

Queensferry Parish Church MAGAZINE

February 2016



“Let us build a house – or eight!”

Just over a month ago the door closed on our annual journey to a certain stable in Bethlehem. This, the greatest story ever told, has at its heart the plight of a young couple with nowhere to call home. During our Christmas services, both at Queensferry and Dalmeny, our congregations rose to an amazing challenge: might we be able to build a house for those in Nepal who in April last year saw all they knew as home, razed to the ground in a 45 second earthquake.

A month or so later at the Church of Scotland General Assembly a minister from Nepal spoke about the plight of his people – many who lost friends and family, many more who found themselves homeless. “What could we do?” was the question on everyone’s lips – “Help us rebuild when winter’s over” was the response.

And so, this Christmas, we managed to raise, through offerings from local schools, South Queensferry Rotary, our Christmas congregations and some individuals who were inspired to give directly, sufficient funds to rebuild 8 houses at £500 per home.

Well done, everyone, for your generosity shown.

Our funds have now been sent to the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN – just in case you missed the chance to make a difference and still wish to do so.

Central to our cross-centred faith is the calling not only to love God (the upward connection) but also to love others (the outward dimension).

Let’s make 2016 full of moments where we love God and love others with a similar generosity of heart and soul. Every blessing, David



Fairtrade Fortnight 29th February - 13th March 2016

Queensferry Fair Trade Group invites you to a ‘Big Fairtrade Breakfast’ in the St Andrew Hall on 12th March, 10am - 12noon.

Three stalls plus Equal Exchange tea and coffee tastings. Adult admission £2, accompanied children free. Sorry, no big fry-ups!



Christian Aid Book Sale, St Andrew’s and St George’s West Church. 14th - 20th May 2016

Between February and early April, Tom and Gwenneth Williamson will deliver your bagged donations of books, which must be in good condition, to the basement flat in Edinburgh where they will be priced prior to the sale. Contact tel...331 2185



Fruitfulness on the Frontline

In this horizon-expanding, spirit-lifting, heart-warming book, Mark Greene serves up a liberating view of how God can and does work in and through us in our daily lives. Whether you’re a student or retired, at the gym or at work, at the school gate or in the supermarket, here is a fresh and original framework for fruitfulness. Brimming with real-life stories, the combination of fresh biblical insight, humour and practical steps will not only spark your imagination; it will enrich your sense of wonder at the greatness and grace of the God who not only gave his life for us, but invites us to join him in his glorious, transforming work.



Transformed Life

Written by Dave Smith, this new resource is ideal for individual study or for small groups. In Ephesians 1–3, Paul paints a wonderfully full portrait of our new identity and purpose in Christ, a purpose that starts now and will be fulfilled in eternity. Each of the 50 days of Transformed Life explores a bite-size chunk of Scripture, breaking it down into accessible, memorable parts that can be applied to everyday life. Be renewed. Be challenged. Be transformed.

These and any further books recommended for Lent reading are available from the church bookstall. Please contact Derek Hobson.

Fresh Start

Fresh Start's mission is to 'help people make a home for themselves'. The words are simple, but behind those words are the passion and commitment of our staff, volunteers and donors to break the cycle of homelessness.

Fresh Start began in 1999 when a group of people from Edinburgh's churches came together to find a way of tackling homelessness. The question was – how to help? Through listening and learning to someone who was homeless about the challenges faced, the Starter Pack Project was launched. Fresh Start has continued to listen and learn from our clients to develop our Services.

We use three main themes to describe our Services – Provision of Goods (which Queensferry Parish Church is involved with); Social & Practical; and Employability.

The journey from homelessness to settling into a new tenancy can be a challenging one. We take a rounded approach to supporting our clients by providing household goods, a decorating service, and cooking and budgeting classes. There is an opportunity to work in our growing spaces, that grow fruit and vegetables, and for those who are unemployed, our Training Initiative offers valuable skills and experience to help get into the workplace.

By donating household goods to Fresh Start you will be helping us to support people across the City of Edinburgh in a time of loneliness, uncertainty and great challenge to have community support, practical help and increased confidence.

Please donate through your Fresh Start team 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 coffee lounge on the first Thursday of every second month between 7.30 pm and 8.00 pm, starting in February: this year marks our 15th year of involvement.

Lorna Bowry, Volunteers co-ordinator.



Gift Aid

We are asked to remind you that if you have signed a Gift Aid declaration and no longer pay income tax (or no longer have income tax deducted from pay, pension etc) then you should advise our Gift Aid Convener, Jim Gaw. For further advice, Jim can be contacted on 331- 4439 or email via

treasurer@qpcweb.org

Lent

Lent this year starts on Wednesday 10th February . There is a free Lent Study guide this year available from www.embraceme.org/lent which focuses on 6 women of the Bible and highlights six modern women in the Middle East and the problems they have faced and how the two relate. If you are interested and don't have access to a PC then please contact Wendy via the church office.

Boys' Brigade

The Boys' Brigade would like to thank all those who used and donated to the Christmas Post service. A grand total of £200 was raised. Many thanks to everyone.

KIDZ CORNER

If you've been paying attention in church you might have noticed we are collecting money to rebuild houses in Nepal. Over the Christmas holidays there has been lots of news coverage of people leaving their homes here in the UK because of very bad flooding. Children all over the world sometimes have to leave their homes behind, perhaps because of flood waters, or an earthquake like in Nepal, or because there is a war in their country.

Get Talking at teatime: Imagine you had to leave your home right now! Make a list of the five things you would try and take with you if you could.....

Get Building: Create a model house, set a design challenge to see who can build the best house – is it going to be Lego (sturdy construction) or a junk model (lots of scope for interesting features) send in a picture of your finished project!

Get Praying: Give thanks for the good things we do have; the table we eat our dinner at, the comfy warm beds we sleep in.... Remember those children who don't have as much and ask God to look after them and bring them help.

Get Active: Bethany Christian Trust are hosting their first ever Scouts and Guide Big Sleep out. It's a night of sleeping under the stars; to help support homeless people right here in Scotland. Speak to your Scout or Guide Leader about getting involved.

www.bethanychristiantrust.com/event/big-scout-and-guide-sleep-out-edinburgh/



Getting to know you... Catherine Lambe

Catherine, a well-kent face, is a Perthshire lass from Blackford. Having attended the local Primary school, she moved on to Morrison's Academy in Crieff for her secondary education. Her student years were spent at St Andrew's University from where she gained an M.A. in History. Catherine decided to pursue a career in the hospitality industry, and after her degree, she progressed on to Queen Margaret College (now University) for a post graduate qualification in Hotel Management. It was later, while managing a restaurant in Cupar, that she met a personable young Irishman named Herbie. They married, and for many years thereafter worked as "mine hosts" in various well known Scottish hotels. Catherine now works part time in Allium. Catherine and Herbie moved to Queensferry in 1986.



Their first sortie to QPC was somewhat tentative. As they walked up the Loan, they saw from the notice board that it was a Communion Sunday and thought they had better not go in as they were not members. The next Sunday, however, they tried again and met Allan Stewart whom they had known previously, and the Farquhars who gave them a warm welcome. And, thankfully, this time they stayed!

Since then, Catherine has carried out many roles within QPC – board member, elder, depute session clerk, President of the Young Woman's Group and is currently President of the Guild, for the second time. She was also a Board member of Queensferry Care and last year absented from the Rail Bridge to raise funds and to celebrate a "big birthday". This happened to be the day after her home team, St Johnstone, won the cup. Surely a miracle followed by a leap of faith! As President, Catherine is a strong advocate for the Church of Scotland Guild and leads the QPC Guild with characteristic flair and aplomb. "Guild members are an amazing group of people" she says and "much of what the Guild achieves is unsung". She very much regrets misperceptions attached to the Guild. "Yes, we do cover very serious, challenging and controversial topics, and nationally, over the years, have raised a great deal of money for projects at home and abroad, e.g. human trafficking, support for women street workers, refugees. This year, one of our projects covers female genital mutilation, not for the faint-hearted. But The Guild is unstuffy and also FUN!

The friendship and fellowship engendered by the Guild are hugely important to her. "Come and try" is her mantra, "you will be most welcome". As she completes her term of office in April, she will be a hard act to follow. The Guild strategy for the next three years is entitled "Be Bold, Be Strong" and Catherine's leadership of the Guild has surely been just that.

Queensferry Parish Church Guild

Why not come along to one of our Guild meetings? You'll be made most welcome. This is our programme for the months ahead:-

(E) Feb 8	Rev Sheena Orr Prison Chaplaincy	(E) Mar 28	Craig MacKenzie/Jim McCulloch Visit to Kenya
(E) Feb 22	Lynne McNeil Editor, 'Life and Work'	(A) Apr 5	Wendy Sodergren Shetland Story
(A) Mar 1	Feed the minds, Breaking the Cycle of FGM Project	(E) Apr 11	Caroline Allan Persian Carpets
(E) Mar 14	Tommy Steel Grassmarket Furniture	(E) Apr 25	AGM/Entertainment from "Home Groan"

Our evening meetings (E) start at 7.30 pm and the afternoon ones (A) at 2pm. As well as some great speakers we have lots of fun and we always have time for a cuppa and a chat! For more information contact either Catherine on 331 3803 or Esther on 331 1100.

Our Spring Coffee Morning is on Saturday 13th February, 10 am-12 noon in the Church Centre. As well as tea/coffee and cake there will be a tombola and home baking stall. We'd love to see you there.

Fiona Christie

Fiona is a Peruvian-born Scottish Christian. Her home church is St Thomas' Episcopal Church, Corstorphine. Serving with Latin Link, Fiona lives in Medellín, Colombia and works with the Vive Kids project in the rural northern part of the country.

Fiona says, "Where we work has suffered years of civil conflict. Many children are victims of forced displacement, or sexual and physical abuse, and live in extreme poverty. Many pastors are beginning to understand the importance of children's ministry but lack training and resources. By equipping churches to run clubs for children, we hope to provide a space where children's needs can be met in a holistic way. A lot of Sunday school material here is translated from English and unsuitable for the context, so Vive Kids creates its own culturally relevant materials that are used in our clubs."

You have an opportunity to meet Fiona and to hear about her exciting work on Monday, 29 February in the Queen Margaret Hall. The meeting starts at 7:30pm. Everybody is welcome.



Teddies for Tragedies Blessing Service

This year's Teddies for Tragedies Blessing Service was held at both services on Sunday 25th October 2015. Once again, the church was decorated by an invasion of over 350 teddies. Teddy drawstring bags, blankets, hats, scarves, mitts and baby items were also on display, all made by caring volunteers from far and near.

Norma Brown, co-ordinator, explained that some of the teddies were desperate to get to where they were needed so they didn't want to wait for the Blessing Service, however 159 teddies took our blessing and love along with 59 blankets, 388 hats and other items, to children in Nepal, who are affected by the earthquakes earlier this year, to give them comfort and help keep them warm during the winter months.

Similarly, 170 teddies had already gone to Belarus, 150 of them for children in hospital, and they have all arrived safely in Belarus. Many of the teddies in Church will also be going to Nepal, along with blankets and other items, and 100 teddies are going to Haiti, through 'Haiti Help', a charity based in Fife who work with children in orphanages in Haiti, which started up after the 2010 earthquakes there. Malawi children will also benefit from a donation of around 200 teddies. These teddies will go with a blessing and special hug given to them by the congregation, to take love and comfort to children sadly caught up in natural or man-made disasters. The Nepal appeal continues. The next consignment will be going out at the end of November. Please keep Teddies and other knitted items coming, as this is an ongoing project. People sometimes ask if items are still wanted. The answer is, they are always wanted somewhere! Sadly natural disasters will always happen.

Norma would like to thank all those who have donated this year. A grand total of 679 Teddies, 96 blankets, 565 hats in various sizes, 156 scarves, 85 pairs mitts and other knitted items, have been, or will be, sent to those areas where there is a need. (Numbers are approximate as the total keeps climbing)!

Quote -"Teddy bears don't need hearts as they are already stuffed with love." - Unknown.



Holiday Club 2016

Calling all Guardians, Keepers of the Light, Story Tellers, Musicians, Creatives:
Advance notice of our coming Quest!

Guardians of Ancora Holiday Club: Monday 1st August – Friday 5th August.

LaunchPad Scripture Union Training Event: Saturday 12th March, Davidson's Mains Parish Church, Edinburgh. Highly recommended!

For more information speak to Martin or Paula, or contact childrenyouth@qpcweb.org



Church and Parish Register

Deaths

12th Nov	Eoin Watters, Scotstoun Park
17th Nov	Francis Kennie, Broxburn
1st Dec	James Solley, Edinburgh
6th Dec	Elizabeth Hardie, Dalkeith
26th Dec	Joyce Dawson, Hill Court
12th Jan	Ronald Hume, Edinburgh
15th Jan	Alex Laughlan, Inchcolm Terrace

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 27th March 2016. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by 5th March 2016.