

## FUTURE

The future is....

Coming (obviously) – Scary (maybe) – Orange (don't think so) - Exciting (perhaps).

Whatever you think of the future one thing is for sure – in the words of C.S. Lewis: "The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of 60 minutes an hour, whatever they do, whoever they are."

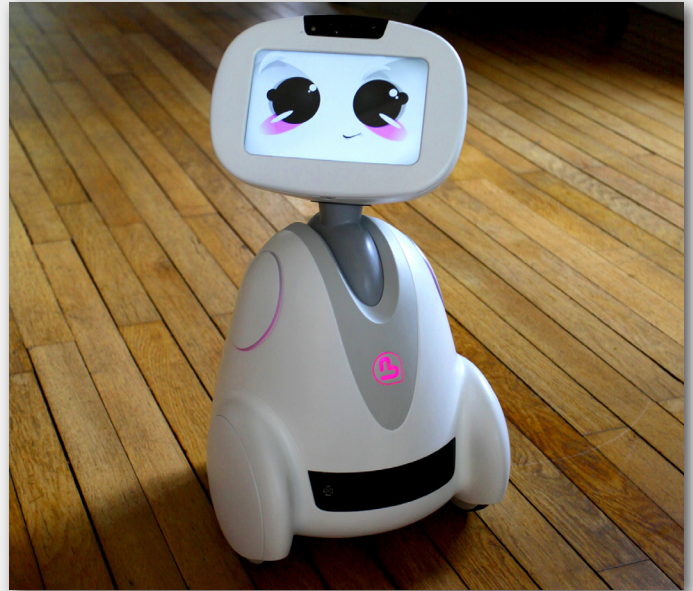
Like it or loathe it the future is coming. Not sure it's because it's the start of a new year or perhaps more likely because I read an insight in The Herald newspaper on January 13 about the latest Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. It is here that Techy reporter Jennifer Jolly met a new BUDDY.

BUDDY is a 'social companion' robot who is almost ready for purchase. It can waken your kids and contact your gran, set the heating and start the cooker, remind you it's your birthday and find you a recipe. Potentially retailing at just over £1000, by next Christmas it'll be the must have present for all.

Back in 1998 Patrick Dixon wrote a seminal work on the unfolding signs of what the future may hold. In his book: 'Futurewise' he plotted the signs of the future that would, he suggested, unfold in the coming years. Such was the impact of his work many of the major companies in the world engaged him to help them respond to the signs of the times.

So just what did he see as he looked ahead? Very helpfully this clear thinking visionary figure presented his thoughts about the future in a simple easy to remember way; the future he proposed would be:

- F - fast** – from the demand for fast food and ready meals to instant reply emails.
- U - urban** – sucking the countryside communities dry, global cities mushroom.
- T - tribal** – with the loss of broad communities arises the elitism of the tribe.
- U - universal** – which of us doesn't know and visit the world from our armchair or screen.
- R - radical** – which part of the world hasn't seen reactions agin' the authority of the day.
- E - ethical** – from fossil fuels to cotton buds to 'Me too' and 'Time's up'.



Whilst our faith in God is faith in the one who is described in Jesus as 'the same yesterday, today and forever', it's good to know that God's name is also 'I am...' which means when the future unfolds before us God is up for the changes needed.

In the face of the fast he invites us to "be still and know that I am God"; in the face of the rush to urbanisation he is the one who reminds us that every hair upon our head is counted and that we are held in the very palm of God's hand; in the face of increasing tribalism and us-versus-them he reveals to us we are like a body – each unique in the part we play and vital and dependent upon one another; in the face of universalism it's good to know that God even cares for the sparrow and provides our daily bread; what cause is not greater or higher than the radical, liberating, transformation brought about through the release of the love of God upon our world and when it comes to ethical living, is God not the one who is ever the way the truth and the life, releasing justice and mercy and love and grace upon a world crying out for such things.

Adventuring in to the future in 2018 let us do so in the knowledge and the assurance that no matter what unfolds our God is more than up for a FUTURE that is filled with life and hope and love and grace.

Looking forward to sharing it and shaping it with you,

Blessings

David

## Communications Team - Notices and Events Survey

Last September we held a survey across the congregation about the way in which we present the Church Notices. The survey produced some interesting results, which the Comms team have discussed at great length.

Over the next few weeks you may notice some changes in the way our notices and events are presented and these results will be presented at services in the spring.

# Our Christmas Banners - 2017

Following the example set by Tom and Gwenneth Williamson and the success of our summer graffiti it seemed inevitable that we should decorate the outside wall of the St Andrew Hall for Christmas. What followed was a challenge, which sometimes caused us to wonder if ill forces were trying to prevent us sharing the exciting news of Advent with the folk of Queensferry.



Four banners were prepared with pristine green tree shapes, complete with star. Each was almost 1 metre wide and approx. 3 metres tall. It was only on the Monday before the first Sunday in Advent when we tried to erect them did their similarity to sails come to mind, as they were tossed and blown in the strong westerly wind from the Forth. But we battled the elements and the cold to hang them and up they went. The achievement was recorded and preparations made for decorating the first one the following Sunday.

By Tuesday the trees had collapsed, blown down by Storm Caroline who ripped them from the wall, tore off the eyelets by which they were attached and cracked the paintwork! Undaunted, or more accurately, only mildly daunted, we thought it looked like snow, and continued regardless. Psalm 46: vs. 10. Be still and know that I am God.



Plan B required altering the mechanism by which the trees were hung; a mechanism, which became increasingly complex as Advent progressed. Plan B was good, but not perfect and by the time we got to Christmas Eve we had reached somewhere around Plan H.... but ultimately this provided a more simple method to actually affix items to this wall. Watch out for future artwork!

On each Advent Sunday we decorated that Sunday's tree with baubles upon which members of the congregation had written prayers or special wishes. Gifts added at the base of the tree were adorned with that Sunday's Advent message. A bigger, bolder star was added.



December 2017 must surely have been one of the windiest on record. Another storm added to the havoc, in the third week of Advent, when once again several of our trees were ripped from the wall.



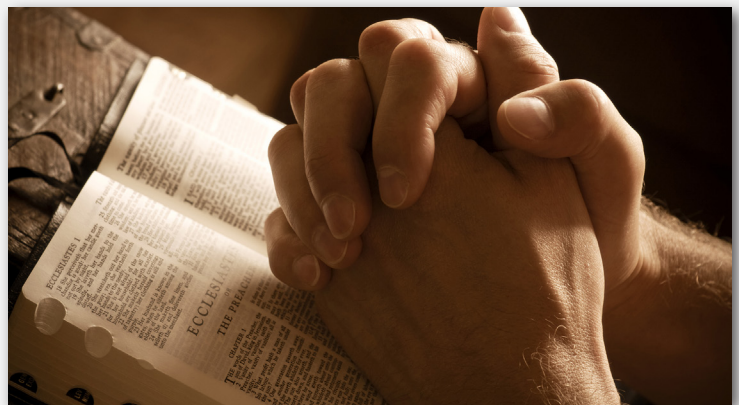
But by Christmas Day all were strikingly intact and displayed our Christmas joy in all its glory. A new storm whipped them down on Boxing Day but determination, and faith in the end had prevailed.

Psalm 46: vs. 10. Be still and know that I am God.

## Prayer Events

On 25th November we held a day of prayer and meditation. All who attended commented on how much they had benefitted from their visit. It ranged from feeling refreshed, feeling that they had been touched by God's peace, being stimulated to see a particular bible passage in a new way. We plan to offer another similar day in the run up to Easter. There are a few national prayer events coming up.

- The Edinburgh Prayer Breakfast will be on 14th March from 7:30-8:45, which is aimed at people who work in the city. It will be held at Dine restaurant near to the Usher Hall.
- This years' National Prayer Breakfast will be held on 6th June at Prestonfield house.
- We have a number of on-going regular prayer activities in Queensferry and Dalmeny.
- The prayer circle members pray daily for people in need in our church and community.
- Each week a small group meet in the Harbour room at 9.40 for prayer before the service.



We have an online prayer wall which meets the needs of many who cannot be with us week by week as well as regular attenders. This can be found at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) under Queensferry prayer. You don't need to be signed up to Facebook to use it.

If you would like to be involved in any of our prayer activities or are interested in any other prayer activities please contact [prayer@auld.me.uk](mailto:prayer@auld.me.uk) for further details.

# Eco Congregation Bronze award achieved!

Queensferry Parish Church is a registered Eco Congregation and was awarded their first Eco Congregation award in 2009.

In August 2017 a new award scheme was introduced with churches working from Bronze up to a Gold Award. We put in our application form late last year and were delighted to hear that we have been awarded a Bronze Award.

The assessors particularly commended:

- Our work with the local community
- Our activities associated with Fairtrade and other charities working in parts of the world affected by climate change
- Our imaginative and varied Earth Hour events
- Our commitment to reducing our church buildings environmental impact through measuring energy use and using this information to develop a long-term action plan
- Our proactive commitment to publicity and reporting our eco-initiatives.



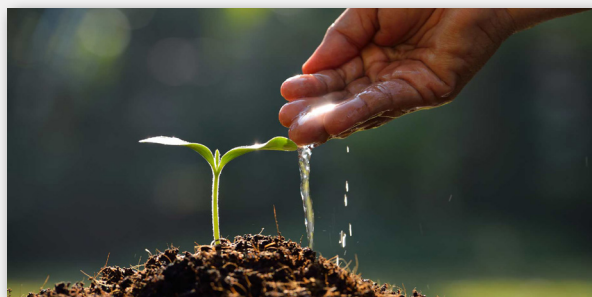
We are now starting 2018 working towards our silver award – as in many areas we are already at that level. However, we need your help to develop (or improve reporting on!) areas that the assessors thought our application needed to develop. This included studies on particular environmental themes (such as Creation time) as well as becoming more active in the Edinburgh Eco congregation network.

So – thank you to all who helped us achieve this Bronze award and look out for more news into 2018 as we aim for Silver!

## The Ministry of Watering Seeds

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.”— 1 Corinthians 3:6.

As with some other teachers and disciples referenced in the New Testament letters, contemporary readers may not know who Apollos was, but the church at Corinth would have. Paul did not want their ministries to be seen as competing, but together supporting God’s work in the hearts of the Corinthians.



God makes faith grow in our hearts, but we need one another to grow in our faith. Whatever our team or our title, we can all minister to one another in Jesus’ name, through teaching, encouragement, prayer, hospitality, service, wisdom, care, or compassion. A community of faith (not just one person) helps us grow, and this is a gift we must share with our children.

According to research, a child’s faith is primarily formed in the home. Perhaps second most important in their faith taking root is their experience in worship. And while the worship songs and liturgy themselves are formational, it is the sense of belonging, the intergenerational community, that really makes the difference. If their immediate family plants the seed, their family of faith waters it (even literally, through baptism!).

That’s where you come in! Scotland has declared 2018 “The Year of Young People” and the Church of Scotland is keen to embrace this. In fact, our kirk session, along with others across the country, have committed to explore ways to “engage with under 25s, increase participation of our young people, celebrate all that they are and bring, and pray for children and young people in our community.”

You may or may not have a direct connection with kids in our church, but you can be an Apollos, watering the seeds of faith that God is growing in a young persons’ life. How? Talk to me about volunteering on Sunday mornings, befriend a family, offer support or the always appreciated smile, commend young people for their kindness or courage or things they do well, consider families as you go about your own ministry, or commit to pray for our youth.

Whatever you do, thank you. It takes a village—God designed it that way, because it is not about any one of us, but about what God is doing in all of us, together.

Will you join me this year in the ministry of watering seeds?

Jill Meek: [jill@qpcweb.org](mailto:jill@qpcweb.org); 07428 232823

## Queensferry Parish Church Guild

### Valentine Coffee Morning

Saturday 17th February 10am – noon

Queensferry Parish Church Centre

Admission £2 accompanied children free



## 'Ye Dancin? Ye Askin?'

Way back near the beginning I think I watched a few episodes of Strictly Come Dancing. I'm talking about when Aled Jones was voted off and Julian Clary stayed. The next morning on Classic FM Aled Jones said it had been a travesty but that all the training had given him the body of a Greek god! In subsequent years it passed me by. In 2016 I attended Strictly Dundas and marvelled at the people taking part. By "marvelled" I mean that I thought they were mad.

On my wedding anniversary in June I was helping at Bob and Marion Gemmell's book sale. I've been told in the past that I can sell firefighters in hell on a hot day and I was working hard to prove myself worthy of that epithet. I found myself involved in

a conversation with a few of the Strictly Dundas organisers and was asked to take part in the event in November. To this day I have no idea how "Absolutely not" resulted in my participation. I've also been told I have a good way with words but I obviously didn't make myself clear enough on that occasion! Nobody seemed to doubt my ability to dance but some concern was expressed about whether I could raise the necessary £1,000 in sponsorship.

My dance partner was Willie Green - very talented and supremely patient! - And in July we started to practise our Argentine tango programme. I got to know the inside of Willie and Louise's garage very well as the weeks went by. We had a lot of laughs and some tears - I shed them while Willie just thought about weeping. He has taught many more talented pupils than me!! We persevered. I found it difficult to get the hang of the fact that the man is in charge. Who would have believed that? Occasionally I got my right and left legs confused and that was uncomfortable for Willie.

By the time the great night came I had raised just over £4,500 in sponsorship money and there were odd moments when I felt we were actually dancing. I wore half a dress and 4 inch heeled shoes and we performed. We didn't win. It was a travesty and I can't say I have the body of a Greek goddess but my goodness; it's an amazing thing for a 67-year-old Granny to be able to put on her CV. So, to all who encouraged me to taking part - thanks for the memory!!

Rev Ann Inglis



## Fairtrade Fortnight - 26th February - 11th March 2018

On Thursday 1st March from 10am - 4pm group members will host a display in Scotmid of all the Fairtrade items that can be bought in the shop. Many years ago the Co-operative Societies in Britain led the way in supporting the Fairtrade movement from its inception.

The members of Queensferry Fairtrade Group invite you to their 'BIG BREW' Coffee Morning to be held on Saturday 17th March, 10am - 12noon, in Queensferry Parish Church Centre on The Loan. Attractions - tea, coffee and delicious home baking, plus food and gift/craft stalls hosted by The One World Shop, based below St John's Church on

Lothian Road; Hadeel, the Palestinian shop at the west end of George Street; and Caluna based in Linlithgow. Chocolate Easter eggs of all sizes will be available!

Admission £2 for adults, free for accompanied children. Further events will be held in our local primary schools and with our youth organisations. Once again there will be a display within Queensferry Library. Your support for Fairtrade can make a world of difference to the lives of the producers whose products we consume or use. Thank you on their behalf.

## Church and Parish Register

### Baptisms (Infant)

10th Dec Elspeth Margaret Anne Barr, Ringwood, Hants.

### Thanksgiving & Blessing

19th Nov Rachel Elizabeth Brittain, Kintore,  
10th Dec Lucy Charlotte Grainger, McArthur Rigg, SQ

### Deaths

23rd Nov Eleanor Murray, Forth Place, SQ  
8th Dec Alexander Leman, Newbridge  
11th Dec William Walkingshaw, Echline Gardens, SQ  
17th Dec George Anderson, Viewforth Road, SQ  
22nd Dec Elizabeth McCutcheon, Society Road, SQ  
21st Dec Peter Monaghan, Solihull

## 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](mailto:communications@qpcweb.org)

## Communion

Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of March



**You are invited to join us at  
Queensferry Parish Church  
for the celebration of  
Holy Communion**

**Sunday Services are at  
10:00am or 11:30am**

## Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from 29TH APRIL 2018. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at [magazine@qpcweb.org](mailto:magazine@qpcweb.org) by 8TH APRIL 2018. Please send any pictures as separate attachments.