know this thing would make such a significant difference, why are you not doing it now?"

Challenging stuff. Later in the book, he talks about priorities and how we can become addicted to doing things we feel are urgent, instead of spending more time on what is important, but perhaps not urgent.



The Discipleship Team does not deal with urgent stuff. If the Team disbanded, much of the church's life would continue. The doors would be open, the church would be heated and weatherproof, services would be conducted, weddings and funerals would be held.

However, in time, things would change. Probably the reason for the decline in many churches over the years has been the neglect of the important area of discipleship. Michael Ramsden, the European director of the Zacharias Trust said, "The American Church is dying, not from the lack of evangelism, nor from the lack of resources, but from the lack of effective discipleship". This could equally be said for the church in the UK.

The area of discipleship is clearly very important, for us as individuals, and collectively as a church. The Discipleship Team is trying to encourage the church members to find the "one thing" that would make a positive difference in their spiritual lives, and to challenge them to do it.

Fresh Expressions

Rev Dave McCarthy is the Church of Scotland Fresh Expressions Development worker. He visited us on 18th January 2015, was interviewed by David at both services and also preached at the 11.30am service. Afterwards 30 folks stayed for lunch to ask Dave questions. Perhaps you would like to find out more about "Fresh Expressions" of church. The web site <http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk/> is very helpful. Here is an excerpt from it.

"A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church."



There is no single model to copy but a wide variety of approaches for a wide variety of contexts. Some fresh expressions are very different from church as we have been used to it in the UK – there is a surfer church on Polzeath beach, a youth congregation based in a skate park and a church for skiers. Others are more familiar but in unfamiliar settings – such as church in a café, pub, church or school. They can be found in rural areas as well as in towns and cities and have been planted to reach all age groups - pensioners as well as those focused on children or young families. There is no intention to divide people up. The surfer church does not have security guards to ban non-surfers at the door. But the aim is to plant church into the communities to which people actually belong.

Dave talked about possible responses to the fact that most people in South Queensferry aren't part of a worshipping community:

- * Do nothing about it
- * Try to bring people in to church (a good thing to do, if it works)
- * Go out to the community and be church there. This is the Fresh Expression approach

Dave recognised that Messy Church is one example of that. We are privileged to have a committed team experimenting with Messy Church with positive results. Another example Dave described was in Aberdeen, called "Neither Young nor Old," where the church took place in a sheltered home, along with residents, staff and family members.

Please pray for discernment as to how we should progress this in South Queensferry and Dalmeny, to bring church to the community, in line with part of our Vision to "Grow Wider".

Girls' Brigade

The GB are holding their Open Night and Presentation of Awards on Wednesday 27th May at 7:00pm. They would like to welcome all members of the congregation to join them as they celebrate the girls' achievements.

If you have a daughter aged between 5 and 18 who would like to join the company next session, please contact Sheena on 0131 331 4674 to reserve a place. If you would like to help in GB you would be most welcome as we are looking to recruit more helpers due to our growing numbers. Again phone Sheena.

Time to say thank you

After a period of over two years as our Associate Minister we received word on 19th February that Rev Alan Hamilton-Messer was stepping down from his post. Both Alan and his wife Lesley have made a significant contribution to the life of our church family and our community during their time with us. We are grateful to Alan for his faithful and insightful conduct of worship, his support for families through their times and seasons of loss, for his creative input into the development of a new series of worship events in Dalmeny Kirk and for the many other ways he contributed to our faith journey over his time with us.

Likewise we're grateful to Lesley who steered us through the development and production of the church magazine.

As editor she not only ensured a lively format but was also instrumental in broadening our horizons through her work with the Mission and Discipleship Council of the central church offices at 121 George St. Our thoughts and prayers are with them both as they step out into the next season of their life and faith journey under God.

Rather than rush immediately to a new appointment, the Kirk Session has agreed to invite the likes of the following folks to conduct our Sunday worship when David is involved in Dalmeny services : Rev Bob Gemmell, Fiona Devoy, Ian Forsyth (who was trained in the Episcopal church in the conduct of worship) and Rev Graham Leitch - recently retired from ministry. He and his wife, Mary, have recently become members of our church.

Healthy bodies make for healthy minds

We all know this adage and one way to achieve this if you are aged over 55 is to join the Senior Bowlers on a Tuesday afternoon. There will be taster sessions on Tuesdays 14th, 21st, 28th April and 5th May. Come to the Bowling Green (entrance through Station Road Park) at 1:30pm on any of these dates and enjoy good company alongside gentle exercise. Shoes and equipment will be provided.

Bridge Cross 2015

In 2014, Bridge Cross raised a total of £29,000, of which sponsorship of the various walkers from the Church amounted to £2,400. This year, Bridge Cross takes place on Saturday 25th April from 2.00pm - 5.00pm. Sponsor forms are available from Tom Williamson. Volunteers for stewarding are asked to contact Stewart Anderson.

Kidz Corner

Easter is an important Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are many different customs for celebrating Easter around the world, but the Friday before Easter Sunday (Good Friday) and the Monday after are Bank Holidays in the UK. Yay, no school! Early celebrations included the painting of eggs, which represented the stone rolled away from Jesus' empty tomb. Now we also give Easter eggs - often chocolate - to friends and family. Here are some scientific experiments to help you celebrate Easter.

Chromatographic Crafting!



Ask a grown up for some coffee filters for these crafty projects!

1) Cut filter into an egg shape, decorate with felt pens and dampen the filter. Voilà, the ink runs to create this effect.

2) Same technique, decorate your coffee filter and dampen with water. Then carefully scrunch up the middle with a peg, add googly eyes and a pipe cleaner for a butterfly – another sign of new life!

3) Finally make a bouquet of beautiful flowers: decorate the middle of your filter, pop it in a jar and watch the colour rise up. Gather a group together for a spring bunch.

Website to check out: <http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk/about-us>

Homegroups

Because of the increasing numbers attending, we have had to add a second Homegroup on a Wednesday evening. We are finding that the Homegroups are having real benefits in helping us grow as disciples, Including:-

- * Getting to know each other really well (very helpful for new church members)
- * Supporting each other in prayer
- * Learning from each other as we discuss the sermon topics
- * Having a deeper understanding of the Bible
- * Being challenged by what the Bible teaches
- * Having opportunities to "get out of the boat" and experiment with spiritual gifts

By adding the second group, we now have more room for newcomers. Could this be the "one thing" that would help you be more effective in your spiritual life? (See 'Focus on the Discipleship Team').

For more details, please contact Bob Gemmell, Ian Forsyth or email discipleship@qpcweb.org



The McNeish Family Goes North

Rev David McNeish was ordained into the charge of Birsay, Harray and Sandwick in Orkney on 27th January (see photo). Here's a newsy update about the family from Sally:

We made it! We arrived in Orkney, just, on Thursday 8 January, on the last boat before the Big Storm. Our boxes were all in mere hours before the weather closed in, and we were very grateful for the strong, snug walls of our manse. Built in 2001 it is beautiful and cosy, left immaculate for us and with stunning views across the Harray Loch to the hills of Hoy.

The storm gave us a few days to begin to make the house home before we emerged, blinking, into the social life of the West Mainland of Orkney. And a busy life it is! The children are settling in at school – they still miss Queensferry and the familiarity of people they have grown up with, but Dounby School has looked after them well and their teachers are all very supportive (Sandy's best day so far involved the discovery that his teacher played Plants versus Zombies). They are slowly picking up routines and activities out of the many choices available – Rachel has started Brownies, Duncan is in Scouts, we've found a music teacher to console them for the loss of Chris Anderson, the boys are climbing at the leisure centre in Kirkwall and they're on the waiting list for swimming lessons.

David has settled in well to his work, taking time to get to know people and learning a lot about farming! He is aspiring to the booby prize at a ploughing match one day, but is sad that the weather hasn't yet allowed him to crack out the sit-on lawnmower. The greatest novelty of the manse for him so far is the lock on his study door.

Sally has been grateful for the time to unpack and settle in and is enjoying being a minister's wife, although she hasn't got used to being called one! She has applied to join the supply list for primary teaching and has gleefully set her drums up in the house. The church has given us the warmest welcome and although there is no band there are many cultural parallels for us – big hearts expressed through good singing, generous baking and lots of practical care, remind anyone of a certain congregation near you?

Finally, we are astounded daily by the beauty which surrounds us. The light is now returning apace, bulbs are appearing and although the wind is still freezing, you can almost feel the upsurge of life beneath the earth. The skies here are huge, so that at times you can see varied weathers playing out at the same time, and the sea is both formidably powerful and hauntingly beautiful. In short, we are very aware that we are those to whom much has been given. It is our challenge and our privilege to receive gladly, and to begin to ask what is ours to offer in turn.

With love,
The McNeish Family



Church Register

New Members

Duncan Hepburn	Ashburnham Gardens
Rev Graham Leitch	St Margaret Wynd, Dunfermline
Mrs Mary Leitch	St Margaret Wynd, Dunfermline

Deaths

12th March	Sandra Jackson-Bass, Provost Milne Grove
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Weekly Worship Services

Sunday	10:00am – 11:00am	Family Service (at 10:25 children leave for learning in their own age groups).
	11:30am – 12:30pm	A more traditional worship service
Thursday	9:30am – 10:00am	A reflective service with a Celtic tradition of responses.

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

Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from 21st June 2015. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by 30th May 2015.