

Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends,

This edition of Park Pages is earlier than usual because this year, for the first time, it is being issued to mark the *start* of the autumn session of the church's life rather than in October when many things have already been established. This makes sense! After the summer break our fellowship groups, Ladies' Association and other meetings all resume. In many ways it is a new beginning in the church calendar. This is especially notable this year as we return to use the main sanctuary building after its refurbishment and repair. We thank ALL those who have spent much time and energy in overseeing the vital work and commit ourselves afresh to prayerfully seek God's direction as to how best we might use the resources He has given us for the building of His kingdom within our community.

If we are going to be builders in God's kingdom we ourselves need to be "built up"! Jude, in his letter to Christians, writes:

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith, and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude v 20

The start of a new session of gatherings provides an opportunity for us ALL to consider how we might build ourselves up in that most holy faith. The Book of Acts gives us the foundational principles of how we can do that:

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2 v 42

From the very beginning of the church, believers, and those enquiring about the faith, gathered in smaller groupings to hear the apostles' teaching and through prayer and fellowship grow in their knowledge and experience of Jesus Christ. These would be led by the elders of the church who themselves would be under the oversight of the pastor teacher.

At the time of the Reformation, particularly in Geneva and under the direction of John Calvin and his assistant John Knox, small catechizing groups were set up where new Christians could be taught the basic doctrines of the faith and be given scriptural reasons for it. This was done so that they might be more confident in their profession and confession of the faith.

Today, churches of all traditions, in different parts of the world, nurture God's people and help enquirers encounter Jesus Christ through similar gatherings. We seek to do the same at Park. Over the past year, nearly 50 members and friends have taken the opportunity to ENGAGE with the faith and with each other in our fellowship groups/evening fellowship/Open to God prayer time.

Autumn 2017



Why not begin a new session by exploring these opportunities for YOURSELF?

If you have not experienced being part of one of our fellowship groups, can I encourage you to consider doing so? Meeting together on a Sunday morning is central to what it is to be a Christian and part of the body of Jesus Christ. However, opportunities to be part of a smaller group allow us to grow and develop more in our faith in fellowship with our fellow Christians and provide a more informal way to do so. As always, information on these gatherings is included in our weekly intimation sheet. If none of the times suit, we can always establish another fellowship group at a time that is convenient!

As we thank God for the work that has been done on our property over these past years, and rejoice in the Lord of the Harvest and His bounty, both spiritual and material, that He has given us, let us enter into this new session with renewed love for Jesus Christ and His purposes for us.

Yours encouragingly,

Mr B Russell

CHURCH-BASED MEETINGS



Evening Fellowship

2nd and 4th Sundays

3rd Sunday

1st and 5th Sundays

re-Fresh Wednesday 2.30pm

re-Fresh Wednesday 7.30pm

Hall at 6.30pm

Bible Teaching from the Prayer Guide

DVD and Group work based on the Power and Potential of Prayer

Speakers/Film night/Prayers for Healing

Bible input on theme of friendship

Book of Leviticus

HOME-BASED MEETINGS



Women in the Word

Whifflet Fellowship

Men at the Manse

Younger Women in the Word

Fortnightly on Sunday at 8pm in the manse

Monthly on Monday at 7.30pm at the home of Steve and Isobel Martin

Fortnightly on Thursday at 7.30pm

Fortnightly on Wednesday at 8pm at the home of Karen Stangoe

CHURCH-BASED PRAYER



Open to God Prayer Time

Community Prayer Time

Fortnightly on Saturday at 8am

3rd Tuesday at 10.30am alternating with Bothwell Evangelical Church

Refurbishment of our church building

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain (Ps 27)

Well, the great refurbishment is over! As most of you will be aware, the church was closed over the summer months to allow the replastering work and redecoration of the sanctuary to be completed.



Our furniture and the old carpet were removed on Monday 3 July and all went smoothly despite the Main Street being closed for resurfacing! By early afternoon the church was looking quite bare!



However, it wasn't long before it was filled with scaffolding and the replastering work of the ceiling in the upper gallery began. This went to plan and the painters moved in. Ceiling lights have been cleaned, refitted and new bulbs installed.

Despite having a detailed schedule of works drawn up, in the words of the bard, "*the best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley*" and that is certainly the case when it comes to old buildings such as ours! It was discovered that the mortar was crumbling round the main stained glass window behind the organ and this would have to be redone. This was disappointing since it had only been reset a few years previously; as the firm had now gone out of business, new quotes had to be procured...and fast. It obviously made sense to get this work done when we had scaffolding in situ. As often happens, one thing leads to another and once the stained glass window had been rebedded, it was noticed that the plaster work round the window needed redone and then painted. This has led to extra unplanned expense but we were fortunate to have the funds available to carry out this work.

The tech guys have been busy too, rerouting and relocating AV cables so that they are less obtrusive and less of a hazard. We have also installed two new projectors as the old ones were worn out and failing, so you should see the words on the screens a lot more clearly now!

In the final week our new carpet was laid and the furniture delivered back and set out.

Much work and planning have gone into this project and we thank God that despite the setbacks we managed to accomplish it on time and ready for our Rededication Service on the 27 August. We thank God for the unity in the project team and the servant hearts that gave up so much time to make sure it all happened. Although this was a team effort, special mention and thanks must go to Stuart McLellan for overseeing the project and giving so freely of his time.



Holiday Club

Our annual Holiday Club was held in the middle of July this year and Karen tells us how it went



Mega-Machine, mini-machines, science experiments and inventions! These were just some of the popular elements of our **Mega Makers** Holiday Club this year. In mid-July the church hall became an inventor's workshop for the week. Throughout the week we followed the work of Boffin and Brainwave (Gregor McDowall and Andrew Strawbridge) as they tested their latest invention – The **Mega Machine** – which had the ability to take something small and turn it into something bigger.

Our programme was jam-packed full of activities, crafts and games. We even had a few dry nights where we were able to play games outside! In all of this, in all of the bible stories from Matthew's Gospel and in the times spent chatting in small groups, our aim for the children was reflected in Paul's prayer for Ephesus:

“And I pray that you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love—how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is.”

Ephesians 3v18

We met with 21 children throughout the week, most of whom regularly come to Mega, as well as a good number of the children from Park Kids. This meant that the children were very open to exploring the bible and already had a level of understanding of God. One boy said that he was aware that because he's grown up in the church he already knew the stories we were looking at, and that he even knew the 'answers' we were wanting him to give. However, he very wisely told his leader that he was going to try and be very honest and try and answer based on what he would have done, had he been there, rather than simply giving a 'token answer'. Praise God for the wisdom of this child's words and pray for him and others like him, that as they approach the teenage years, they would begin to grapple with the bible in a new way, seeking to know God for themselves.

On the last night we catered for between 50 and 60 people for our Family Night. It was a really encouraging night where the Holiday Club team mingled with the families, sharing together in party food, games, a bible story and the final instalment of the drama. One parent in particular spoke with me very warmly about the kindness and hospitality of the church saying she was “blown away by our kindness”. All in all, it was a very encouraging week, with loads of answered prayers and lots to be thankful for! In particular, give thanks for the amazing team of people God gathered to serve Him in this way. The team was a real outworking of 1 Corinthians 12, which describes the church as 'a body' with many different parts working together. Throughout the week we saw God using so many different skills and gifts that individuals had. From crafts to engineering and from science to drama, God brought them all together for His glory!



*Learning the song **Wide and Long and High and Deep**—our theme song telling of God's love.*



The Team!

Greetings from Thailand

We were privileged to have Fabri Toni speak to us at the Wednesday afternoon re-Fresh meeting on 26 July. He and his wife, Elaine, and their two children, Rebecca and Matteo, were back in Scotland to visit Elaine's family, having already visited *la famiglia* in Italy! Elaine was unfortunately unable to join us as Matteo was a little under the weather and they were due to fly back to Thailand within a matter of days.



Fabri and Elaine are based in Chiang Mai which is in the northern part of Thailand. Historically it is a place to relax in after the chaotic busyness of the capital, Bangkok, as it has a much slower pace of life. This is true too for Christian missionaries working in Asia; Chiang Mai is a hub to come to for rest and refreshment. You will find many European families there and there is also a big international church where people of 17 languages are represented!

Fabri teaches religious studies at the Grace International School. His goal is to teach the children not just *head* knowledge but also *heart* knowledge so that they will come to know what it is to have a personal relationship with God himself. He organises bible studies for the boys he teaches and encourages the older boys to lead these.

Fabri spoke freely about his life and what God has been teaching him over the years since he left Park. He asked us to share with him in reading a psalm that was very familiar to all of us, Psalm 23, and to really concentrate on the words to see what God was saying to us. This was a really helpful exercise and different people spoke of different words that had jumped out at them e.g., comfort. Fabri shared with us that when he had carried out this exercise, what had stood out for him was the phrase, "**I lack nothing**". He had looked at his life and concluded that things like having a job, a house, although good and important, did not matter as much as having God in his life. If he had God in his life, he concluded in the same way as the psalmist, "I lack nothing".

Elaine, who was a maths teacher, is a stay-at-home mum right now looking after Rebecca (4) and Matteo who will be one on the 12 September. She enjoys having plenty of opportunities to meet with other mums and their children and this is where she sees her ministry just now. However, what about the future? Fabri and Elaine both feel that God is calling them to go serve in his home country of Italy where the evangelical church makes up less than 1% of all Christians. Fabri feels that God is using this time in Thailand to prepare their hearts, to help them grow as a couple and as a family before He opens up this new area of what would be very challenging work.



Please pray for the Toni family as they seek God's will for their lives and help them to know how best to serve Him.

Craft Club

Are you mad about crafts? Do you enjoy making things? Do you want to learn new skills? Do you see yourself as the next Picasso? Or are you just fed up with nothing to do on a Saturday morning? Well, we may have just the thing for you!

Carolyn Paterson is hoping to set up a Craft Club in Park Church Hall on a Saturday morning between 10am and 12 noon. Whether you are a complete novice or expert crafter, everyone aged from late teens up will be sure of a warm welcome—both male and female!

So, if you have a drawer full of half-used balls of wool, pieces of unused material, an origami or embroidery set that you were given for Christmas and never dared tackle, why don't you come along and learn a new skill? It's all about having fun and fellowship and a great chance for the older members to pass on their skills to the younger generation!

If you're interested, please give your name to Carolyn who will be happy to give you more information.



What a difference a year makes!

One year ago three men had just started their ministries in various churches across the west of Scotland. Here they give an update on what God has been doing in and through them in their churches and communities.

Nathan Owens

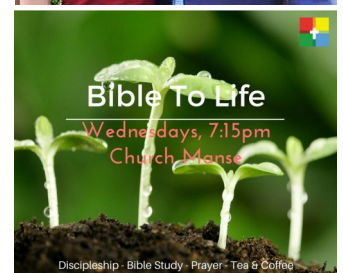
We are now one year into the revitalisation of Maxwell Church, Kilmaurs and it has been quite a year! Steffi and I are thankful that we have seen many blessings in the past 12 months, with 14 new members joining, including a couple of families, along with 10+ adherents regularly attending. However, this is only part of what has to happen when a church goes through a period of transformation and renewal. Just as important has been the steady growth of the mid-week meeting entitled **Bible To Life**, not so much in numbers but in fellowship and honesty and brotherly and sisterly affection; in other words friendships have been growing and that is a great thing to see!

At the beginning of the year we committed, as a church, to focus on training, discipleship and mission/evangelism, and we have seen seeds sown in each of these areas - but there is still a long way to go. We were really encouraged as a church to be asked to take over the S.U. group in the local primary school, and, just recently, I have joined the chaplaincy team for the local secondary school. We had a **Carols by Candlelight** at Christmas time which went well and we ran **Christianity Explored** for the first time back in January, with three unbelievers attending who now worship with us every Sunday.

As to the year ahead, we would greatly value your prayers; we want to think really seriously about our evangelism, with two clear goals in mind. Firstly, we want to encourage the whole church to be intentional about making new friends with people who are not Christians, inviting them into their homes for meals and having cups of tea. Also, we would like to join already established clubs in Kilmaurs/Kilmarnock/Stewarton as a means to meet new people. One idea is to start a mother and toddler group with a twist, called **"Mainly Music"**. Let's see what year two has in store.

It is not, as you no doubt can imagine, all plain sailing and there are many challenges ahead, but Steffi and I are without a doubt more encouraged than we are anything else; God is good. He is the God of miracles and is able to and does do mighty things. We are learning this more and more. Steffi is into her second year in Uddingston as a dentist and still enjoying the challenge; well, most of the time! As always, our thoughts are with Park Church and we value your prayers.

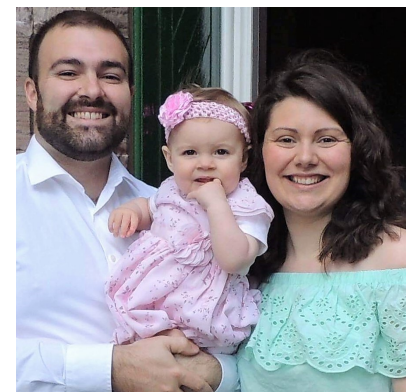
Nathan and Steffi



Martin Paterson

We have been learning a lot over this last year. It is not so much due to the changes which have taken place, although they clearly have a role, but what we've been learning is how to balance competing priorities when they are all good things. Becoming parents, pastoring a church, representing OMF, maintaining a healthy marriage and growing as disciples; these are all good things. So how has this been going? We won't lie, sometimes it has been draining, demanding and at times frustrating. What is wonderful though is that we have been allowed to prove the faithfulness of God, our good and kind Father, throughout this last year, knowing that His power is made perfect in our weaknesses (2 Corinthians, 12:9).

The church we are working in at Stonehouse does face challenges, something which is replicated across a number of churches in the denomination. It would not be true for us to say that there has been a huge turn around in the church and that it is flourishing. What we can say, though, is that there have been some really good opportunities for people to grow as believers and some chances to engage with the local community.



Look at the Book, which runs on Wednesday evenings, allows people the space to read the bible together and think through what it means in 21st-century Scotland. There have been a number of times when I have been able to share the good news of Jesus with the local primary school and over the summer we were able to run a football camp for kids between P4 and S1.

We are working as area representatives for Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF). This means that we are the first point of contact for anyone engaging with OMF in Scotland, whether that is face to face, at events or through email. We have really enjoyed getting settled into this new role and love the many opportunities we have of meeting up with people who are seeking to know God's leading in their lives. Our desire to see many people in East Asia come to know the Lord Jesus is something which we know is of God, and we are grateful to have the chance to serve in this capacity. As part of this role, and joining OMF for long-term, cross-cultural work, Jennifer will begin bible college training at Highland Theological College in September. Please pray that this will go well; Jennifer would value prayers that she will grow as a Christian during this time.

Some of you will know that I have recently returned from China. I was there with two other UK OMF workers to learn what God is doing in China, what the needs are and to encourage those who are serving there long term. This was a fantastic time and I will have the chance to share more about this with you later in the year when I come to Park.

We started by saying we have been learning a lot and our prayer is that we will keep on learning more of what the Lord wants us to do in this coming year. We know that we can trust Him; His grace is sufficient.

Martin, Jennifer and Sophia



David Miller

It's a year since my ordination in Millerston Church—but three and a half since I started there. What changed with ordination, and how have things gone over the last year? Ordination is a slightly strange thing. For example, as a lay preacher I preached, led worship regularly and conducted funerals. However, I was not allowed to preside at communion or conduct a baptism until I was ordained. Interestingly, on the two Sundays immediately following my ordination, I led communion and conducted a baptism. Now, sacraments are important but are they significantly more important than the faithful preaching of God's word? I'll leave that question hanging though I have been challenged to think more about the nature of sacraments in our tradition.



I can also lead a Kirk Session meeting. But again, being ordained doesn't confer on me the power to act as a president—leadership does not lie in one person but in the team of elders. So my role when I moderate a session meeting is not to try and impose my will, but to help us together to discern how God is leading us. I'm blessed with a great team of committed elders who pray and work hard to maintain the church as a basis for mission.

And how has He been leading us this past year? There are clear encouragements. Five people have become members and others have joined regularly in worship. We've launched a playgroup, led by the mother whose baby I baptised last September and another girl whose new baby will probably be the next one I baptise. An Alpha course helped us reconnect with a former member. In other ways, though, things have not developed as fast as I had hoped. So if you'd like to pray for us here are things you can pray:



Our elders, and many members, are great folk but mostly in their late 60s or older. Who do they pass their responsibilities on to? If there are no younger people coming through, this can be depressing for them.

Please pray that God will provide a few mature Christians, willing to come and work and serve with us.



The playgroup is re-launching after the summer but the challenge of how we develop our work among children and families is massive. Please pray for wisdom in this.



Our biggest challenge is simply to share our faith. Just saying, "Tell others about Jesus" is not enough—we need to train, equip and encourage each other to share the gospel.

Jeanette and I feel to do this properly we need to live in the community and so we are moving to Millerston at the end of August. Pray that the move goes smoothly and that the Lord uses us as effective witnesses there.

May the Lord encourage you all in Park too.

David and Jeanette

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord!

The people of God sing! We only need to look at scripture to see this. After escaping from the Egyptians and crossing the Red Sea, the people of Israel sang a song to the Lord (Exodus 15). The Psalms of David bear rich testimony that in joy or sorrow, praise or lament, the believer raises his voice to God in song.



The apostle Paul encourages us to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God (Colossians 3:16). The book of Revelation speaks of a heavenly choir singing praises to God. So, from the beginning to the end of the Bible, song features greatly! The purpose of our singing is twofold: to bring glory to God and to encourage each other (Eph 5).

It is interesting to look at the story and inspiration for worship songs and over the following few editions of Park Pages we shall look at various hymns and songs, both old and new. We shall begin with a very popular modern worship song, a favourite of many, *In Christ Alone* by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, one of the best examples of storytelling conveying the power of the gospel.

In Christ Alone was written in 2001 as a collaborative effort between Stuart Townend and Keith Getty. It was the first song they had written together after meeting at a worship event in 2000. They resolved to try to write a song that would tell the whole story of Christ coming to earth—the whole gospel story in one song—and there was to be no limit to the amount of verses! Getty sent some melodies to Townend who picked this haunting melody and immediately started writing lyrics on the timeless theme of the life, death and resurrection of Christ and what it means to us. The song was originally called 'My hope rests firm in Christ alone' but was later changed to *In Christ alone, my hope is found*. These were the first words written:

*In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm...*

Central to both Townend and Getty's work is the strong emphasis they place on both theological depth and poetic expression. They aim to capture biblical truths that will not only cause people to express their worship in church, but will build them up in their Christian lives. Townend says:



"I think content is vitally important to our corporate worship. Sometimes great melodies are let down by indifferent or clichéd words. It's the writer's job to dig deep into the meaning of the Scripture and express in poetic and memorable ways the truth he or she finds there. Knowing the truth about God and who we are in Him is central to our lives as believers. Songs remain in the mind in a way sermons do not, so songwriters have an important role and a huge responsibility."

*No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny...*



"The lyric of this song excites me because it places our hope, our assurance, our eternal destiny in the right place—on the solid foundation of Christ. I know in my own life I need reminding continually not to live by my feelings or my circumstances, but by the unchanging truth of the gospel."

Keith Getty, who wrote the melody, derives a lot of inspiration for his melodies from his native Irish music. In his own words, *"I think the underlying sense of lilting pathos in Celtic melodies.... helps the songs tell a story with all its raw emotion and passion. All Irish music centres on stories.."*



Townend tells of the remarkable response they have had to this song, with many emails from people telling them how the song has helped them through incredibly difficult circumstances. One such email described how a US army soldier serving in Iraq would pray through each verse of the song every day, and how the promises of God's protection and grace helped to sustain him through the enormous pressures and dangers of life in a war zone.



Townend reflects on this and says, *"It seems like this song is timely. We in the west have had our sense of safety and security brutally torn apart by recent world events, and it's caused many to re-evaluate the foundations of their life. I feel that the song has helped to stir faith in many believers that God really is our protector; that our lives are in his unshakable hands"*.

**What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled and striving cease
My Comforter, my All-in-All
Here in the love of Christ I stand...**

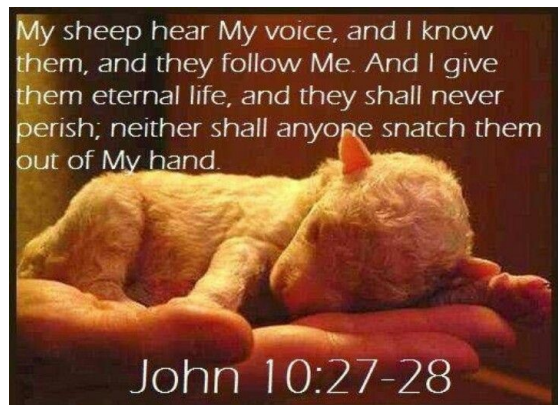


Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, all that is in them, saying "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

Revelation 5 v 13

**No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand...**

Songs and hymns go in and out of fashion but this is a song that will definitely stand the test of time. It will be a song that every generation can sing; just as in heaven every nation and tribe come together to give praise and glory to God. Both the melody and lyrics are so powerful and emotive, telling the story of the life, death and saving power of Christ through his sacrificial death on the cross. We will stand before Him, not because of our great faith or what we have done, but because of what He has done for us! Nothing can separate us from his love.



Amazing words and we thank God for raising up songwriters such as Townend and Getty who help us express our worship to God through great hymns such as this. If you would like to listen to **In Christ Alone** CLICK on the link below:

www.gettymusic.com/in-christ-alone/

News from India

As we give thanks at our rededication service, we remember our brothers and sisters in Christ in the church we helped plant in India as part of our 150th anniversary. God has indeed been good to us! The pastor sends us his greetings.



It is my great delight to write to you once again about our family and to share some of the highlights from our ministry. Thank you for your valuable prayers and encouragement. God is good and faithful in our lives. As a family He has kept us safe and sound, protecting us from all harms and difficulties. God has been my source of strength and victory. Bible reading, meditations and prayer life strengthen me and keep me strong in the ministry. At present about 75 people regularly attend this church. The congregation is growing both in numbers and also in the level of maturity of its members.

Our village ministries in five villages are going well. We have regular worship services in two of these villages. Nearly 20 members come together to worship in each. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm of believers to know more about the scripture.

Every week we hear some amazing testimonies from people about God's wonderful work in their life. Last month two people testified about miraculous healing and deliverance in their families. These testimonies encourage other members to put their trust in the Lord. Many of them are new believers and these testimony times greatly bless their spiritual life.



We have a regular prayer meeting held during the week and one lady (aged 35) had been suffering from a severe stomach condition for months. After she started attending this prayer meeting she felt progressively better and was ultimately fully healed. She now glorifies Jesus Christ and testifies on His behalf in the church and in other meetings of how the Lord healed her when no other medical avenue was accessible. Even if any medical avenues had been accessible, she would not have been able to afford them.

This church congregation is actively spreading the love and truth of the love of Jesus Christ. They regularly visit homes in the surrounding area to share the teachings of Jesus; many do give an open hearing while some others have decided to follow Jesus.



Our Wednesday interactive bible studies are attended by 10 people. These studies help our believers to clarify their doubts and understand God's word at a deeper level. My wife also leads studies for the women in the villages and also conducts a Friday fasting prayer meeting. 20-25 ladies regularly attend this meeting where they have seen several answers to prayer; this is a great motivation for the people who regularly attend this meeting. God's spirit is powerfully moving in this place and people are open to the gospel even though they often face opposition from fundamentalist groups. So far they haven't faced any major conflict and they are very thankful to the Lord for His protection upon them.



Recently one lady, along with her son, came to our church for prayer. They were very rich people but their business was failing and they were suicidal. We encouraged them from the scripture and asked them to put their faith in the Lord Jesus and prayed for them. God did an amazing miracle in their lives! For the first time they experienced real peace and happiness. Within a short period of time their business also started to improve. They accepted the Lord and attend church. They face a lot of opposition from family members for their new faith. Please pray that they may continue to stand firm in their faith.

Our children's ministry is vibrant and nearly 50 children regularly attend our Sunday School in two locations. The children are taught to memorize verses and stories from the bible and are also helped to enact bible stories so that they learn biblical lessons in a creative way.

Uddingston Pride Update

It has been a busy summer for Uddingston Pride as usual.

We held a Craft Fayre in Park Church from 7 to 10 June which proved to be a great success. We had more applications for tables than we had anticipated so a certain amount of rejigging of the layout was necessary to squeeze them all in. We had good support from local people who were happy to come in and view the many and varied craft items that were for sale and enjoy a cup of tea in the church hall. Everyone who came to the fayre seemed to enjoy their visit, and the crafters were very happy with what they were able to sell.

We are most grateful to all the exhibitors and all those who came along and supported this new event which helped to boost our funds. A special thanks is due to the ladies who so ably managed the tea room.

In mid-July we held an Open Garden event; visitors were able to visit and enjoy three very different private gardens as well as the newly replanted station garden. We were blessed with a dry day, so the many visitors who came along were able to socialise in pleasant surroundings and enjoy a cup of coffee and some delicious home baking. Again, the group's funds were boosted by this successful event.

In early August we put the finishing touches to the village in preparation for the visits by the judges from **Beautiful Scotland** and **Britain in Bloom**.

We were happy to show the judges our village, which we think was looking good, and we hope they were pleased with what they saw. Highlights of the two tours included the war memorial, the station, Crofthead Park, and the churches, which always look great and are a credit to their respective gardeners. The **Britain in Bloom** judges were delighted to meet with Rev. Bruce McDowall, and the ladies of the tea room at Park Church; we thank them most sincerely for the support they give to Uddingston Pride. We also took them to Bothwell Castle, where one of our members gave them a potted history of the castle, and brought them right up to date with the various events that take place there nowadays, such as schools' educational visits, group tours and wedding photography. It's good to think it is so well supported by locals and by visitors from all round the world.

At Bothwell Golf Club the general manager gave them a brief review on the environmental aspects of the care and attention required to maintain the greens to such a high standard. The judges also greatly appreciated meeting with some of the many children who use and enjoy Crofthead Park.

We won't know the results of the competitions until the award ceremonies in early September and late October. All the judges certainly seemed to be impressed, so it would be just great if we were to get two Gold Awards – that would be an exceptional result. Here's hoping!

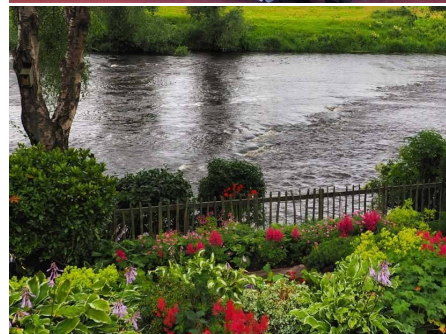


Photo taken by David Lorimer



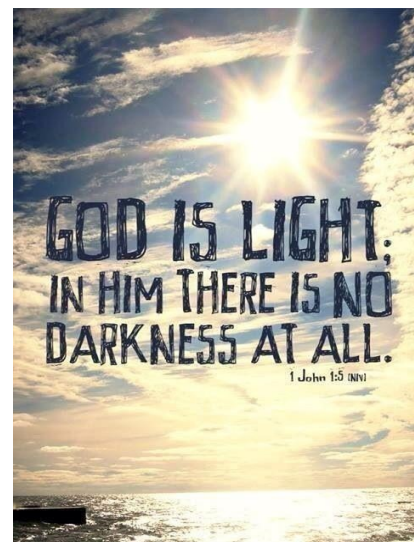
We are always looking for volunteer helpers, so if you are able and willing, feel free to get in contact with us!

Park Ladies' Association

The Ladies' Association enjoyed a varied programme last session and shared fellowship with other UF Ladies' Groups as well as some Church of Scotland Guilds in the immediate area.

Some of the ladies continued to knit squares for the Ann Gloag Fistula Foundation and 320 squares were completed. Two of the members and a friend of the group knitted Twiddlemuffs for dementia sufferers; ten were given to Ashton Grange Care Centre and two to Croftbank House.

The theme of the meetings for the 2017-18 session is **"God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all"**. A warm welcome is extended to all ladies in the fellowship to join us at our meetings on Thursday evenings on the dates below.

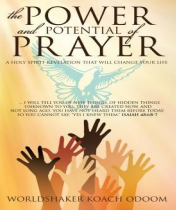


SYLLABUS 2017-2018

5 October	"God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all" Rev. Bruce McDowall	
19 October	Ministry of Song Colin Gunning	
2 November	Chilli Children Brian Fleming	
4 November		Coffee Morning 10 am—12 noon
7 December	Joyce Grenfell Yvonne Waring	
11 January	Rev Clive Tuttle	
18 January		Night Out TBA
1 February	Shoebox Rachel McLellan	
1 March	The Inbetweeners United Meeting—Guest Night	
15 March	AGM and Bring and Buy Sale	

For further information please speak to Mrs Irene Cassels

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 3 September 	Harvest Thanksgiving 10.30am All-age celebration of the Lord of the Harvest. Gifts will go to Glasgow City Mission Professions of Faith and Sacrament of Infant Baptism Bield Housing Service 6.30pm	
Saturday 9 September	MEGA 4-6pm	
Sunday 17 September	6.30pm Third Sunday New series of monthly gatherings The Power and Potential of Prayer	
Sunday 8 October	10.30am Holy Communion (note date) 6.30pm Service led by members of one of our Fellowship Groups	
Friday 27 October	7pm Congregational Ceilidh and Outreach Event	
Sunday 29 October	6.30pm Prayers for Healing Service	
Sunday 5 November	10.30am Martin, Jennifer and Sophia Paterson speaking about their work with OMF 6.30pm Family Film Night	
Saturday 11 November	MEGA 2-4pm	
Sunday 12 November	10.30am Remembrance Sunday with uniformed organisations	
Sunday 26 November	10.30am Suffering Church Sunday Shoobox Appeal collection deadline	
Sunday 3 December	10.30am Holy Communion Speaker from Blythswood Care Village Christmas Afternoon	



Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland

89 Main Street
Uddingston
G71 9EP

www.park-church.com
01698 817256