

'Back to Basics'

A catchy phrase that has had a chequered past but one which nonetheless captures for me a call to identify what it is that really matters in life.

Just recently, whilst preparing for our prayers for others recently, I began to ask myself the question: 'what are the key things that we need in life in order to experience the fullness of life which Jesus holds out to us?'

It proved a helpful way of not only looking at the things we can be thankful for as we find them in our own lives but also they were the very things we could shape our prayers for others for. More than that however, I began to realise that if we should give our lives to any cause then surely these 7 causes would ensure that our world becomes a little bit more like heaven here on earth.

So for your thanksgiving, your intercessions and your heart – mind – soul and strength what might these 7 basics be?

1. Provision of life's basic needs

Food, water, and shelter. As this year we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the start of Christian Aid how glad we are that it's there but how sad that after 60 years these basic needs are still not available to millions across our planet.

2. Programme of Education

Whilst the debate continues about the quality of the Scottish education system we know from our partnerships in Kenya that we have much to be thankful for in what we have on our doorstep and just how important it is for our sisters and brothers in Kenya.

3. Pathways to Health and Healing

Two obvious pathways are before us – human and divine.

To be able to pick up a phone 24 hours a day and take the first step on such a pathway is often taken for granted by us. NHS 24 – our local GP Practice – hospitals within an hour in the car – human pathways all to hand.

For us in the west with our often rational approach to faith we may not defer so quickly to the divine dimension for healing and yet you can barely turn a page of the gospels where you don't find Jesus healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, etc. etc.

4. Peace in our Community and Nation

Even with the recent events in London we are, compared to many nations both today and throughout history blessed by a strong sense of peace. Fragile it is and flare-ups there may be – whether next to our Houses of Parliament or even on a Friday night in Queensferry – but treasure, guard and celebrate it we can.

5. People to accompany us – teach us – inspire us

Whether family or friends, colleagues or companions, we have all throughout our lives been blessed by key people who from our formative years to today have been there for us, imparting wisdom and friendship, direction and guidance.

How the world needs such folks.

6. Purpose in living

Like our creator we were made to be creative. Each one of us is unique with different gifts and abilities. Our calling is to discover and to help others discover their God given purpose in living and being.

7. Presence of God

Being made in the image of God we each have within us a God shaped space that when it is filled allows us to find a peace that passes all understanding. This in turn enables us to face all of the challenges that life may throw at us – it is a beautiful gift, freely given.

So friends, for ourselves - let's be thankful!

For others - let's be intentional!

For our community, nation and world is waiting on folks like you and me to live life to the full in both what we have and what we create.

Blessings
David



Seasonal Insights from One of Our Homegroups

"WELCOME dear feast of Lent!" wrote George Herbert, 17th century poet and priest.

For many centuries, this season of our church year has been a season of spiritual discipleship and solemn preparation for Good Friday and Easter.

If a weekly fast, or some other form of self-denial helps you – keep it! But have one object in mind, to go step by step with the Saviour to his cross. Welcome him to your home and heart.

We need this annual 'check-up' to our spiritual lives. Lent is here to prepare us for our journey. There are those who associate Lent with doom and gloom, self-denial and restrictive discipline, yet for others, like George Herbert, Lent is a celebration. Lent is fasting and feasting, discipline and delight, pancakes and pilgrimage, burden and blessing.

The days lengthen and Spring is here! Lent is, like love, "a many splendoured thing". It is rightly welcome. Let us use the season for a closer walk with our Lord.

Mary Kidd

All the seasons have something to offer; this is as true for the seasons of life as of the year. Each time has its own gifts and uniqueness. One of the great arts of life is to recognise which season we are in and to enjoy it. Spring especially asks us to see its verdancy and rejoice in the new day.

David Adam

A New Spring

Let the earth proclaim
The joy of your name

Let each bulb rejoice
Its growth be a voice

Let each seed and each flower
Tell of your power

Let the glowing bright sun
Show the deed that is done

Let us hear from the rain
He is risen again

Let all repeat the refrain
He is risen again

David Adam



Spring Blessing

God bless to us each sign of Spring,
each new green shoot,
each lighter day,
each warmer wind,
God bless to us
rebirth.

Kate McIlhargga

Christian Aid Coffee Morning and Plant Sale

Queensferry Parish Church's annual fund-raising Coffee Morning and Plant Sale will be held during Christian Aid Week on Saturday 20th May from 10-12 noon at the Church Centre.

Attractions will include a cake and candy stall, a bookstall and a toy stall. There will be a 99 Pence Bazaar and a Tombola stall so this is a great opportunity to have a real spring clear out!

Keen gardeners note that there will also be our potted plant bonanza, famous for the excellent quality of the plants on sale.

A kid's zone will be held in the St Margaret's Hall with a variety of children's activities, games and face painting.

Admission of £2 includes tea and coffee and delicious home baking. Accompanied children are free. Donations can be uplifted by phoning 0131 331 3410 or can be handed into the Church Centre.

Did you know?

The 40 days leading up to Easter are called 'Lent' because that is the old English word for Spring. It is also associated with British Summertime: 'Lenten' = 'lengthen'.

Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

Sundays during Lent are celebration days (Christ rose again on Easter Sunday) so Sundays are days of rest from Lenten disciplines.

If you find giving up chocolate a challenge, try this!

How to Fast

Fast from judging others;
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from apparent darkness;
Feast on the reality of light.

Fast from pessimism;
Feast on optimism.

Fast from thoughts of illness;
Feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute;
Feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.

Fast from worry;
Feast on Divine Providence.

Fast from unrelenting pressure;
Feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from negatives;
Feast on positives.

Fast from complaining;
Feast on appreciation.

Fast from hostility;
Feast on non-resistance.

Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.

Fast from anxiety;
Feast on hope.

Fast from yourself;
Feast on a silent heart.

Would you like us to pray for you?

If you are facing difficult times our prayer group would be happy to pray in confidence for you. You can request prayer by completing one of the cards in the pews and leaving it in the prayer box on the windowsill in the vestibule.

Alternatively contact Wendy on prayer@qpcweb.org.uk or ring 0131 331 2446.

Earth Hour



Earth Hour is the single, largest, symbolic mass participation event in the world. Born out of a hope that we could mobilize people to take action on climate change, Earth Hour now inspires a global community of millions of people in 7,001 cities and towns across 152 countries and territories to switch lights off for an hour as a massive show of concern for the environment. Over 150 churches across Scotland took part - and in Queensferry we held a 'Wear it bright night' for children and families as part of the events we hold as a registered Eco Congregation. We started at 7.30pm with crafts and activities in the hall - making milk carton elephant lanterns, bird feeders, earth mobiles and star prayers as well as neon bright face painting. We then moved into the church for a shadow puppet show focusing on the creation story and how we can look after our world. All our lights were switched off at 8.30pm joining in with the rest of the UK and we all went home lit by the light of torches and glow sticks!

Queensferry Prayer

For those who like to use electronic media there is an online prayer wall on Facebook that you can access whether or not you normally use Facebook. This growing online community meets the needs of people from all over the UK and there are opportunities to post your own prayers too.

Look up Queensferry prayer on Facebook and join this ongoing prayer wall facility.

What is Fresh Start?



Fresh Start began in 2000 as a Millennium Project when a group of Edinburgh churches came together to find a way of tackling homelessness. The question was - how to help? Through listening about the challenges faced by being homeless, the 'Starter Pack Project' was set up but the journey from homelessness to settling into a new tenancy can be a challenging one.

By donating household goods as a congregation, we help Fresh Start to support people across Edinburgh in times of loneliness, uncertainty and great challenge. Donations help people make a home for themselves and live out the words in Matthew's gospel: "for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in".

QPC collections take place in the church Coffee Lounge on the first Thursday of every second month between 7.30pm and 8.00pm, (February, April, June, August (last Thurs), October and December): dates are on the noticeboard.

Kidz Corner - Easter Quiz

1. The word 'Easter' comes from the Anglo Saxon for?
a) goddess b) egg c) food
2. Easter Sunday comes at the end of Lent. Lent lasts fordays?
a) 50 b) 25 c) 40
3. Maunday Thursday is the day before Good Friday when we remember?
a) the last miracle b) the last supper c) the last time Jesus rode on a donkey
4. Cadburys chocolate made their first cream egg in?
a) 1951 b) 1961 c) 1971
5. When Jesus was crucified, how many were crucified with him?
a) there was no one else b) 2 others c) 4 others
6. Why do we roll eggs on Easter Sunday?
a) to have fun b) to use up old eggs c) to remember the stone that rolled away and the empty tomb
7. When Mary Magdalene came to the empty tomb, who did she think Jesus was?
a) the guard b) the gardener c) the baker
8. How did Mary realise it was Jesus?
a) he called her name b) he asked for a biscuit c) he danced a jig
9. Simnel cake is sometimes eaten at Easter. It is a fruit cake filled with?
a) marmalade b) marmite c) marzipan

Answers
1 = a, 2 = c, 3 = b, 4 = c,
5 = b, 6 = c, 7 = b, 8 = a, 9 = c



Christian Aid – 60 years old

After World War 2 British and Irish church leaders met to help European refugees who had lost everything. In the 1950s the role expanded to support development work in the newly independent nations of Africa, and to respond to emergencies worldwide.

The first fundraising week was held in 1957 when the organisation adopted the name 'Christian Aid'. During the 1970s Pakistan, Ethiopia and Sudan experienced severe famines. During this time Christian Aid realised that emergency relief was not enough and that a better solution was to fund development projects. By 2007 Christian Aid was working with 650 partners in 50 countries across the world, transforming the lives of children and adults. And still this essential support is needed.

In 1972 our minister Rev John Carrie instigated Forth Road Bridge Cross in aid of Christian Aid. That year the sponsored walk raised £2000.

The sum increased each year reaching an exceptional high of £70,000 in 2006. Up to 2016 our Bridge Cross has raised approximately £1.5 million pounds. This year's walk will be held on Saturday April 22nd from 2pm to 5pm.

Please consider joining the walkers - sponsor forms can be obtained from Tom Williamson, Tel: 0131 331 2185. Not a walker? Find a walker to sponsor!



Church and Parish Register

Deaths

- 30th Jan Eleanor McIntosh, Shore Road, South Queensferry,
- 10th Feb Jacqueline Rogerson, Echline Grove, South Queensferry
- 23rd Feb Andrew Hall, South Queensferry
- 23rd Feb Angus Mackenzie, Morison Gardens, South Queensferry
- 28th Feb Alan Shiels, Lowriegait, South Queensferry
- 10th Mar Marjorie Carter, Firhill Crescent, Edinburgh

Communion

Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of June (4th June 2017).

Weekly Worship Services

- Sunday 10:00am – 11:00am Family Service
- 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



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Website and Facebook

If you have something that you would wish to share on the church Facebook page or Website, please send an email to communications@qpcweb.org

Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from Sunday 18th June 2017. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by Saturday 27th May 2017. Please send any pictures as separate attachments.