

Queensferry Parish Church MAGAZINE

September 2017



Bridges

It might not surprise you that the focus for my article this Magazine is that of "Bridges"!

With a matter of days to go to the grand opening of the new Queensferry Crossing it seems that our life here in Queensferry is well defined by the bridges, which act as a glorious backdrop to our town.

All three are a sight to behold and it seems that you never tire of looking at them! I recall whilst being on holiday a few years ago we went to visit San Francisco and as you'll be aware they have the famous Golden Gate Bridge. Needless to say I was somewhat 'underwhelmed' as we have our very own suspension bridge outside the window and with it now two magnificent feats of ancient and modern engineering.

Bridges also feature in some great stories of reconciliation, like the story from Ayrshire of a bridge constructed from the stones that two feuding families used to use to attack one another with.

Or in Kenya following the post election riots (last time round) where tribal tensions were laid aside as side-by-side folks worked together to restore the bridge that was a lifeline for them all.

Or favourite of all the tales of the two farming brothers who fell out big style and dug a ditch between their adjoining farms to ensure no further communication was had between them. That was until a wandering carpenter happened to drop by looking for work. Certainly he declares one brother - see that ditch out there - I've a barn full of wood and I'd love it if you could build a fence along its full length! Off to market for a few days the brother heads and on return... rather than finding a fence he finds

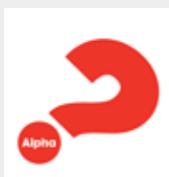
Alpha is back for 2017!

Have you ever had questions about the Christian faith?

Do you wish you had space in your week to ponder some of life's big questions?

If so the Alpha Course is for you!!

A new Alpha Course will run from 14th September to 7th December, every Thursday. Local venue in the Newliston Arms, Kirkliston. Please call QPC on 0131 331 1100 or email office@qpcweb.org



a bridge and to his horror there striding towards it from the field on the other side - his estranged brother with a beam on his face that would blank out the sun!

Why are such stories so good to hear - for they speak about reconciliation? A topic not only made possible through bridges but also through the love and grace of God - an initiative of the ultimate wandering carpenter who came our way to firstly reconcile us to God and thereafter to invite us to be engaged in the message and ministry of reconciliation wherever it's needed. In families, communities and workplaces, between friendships and individuals, organisations and nations.

So friends whenever you head across the bridges on our doorstep remember that that is just what God is calling you to be and just as there are many different types of bridge and different ages too; there is a work just for you - no matter what you're like or how old you are.

Blessings

David

Therefore, if any one is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;
2 Corinthians 5 vs. 17 & 18



Ferry Fair 2017

After a wet morning, the Ferry Fair Parade set off through town in warm dry weather.

There was a great atmosphere and as you can see, once more, Queensferry Parish Church took part. All who took part had a fun time. Perhaps you may like to join us next year - it would be great to see more there.

Getting to know you... Bob Gemmell

Bob is a native of Twecher (aye, find that one on the map!). He was educated in Kilsyth Academy, and like many youngsters at that time, left school when he was sixteen. He found employment in accounts and administration with the South of Scotland Electricity Board, but after six years decided it was time to move on. He was already a committed Christian, and inspired and encouraged by his minister, in 1962, after passing the requisite two A levels for entry, he applied and was accepted for the Bible Training College in London. His decision to enter theological training he says "was no thunder and lightning" experience, rather a quiet and insistent "inner feeling that this was what the Lord wanted him to do".

Bob spent four years in London, Marion having been dispatched home once it was found she was pregnant. If they were having a boy, Bob says, he certainly did not want him playing for England! He successfully completed his studies for a Diploma in Theology, moved back to Scotland and started ministry in High Blantyre and later in Drumchapel. In both parishes he faced many challenges, and while at Drumchapel, Bob came to the realisation that theological college had not equipped him with the skills to cope with these challenges. Typical of the man, while maintaining his position in Drumchapel, he decided to enrol in a social work course for mature students at Jordanhill College of Education in Glasgow, hoping that this course would provide strategies and insights to help him address some of the social and personal issues facing folk in his parish. His career thereafter was a blend of ministry and social work, working in Glasgow and the Lothians in a variety of roles - with young people with addictions, homeless folk, managing care homes, in hospital chaplaincy, at the same time as maintaining an active participation in the Baptist Ministry at home and in Colonsay. He even found time to further his studies with an Open University degree in Sociology. Bob "retired" in 2005, but says he does not miss fulltime work. Like many retirees, he is as busy as ever. Locum work and his grandchildren take up much of his time. He also gives regular support to a friend with a disability. Sadly, he could be seen as "follow, following" lost causes. Yes, Bob is a self-confessed fan of Rangers FC!



Bob has been married to Marion for fifty-five years and together they have worked to make a difference to the lives of folk less fortunate than themselves. They moved to Queensferry in 1988, and after maintaining their connections with their Baptist roots for many years, have more recently found a spiritual home within QPC. And are we not glad about that! Bob's built up quite a fan base at the 11.30 service, and at Dalmeny too, with his thoughtful and challenging sermons. He enjoys having the time to prepare and research material for services and counts it now "a privilege to lead worship". He is a traditionalist at heart and describes himself, unjustly, as "a bit of a dinosaur". But he is an unlikely dinosaur - one with an open mind, a gentle heart and a huge social conscience.

"Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you"

Queensferry Fairtrade Group

You are invited to the **15th Global Bazaar on Saturday 28th October, 10am - 12.30pm in Queensferry Parish Church Halls**. There will be seven stalls selling a wide variety of food and crafts. Admission £2 includes refreshments.

By buying Fair Trade you can offer hope to many people, especially women, across the world.

They receive employment and a fair payment when you purchase their goods and, as they work co-operatively, the whole community benefits from an additional payment. It may be used to provide a classroom, toilets, tools or transport - the choice is theirs.

By paying a fair price we give dignity and respect and a brighter future to families in developing countries.



Messy Church

By the time you read this, Messy Church will have re-started with an afternoon of "Messy building", as we looked at how to build for a life that really means something.

Messy Church is a very different way of being church: an interactive space for families to get creative (and sometimes very messy!), explore faith, and eat food together.

We've been running for 3 years now, and are still growing! Families are invited to join us at the Priory Church, usually on the first Sunday of the month, from 4pm to 5.30pm. The dates for the rest of this term are:

Sunday 1st October
Ready or not ...

Sunday 5th November
Peace inside

Sunday 3rd December
Listen and follow

Sunday 17th December
Messy Christmas!



An Invitation from the Guild "Whose we are and Whom we serve"

Summer is almost over, the nights are drawing in, it must be Guild time again! A warm invitation to the Guild is extended to both men and women as we recommence our season on Monday 25th September at 7.30 pm.

What's on offer this year?

Well, to get us off to a great and entertaining start, we kick off with an address on our theme for this year "Go in Love" by former Radio Forth DJ, and front man for Heart and Soul Praise Band, Rev. Alec Shuttleworth, and our programme continues with a wide range of speakers – see below for our syllabus until Christmas. Our national projects this year are Mission International and Prospects, a Christian charity promoting inclusion for folk with a learning disability. If you would like further information about the Guild, or feel you would need transport to access the Guild, **please contact the church office, Lesley MacKenzie (331 3410) or Annette Carrie (331 4311).**

Come along! We'd love to see you!

Holiday club 2017

A nativity play in August, a story-teller dressed as a pirate, and a band led by kazoos – these were just 3 of the things that our intrepid group of Guardians encountered on their trip to the city of Ancora this summer. Led by their elder - Guardians, they hunted for treasures ... and found the real treasure in the bible stories told by the Fabler.

With crafts and quizzes and juice and biscuits in their Company zones, and with games and songs and drama in a big group in the Theatre of the Saga, each morning took the children and leaders to a different point in the life of Jesus. Just as the Spire of Light became brighter as more stories were found, so we hope the kids will find that the bible stories light up their lives.

Where will we go next summer?
Who knows - but we've already got kids wanting to book their places!



Monday 25th September - 7.30 pm:
Rev. Alec Shuttleworth: Go In Love

Tuesday 10th October - 2pm:
Tom and Gwenneth Williamson:
Our Holy Land Pilgrimage

Monday 30th October - 7.30 pm:
Sir Jack Stewart Clark : Dundas

Tuesday 14th November - 2 pm:
Guild National Project – All Friends Together: Prospects

Monday 27th November - 7.30pm:
Winnie Stevenson: Wedding Dresses

Monday 11th December - 7.30pm:
Christmas Party



Teddies for Tragedies

This year our annual Teddy Blessing Service was held on 20th August. The Church, as usual was decorated with around 300 teddies, much to the congregations delight, and thanks to our wonderful volunteers. The Teddies will take their Blessings and Hugs to children in Haiti, Chernobyl and Moldova.

Just a few of the 102 blankets, 700 hats, 90 scarves donated this year along with other knitted items, were on display in the Church. These will be distributed to both Blythwood Care in Glasgow and the Scottish Emergency Rescue Association. Now in their 10th year, the SERA have trained fire fighters in Serbia, Romania, and Moldova and donated around 42 emergency vehicles to areas of these countries with little or no emergency vehicles. They take our Teddies and other items to the children there.

Blythwood Care will get scarves, hats and mitts for their Christmas Box appeal. Last year 121,000 shoeboxes went out to 9 different countries in Eastern Europe in time for Christmas.

This year our Teddies for Tragedies Fundraising Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 14th October 10am-12noon. Admission will be £2.00, which includes refreshments. Accompanied children will have free admission. There will be the usual stalls, Cake and Candy, Tombola and Children's Lucky Dip. Any donations and offers of help will be gratefully received. This is to raise funds for the running costs of this much-needed initiative, including fabric for our drawstring bags that most of the Teddies live in to go to their new homes.



Boys' Brigade

The Boys' Brigade will restart after the summer holidays on Friday 8 September. We are hoping to welcome back all our boys and any new boys looking to join. Enjoy an action packed programme of games, crafts, sports and learning new skills whilst having fun and making new friends.



Anchor Boys (Primary 1 - Primary 3)

Queensferry Primary School on Friday evenings from 7.00 - 8.00pm

Junior Section (Primary 4 - Primary 6)

Queensferry Primary School on Friday evenings from 7.00 - 9.00pm

Company Section (Primary 7 - Secondary 6)

Queensferry Primary School on Friday evenings from 8.00 - 10.00pm

For more information [email bbsouthqueensferry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bbsouthqueensferry@hotmail.co.uk) or come along on one of our Friday nights.

Prayer Circle Question time

Do you know why 3rd November is a special day?

It is the birthday of the Prayer Circle and this year we will be 14 years old. We began in 2003 with just 20 members and have continued to grow and shrink over the years and currently have 51 members.

How old do you have to be to be a part of the circle?

Any age, we have members in their 20's and members in their 90's and everything in between. The thing they have in common is a passion for prayer. We rarely meet together as a group but keep in constant contact by email. We each pray at home for the people on our list. We take confidentiality very seriously and never talk about "the list" outside the circle.

How do we know who to pray for?

People can request prayer through the cards in the pews, or through the minister and the pastoral visitors, or even by asking one of our members. We aim to support all members of the congregation, their friends and family and anyone within our local community.

How long do you pray for?

We pray for as long as is needed. The minimum time is 2 months but there is no maximum.

What do you pray for?

Those who are ill or needing support through a difficult time. To rejoice in the safe arrival of a new baby, or the union of two people in marriage. To give Praise and Thanks for answers to prayer.

Why do you pray?

We believe in the power of prayer to change things, and that by speaking with God each day we gain the strength to carry out his will for us. We believe that prayer helps us as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ to do his will here on earth.

How do I join?

Contact Wendy at prayer@auld.me.uk or speak to her at church.



Church and Parish Register

Marriages

11th Jun Andrew Hannigan & Kirsten Whitefield, Broxburn

24th Jun James Brown & Audrey Onslow, Livingston

Baptisms (Infant)

4th Jun Luca Peter Reid-Mertner, Peasehill Gait, Rosyth

Baptisms (Adult)

25th Jun James George Meiklejohn Allan, Forth Place, SQ

Deaths

30th May Margaret Malcolmson, Murrayfield House, Edinburgh

6th Jun Bryan Hare, Whitehead Grove, SQ

7th Jun Betty Smith, Hill Court, SQ

15th Jun Jean Brett, Carlowrie Avenue, Dalmeny

8th Jul Helen Brown, Lawson Crescent, SQ

12th Jul Phyllis Jackson-Bass, Meadowvale Nursing Home, Bathgate

14th Jul Margaret Nisbet, Parkgrove Gardens, Edinburgh

5th Aug Margaret Duncan, formerly of Scotstoun Park, SQ

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

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.

Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from **Sunday 19th November**. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by **Saturday 28th October**. Please send any pictures as separate attachments. Note: This will be the last edition of 2017.