

## Transformation - Transformation – Transformation



What an amazing journey the humble caterpillar goes on as it finds its wings and emerges from its cocoon. It is perhaps just one of nature's most amazing journeys of transformation as the ground creeping worm-like creature suddenly grows the most striking, colourful wings and rises up to discover a whole new world.

Right at the heart of our faith is an equally amazing journey of transformation. In one of the great creedal statements of the church, The Apostles' Creed we find it summed up:

"I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven..."

### Forth Bridge Cross 2016

Fancy an easy, fun and worthwhile way to achieve your daily 10,000 steps? Do the Forth Bridge Cross 2016!\*

The Forth Bridge Cross is Christian Aid Scotland's longest established sponsored walk with 2016 being the 44th year. Bringing together hundreds of people from East Central Scotland to walk the county's most iconic bridge, the Bridge Cross is accessible and fun for all ages.

This year it's happening on Saturday 23 April 2016, starting at 2pm and finishing at 5pm. The distance across is 1.5 miles so you can choose to do three, six or nine miles by doing multiple crossings. You may feel like breaking the record of 14 crossings (I think). We encourage you to get sponsored per crossing if you are going for the Mo Farah endurance award.

You can register for the walk on the Christian Aid website at [www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/events/walking/scotland.aspx](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/events/walking/scotland.aspx) or get sponsor forms from our own esteemed Tom Williamson on 0131 331 2185.

It's a great atmosphere; some people have fancy dress; the sun always shines\*\*; the local Scouts provide juice and biccies. Queensferry Boys Brigade always raise a huge amount of money and you get a great view of the new bridge being built. See you there!

\* 10,000 steps = almost 5 miles, so you just need to go there and back twice. Easy!

\*\* almost

### Prayer Circle

The prayer square continues to be available the first Sunday of each month to allow us to pray together as a church for local and world issues. If you have any concerns you would like us to include please send them in to the church office.

The Prayer Circle is a group of members who pray at home for those in need either in our congregations, our locality, or who may be related to any of our members. They also pray for all bereaved families in our community. If you would like to be a part of this dynamic group whose prayers are greatly appreciated please contact Wendy on [prayer@qpcweb.org.uk](mailto:prayer@qpcweb.org.uk) or leave a note of your contact details in the prayer box in the church vestibule.

The same God, who created the amazing journey of transformation for the caterpillar, saw his son face a similar amazing journey of transformation from life through death through to new life again.

He died and rose again and the transformation that took place was one that those who respond to his great call to: "follow me" can discover also.

Hallmarks of this amazing journey of transformation for Jesus and for us are the ways we see a movement from death to life; from darkness to light; from despair to hope; from sorrow to joy; from doubt to faith; from confusion to calm; from anxiety to peace; from endings to new beginnings. May you and yours this Easter season find your wings anew and fly!

Blessings  
David

## Guild Project

At our Guild meeting we were delighted to welcome two speakers from Feed the Minds. Their topic was, Breaking the Cycle of FGM, one of our Projects.

Feed the Minds are committed to providing girls in Kenya with a brighter future by breaking the cycle of FGM (Female Genital Mutilation). Most girls don't have the power to make their own decisions about their bodies and their futures, which are in the hands of their parents. Here's what one girl says, "Lucy was forced to have the cut by her father. She is no longer in school, but not married. She says that the cut has had no benefit to her life. On the day of the cut her father hosted a large celebration in her name, but she was still nursing her wounds and was not able to attend."

Here is part of Christine's story, a lady who came to Edinburgh in the Autumn. Some of us were fortunate to be able to hear her speak, "I grew up in a Christian household with my Mum and Dad. I have two younger sisters and two younger brothers. Being the oldest meant I had a lot of responsibility for the younger ones. My Dad had attended school up to secondary level. He had interacted with women who had both gone through the cut and those who hadn't. He decided that I should not be cut. Unfortunately he died when I was 8 but my mother helped me keep the decision not to be cut. It was difficult for us in the community. Lots of support, both in terms of familial support as well as financial support, was withdrawn from us because we refused to observe the 'tradition' that they seemed to think was so important. On the day of 'the cut' I had to hide in another village to avoid being made to have it."

Christine's passion is to see FGM come to an end and see girls' education valued and women respected in the community.

This photograph shows the Guild ladies, holding the statement signed by us, supporting the fight to end FGM.



## Christian Aid Week 15 – 21 May 2016

This year Christian Aid Week is from 15-21 May and Queensferry's annual fund-raising Coffee Morning and Plant Sale will be held in the Church Centre on Saturday 21 May from 10-12noon. Attractions will include cake and candy, book and toy stalls. There will be a 99p bazaar and a tombola stall so this is a great opportunity to have a real spring clear-out!

Keen gardeners note that again there will be our potted plants of excellent quality on sale.

A Kids' Zone will be held in the Queen Margaret Hall with a variety of children's activities, games and face-painting. Admission of £2 includes refreshments and accompanied children are free. Donations can be uplifted by phoning **0131 331 3410** or can be handed in at the Church Centre.



## Holiday Club 2016

Many, many thanks to all our milk carton collectors last summer. What a tremendous effort it was and the children absolutely loved the final igloo!

This year its all change and we are very much off to warmer climates!

Early warning of dates:

Monday 1st August to Friday 5th August.

Registration for children will be open in the summer term. Any one who wishes to join the team should speak to Martin or Paula ASAP!!

For those of you not venturing off to bring the light back to the city with us you can still be part of God's great mission by supplying us with your old junk! Crafts are an essential part of the holiday club programme and this year we are collecting:

60 crisps tubes e.g. pringles

Egg boxes

Clear plastic containers (see through yogurt pot/ 2l clear bottles/ drinks "glass")

Cardboard tubes (inside of a kitchen roll)

Lots of cardboard

(if anyone has a new kitchen or flat pack furniture coming)





## Worship Group morphs into a Ceilidh Band

In the week before Christmas, Queensferry High School's Assembly Hall was alive with teenagers swinging their partners to the Dashing White Sergeant, Strip the Willow and many more ceilidh dances. For 2 nights and for several years now, members of our own QPC Worship Group have provided the music for the school's annual Christmas dances. How did all this begin?

Twenty years ago this year, Mike Ross, one of the leaders of the Worship Group, was a founder member of the popular ceilidh band, Teannaich, and he still plays regularly with that group. Thanks to Mike's coaching, members of the Worship Group occasionally morph into a ceilidh band, usually in support of local charity events. The High School connection began a good few years ago now when Chris Anderson, still at school, was the Worship Group's drummer. The School PE teachers had been teaching ceilidh dances to the youngsters and so the link was made. Through Chris, the worship group ceilidh band was invited to play.

When in ceilidh mode, Mike normally plays the cittern, which is similar to a lute but with a flattened back. The cittern has a punchy distinctive sound, ideal for leading the melody. At the 10am service on a Sunday, you'll typically see him playing drums and a penny whistle as part of the Worship Group, but he also plays keyboards as well as a number of other instruments. Mike has written many of the ceilidh music sets, including tunes with echoes of names in his family, such as: Bethany's Bougie and A Tune for Melanie. Meantime, similar to the Sunday Worship Group line-up, in ceilidh mode you'll find Marie Littlejohn or Huw Thomas on keyboard, David Ritchie on violin, Paul Nisbet on guitar and Guy Douglas or Eddie Saunders on bass. You'll see Keith Bowden playing either mandolin or even trumpet in the ceilidh band setting. In recent times, the QPC Ceilidh Band has supported events to raise funds for High School pupils visiting Kenya, as well as other local or charity events. The next planned 'gig' is an all-age community ceilidh for the whole family in the Scout Hall on Sunday 15 May. Watch out for more information about this upcoming event. This is all very exciting and represents one manifestation of QPC's vision to grow Wider, Deeper, Closer.



## QPC Community Group Litter Pick

The next QPC Community group litter pick will be on Saturday 16 April from 10-12 noon. Meet in the St Andrew Hall to be supplied with a litter picker and tabard before we go out to target the areas of Queensferry that are worst for litter. All are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. Wear suitable shoes and you may want to wear gardening gloves or similar.

Over the past 2 years the group has held 2 litter picks a year, removing on average 20 bags of litter each time (not including the cooker, suspension spring, half a drain pipe etc!). Come along, meet our giant litter bin and see what the most unusual item we find this time will be! You will be rewarded with a cuppa and homemade cake when you finish.

Can't make 16 April – then ask Janet Thomas for a #2MinuteCleanUp bag – and choose a local area to do a regular 2 minute clean up yourself at a time that suits you.



## Kidz Corner

Remember: Easter Egg roll just after the Easter Sunday 10am service.

Messy Church does Easter: Sunday 3 April at 4pm – All are welcome to come along and get stuck into the Easter story.

It wouldn't be Easter without some chocolate – why not make some chocolate crispie buns or cornflake nests. Remember to get help with the hot water!

Add some mini eggs to your nests and talk about why we have eggs at Easter time. Eggs remind us of new life and also about the stone which was rolled away.



Perhaps you could get inspired and make your own sand art Easter picture!



Ask your grown up if its okay to watch the Cbeebies Easter story at [www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/lets-celebrate-easterperformance](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/lets-celebrate-easterperformance)

Pray together: give thanks for the new creations we all are!

## Celebrating Spring

A reflection to help us on our Easter journey...

Nothing is so beautiful as spring.<sup>1</sup>

Growth in everything –  
Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,  
Grass and green world all together...<sup>1</sup>

## The Sun Dances

There is a lovely tradition from the Hebrides that the sun dances on Easter morning. Behind this is the belief that the whole of creation is changed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Not only the human race but every tree, plant, flower, and every creature of the earth, the air, the sea is raised with Christ. We are invited to join the dance of creation and to rejoice in the risen Lord.<sup>2</sup>

We are Easter people. Alleluia is our song.<sup>3</sup>

## Eternal Spring

I do not wait for heaven  
I enjoy it all along  
It is there in sun and shade  
In work as well as song

I do not wait for heaven  
I rest there all the way  
It is not seen, it is not heard  
Yet present in each day

Let him Easter in us,  
be a day-spring to the dimness of us...<sup>1</sup>

I do not wait for heaven  
When birds begin to sing  
God's love is all about us  
As we celebrate spring

I do not wait for heaven  
Or for winter to go by  
I trust in God's eternal spring  
I need not fear to die<sup>2</sup>

1. Gerard Manley Hopkins

2. David Adam, *A Celebration of Spring*.

3. Augustine of Hippo

## Edinburgh Presbyterial Guild Council

The Spring Rally will be held in St Andrew's and St George's West Church, George Street, Edinburgh on Thursday 14th April 2016 at 7.00 pm. We are pleased to say that there will be a performance from The Edinburgh Kevock Choir so please come along and join us.

THE KEVOCK  
CHOIR 

## Church and Parish Register

### Marriages

21 November Ruth Meenan and David Stephen

### Baptisms (Infant)

31 January Ailsa Heather Deans, Stoneyflatts Crescent

### Deaths

16 January  
25 January  
2 February  
29 February

Bill Robertson, Rothesay  
Thomas Wallace, Springfield Rd  
Sheena Annan, Sandport, Leith  
Eileen Ross, Provost Milne Grove

## 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

## 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)



## Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from 19 June 2016. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at [magazine@qpcweb.org](mailto:magazine@qpcweb.org) by 28 May 2016. Please send any pictures as separate attachments.