

Queensferry Parish Church MAGAZINE

November 2015



No room... no room... no room...

It was the end to a holiday we would never forget! After a week in the glorious surroundings of the Lake District Lesley and I had no need to rush back – one of the curious features of life as a minister is that your holiday week runs from Sunday to Sunday and so, on the Saturday morning, as our weekly let came to an end we set off for a leisurely tour around the Lakes looking for somewhere to spend our final night before venturing home.

The journey began with coffee and then we moved on to lunch before the search got under way. We began in earnest in the north of the Lakes around Keswick and it wasn't long before a particular sign became the mantra of the day:

'NO VACANCIES'.

We thought at first – must just be Keswick – there must be a special event on – but, to our dismay, the journey through the Lakes down to the south returning north through Ullswater all featured this same mantra: **'NO VACANCIES'!**

Let's go east and so we left behind the Lakes and headed into the Yorkshire Dales – guess what, they were sponsored by the same mantra: **'NO VACANCIES'.**

At midnight, after hours on the road, we crept over the border and by 1.30am we quietly tiptoed into a driveway grateful to find the one welcoming door that we knew wouldn't have a certain sign on it - our HOME!

Only later did we discover that the English school holidays began the day our holiday finished... so travellers to the Lake beware!

Needless to say the journey was not an entire waste of time as a few weeks later a certain season of the year was dawning upon us and at the heart of the story that shaped that season was the tale of another young couple who were facing a similar problem. Yes Christmas was coming and how we could identify with Mary and Joseph who faced the Middle Eastern mantra of **'NO VACANCIES'.**

They were, at the end of the day, a little bit more successful than us in that an innkeeper took pity on them and found them room out in the stable – a humble abode for the King of Kings to be born.

Which all got me to thinking – as we are about to embark on our annual season of festive celebrations: what room do we make for this King of Kings. Let me encourage you as the season unfolds to keep the door open for those opportunities to let the life of the Christ child be present. How might we do this ... by welcoming the stranger into our family or street, by feeding the hungry at table or city, by giving to others your time as well as treats, by worshipping with all your heart, soul, mind and strength – have a great Christmas and may there be room for all that is of wonder and awe.

Blessings
Rev David Cameron



A Welcome... from the Dalmeny and Queensferry Churches

If you've just moved into a brand new house in one of the areas of Dalmeny or Queensferry where new houses are going up, then you may recognise the leaflet illustrated here. In the middle of November, volunteers came round your way to offer a welcome to the town on behalf of the four local churches.

Within the leaflet, Rev David Cameron suggested that, "Just as you'll shop around to find the facilities that suit you best for the everyday necessities of life, we in your local churches want to invite you to come along and explore what we have to offer across our communities." The leaflet included contact details for the four churches: the Episcopal Church at the Priory, the Roman Catholic Church at St Margaret's and the two local Church of Scotland congregations in Dalmeny and in Queensferry. David went on to offer a prayer for each new home, "...Guide me to the people and the places where friendships and faith may grow, and may I quickly discover that I now have a place that's called 'Home'." "May I have eyes to see that no visitor arrives without a gift and no guest leaves without a blessing."

On the back of this magazine you'll find details of our weekly services, to which you'd be most welcome!



A Welcome from the Dalmeny and Queensferry Churches

On behalf of the local churches in Queensferry and Dalmeny I extend a warm welcome to you as you settle in to your new home and surroundings.

Already you will have begun to explore where to find the doctors and dentists, the schools and nurseries, the cafes and restaurants, the garages and petrol stations, etc., etc.!

Just as you'll shop around to find the facilities that suit you best for the everyday necessities of life, we in your local churches want to invite you to come along and explore what we have to offer across our communities. Details can be found overleaf of the contact details for our local Episcopal Church at the Priory, our Roman Catholic Church at St Margaret's and our two local Church of Scotland congregations in Dalmeny and in Queensferry.

We look forward to welcoming you in the days to come and should you require any assistance in settling in and finding out what's on offer – be it the local dentists or the local congregations, please just give us a call.

On behalf of us all,

David Cameron

Rev David Cameron

Prayer for a new home

Lord, Thank you for the opportunity to make a fresh start: a new home, new community, new neighbours, and a new perspective.

Though things at times may seem unfamiliar and uncertain, be with me as I settle in to my new surroundings. Guide me to the people and the places where friendships and faith may grow, and may I quickly discover that I now have a place that's called "Home".

May I have eyes to see that no visitor arrives without a gift
And no guest leaves without a blessing.

Amen



Boys' Brigade

There are still places available for any young children of Primary School age to join our Boys' Brigade Company.

Anchor Boys' (Primary 1 - 3) meet in the Church Hall on Friday evenings from 6.30 - 7.30pm.

Junior Section (Primary 4 - 6) meet at Queensferry Primary School on Friday evenings from 7.00 - 9.00pm.

If you have sons, grandsons, nephews or friends who may be interested, please come along to one of our evenings or give Stewart Brown a call on **07899 795120**.



Boys' Brigade World Mission Fund Evening

The Boys' Brigade, in conjunction with the Church of Scotland World Mission Council, will be holding its annual service on Friday 20th November at Queensferry Parish Church. It's a great honour and privilege for our church to be asked to host this year's event. The service will commence at 7.00pm where The Boys' Brigade will present the Moderator, the Right Reverend Dr Angus Morrison, with a cheque for £10,000 to support the 2014/15 Appeal 'Speak Up: Speak Out'. All are warmly invited to attend. There will be light refreshments served after the service.



Boys' Brigade Christmas Post

The Boys' Brigade will be collecting Christmas Cards at the Church on Sundays 29th November, 6th, 13th & 20th December for delivery within the South Queensferry, Dalmeny & Kirkliston areas. Cards will be delivered from Sunday 13th December onwards. A donation of 25p per card is requested for delivery.

Can we kindly ask that all cards be clearly marked with the correct house number and address as this will assist the boys greatly. Merry Christmas from all at The Boys' Brigade.

Finance

The Congregational Board thank all members and worshippers who continue to support the congregation financially. As we approach the end of another year, it is good to remember that over 130 members give regularly by standing order while many others give using the weekly envelopes or the open plate on a Sunday. We thank you all for your diligence.

Your response to this year's Appeal for the work on the East Wall and the work of Bethany Trust was greatly appreciated. Work on the fabric of the Church will benefit future generations while Bethany have already thanked us for the money, over £4,000, sent to support their work.



Our aims for next year continue in the same vein - to grow wider, deeper and closer - and so your money will continue to support our ministry team and outreach to children and families while also making our premises a welcoming place for all.

Eric Proven, Treasurer

Guild

Why not come along to the Guild and join us at any of our meetings:-

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Mon Nov 23 | 7.30pm Carolyn Thornton, Make a Wish Foundation |
| Tue Dec 1 | 2.00pm Joyce Storrer, Cake Decoration |
| Mon Dec 7 | 7.30pm Rosy Carmichael, "Wrap up Well" and Disbursement |

We meet in the St Andrew Hall.

As well as some great speakers we have lots of fun and we always have time for a cuppa and a chat!

Our Autumn Coffee Morning and Sale is in the Church Centre on Saturday 21st November, 10am - 12.

Tickets cost £2 and are available from committee members. Hope to see you there.

For more information contact either Catherine on 331 3803 or Esther on 331 1100.



Hillstop Christmas Café

Thursday 10th December
Queensferry Parish Church 10am - noon

Teas, coffees, home baking
All proceeds to Queensferry Care



125 Years Celebration of the Forth Rail Bridge 19th September 2015

The Reverend Colin Alston and members of North Queensferry Parish Church (linked with Inverkeithing Parish Church), made the symbolic train journey across the rail bridge to meet up with members of the Community Team for Dalmeny and Queensferry Parish Churches, celebrating 125 years of the Forth Rail Bridge connecting north and south. Everyone then adjourned to Dalmeny Kirk Hall for afternoon tea and a walk around historic Dalmeny Kirk. A spokesman for the group said "We wanted to continue what we started last year when we walked across the road bridge and met up for its 50th Anniversary. Friendships and visits have continued since our first meeting. Next year we are considering meeting up for the new Queensferry Crossing.



Photograph Courtesy of Ian Slea

Getting to know you – Huw Thomas

Yes! It's nearly Christmas! It's Panto time again! We introduce you to Garth Invader, the baddie (boo, hiss) of this year's Forth Dimension panto "May The Farce Be With You" - but you might know him better as our organist Huw Thomas.

Born in Llanelli, South Wales, Huw's family are Welsh speaking and he attended a Welsh speaking Primary School. He progressed on to Llanelli Boys' Grammar School (broadcaster Huw Edwards was a couple of years ahead of him), from there to The University of Manchester where he completed a B.Sc in Botany, and thereafter to UWIST in Cardiff for an M.Sc in Applied Hydrobiology. He currently works for SEPA as a Senior Policy Officer implementing new regulations for reservoir safety in Scotland. Huw is married to Janet and they have two children, Gareth and Rhian, both nearing the end of their university courses and soon to be seeking employment.

Music has long been a part of Huw's family life. His father was organist at the local Baptist Chapel and he played there occasionally from age 16. After moving to Edinburgh he took a few organ lessons, started as organist here in QPC around 1990, and we have greatly appreciated his organ playing ever since. He also plays keyboards in our worship group, and with the Heart and Soul Swing Band, a Christian band started by Robin Hill (former assistant minister at QPC) under the influence of jazz musician Richard Michael. Huw grew up in the Christian faith. Sundays in Llanelli were spent twice at church, with Sunday School in the afternoon too. And now he gives much to QPC. In addition to being one of the organists, he has been an elder for a number of years with involvement in the Worship, Communications, and Ecocongregation groups. But, typically, he says he gains much too, especially in camaraderie and fellowship. Asked about his thoughts on the future of churches in Scotland, Huw recognises many challenges are to be faced and that the status quo cannot be an option. New and creative ways of outreach and worship, nurturing and maintaining the involvement of young families, encouraging all church members to have active participation in church life, he reckons, are priorities.

Huw is a man with an eclectic range of interests. He is a keen birdwatcher, a volunteer for Echline Community Woodland, a member of the Edinburgh Welsh Society, a season ticket holder for Livingston FC, a Monday evening footballer. And then there's the rugby! A fanatical Welsh supporter, he is nothing if not triumphalist in victory. Did he really wear a red and white bobby hat at the organ when Wales beat Scotland? And after yet another inglorious defeat for Scotland, what about the wooden spoon placed strategically in the pulpit for our previous minister, John Carrie, to find when he went up to preach the sermon? All true, I'm afraid! His "am dram" activities with Forth Dimension he describes as "a challenge outwith my comfort zone" and admits "it's terrifying to go live". But he "gets a huge buzz from seeing people having a good time." A talented, friendly, thoughtful man with a bit of a sense of mischief, Huw is a hugely unlikely villain. But you are allowed to boo and hiss at him for one week only.



May the Farce be with You, Scout Hall, 1st – 5th December
"Praise the Lord, we are a musical nation" – Dylan Thomas, Welsh playwright and poet.

Kidz Corner

As Christmas (shhhhh, we didn't say it first) approaches, try this fun craft.....make one for your tree, make one every day in advent, use them as decorations or to remind you every day to talk to God. Sprinkle them in glitter, colour them in or leave them in classic white. We'd love to see what you did; take a photo and ask your parents to post it to the QPC Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Queensferry-Parish-Church-308207299336348/?fref=ts>

Mini Advent Angels

Cut out the template below and use it to trace on to your paper. Cut out three pieces along the lines and decorate. Curl the body of the angel into a cone and tape the two edges marked "x" together. Tape the two wings on to the back. If you want to hang it up you can attach a ribbon behind the head.

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Queensferry Memories of Czech Wartime Refugees

In recent weeks, you may have read of the death of Sir Nicholas Winton, aged 106, who, through his heroic efforts, was instrumental in transporting more than six hundred and seventy Czech and mostly Jewish children living in appalling conditions in Czech refugee camps, to foster homes in Britain and beyond.

In 1938, the western part of Czechoslovakia had just been annexed by Germany. War looked inevitable and escape, especially for the children, seemed hopeless. Many Jewish parents, seeing conflict ahead, sought help to have their children taken out of danger. Nicholas Winton worked tirelessly to get these children out of Czechoslovakia. Desperate measures were required – bribing Nazi officials, forged passports, pressurising the Home Office, fund raising, organising transport. Winton even used much of his own money to bankroll these operations. All finally came to fruition in March 1939 when the first train left Prague for London carrying twenty children. Thereafter there were eight more trains. The final train carrying 250 children left the day Germany invaded Poland. These children were never seen again and are believed to have perished in concentration camps. Unbelievably, Winton's wife never knew of his heroism until she came across a scrapbook with some papers in 1988.



One of our members, Jean Thomson, remembers one particular contingent of these children who came to live for a short time in Queensferry. While waiting for a passage to Canada, they were billeted in Butlaw Camp, near Inchgarvie House. The Queensferry schoolchildren were encouraged to invite them to their homes and despite obvious language barriers, Jean says "little pockets of friendship blossomed". The Headmaster's log records that they were learning "wonderfully well". They also received medical and dental treatment. As an expression of their gratitude to the Queensferry folk, a replica of an historic lookout tower at Schonfeld, their home town, was built in the school garden. This included a "time capsule" containing a casket with a scroll and some Czech coins. The money, they said, was "of no use to them now", but was an affirmation of their continued existence." Regrettably, with the building of the new Primary School, this poignant reminder of Queensferry's wartime past is no longer in existence, but the memory of these Czech children should not be forgotten.

Ecclesiastes: 1:9 reminds us that "...there is nothing new under the sun" and this story reminds us that the issue of refugees has long been a problem in the modern world and that we have over the years welcomed them.

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

Church and Parish Register

Marriages

28th August Heather Adams and Brian Muirhead

Baptisms (Infant)

30th August Joshua Daniel John Fletcher, East Pilton Farm Wynd

Thanksgiving and Blessing

25th August Taylor Jeanette Rose Sutherland

Deaths

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st Sept | Robert Logan, Inchcolm Ter |
| 2nd Sept | Kenneth Ritchie, Roseberry Ave |
| 10th Sept | Jim Ormiston, Moubray Grove |
| 2nd October | Robert Kirkwood, Stoneycroft Rd |
| 12th October | Edna Gilmour, Shore Rd |

New Members

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Rev Ann Inglis | Echline View |
| Mr Jack Inglis | Echline View |
| Dr Sarah Jordan | Glaisdale Court, Darlington |

Weekly Worship Services

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|----------|-------------------|--|
| 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 7th February 2016. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by 16th January 2016.