

Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Letter from the Minister

Autumn 2018

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter after being at the Wednesday afternoon and evening Re-fresh. We have been looking at some of the psalms and today's selection was Psalms 11 and 12. David laments the state of the world!

*Help, O Lord, for no one is faithful anymore;
Those who are loyal have vanished from the human race.
Everyone lies to their neighbour,
they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts.*

Psalm 12 v 1,2

The context for our discussions was the radio news at lunchtime. A lawyer, who used to serve President Trump when he was a candidate for office, had just admitted that he was involved, with Donald Trump's full knowledge, in the "paying off" of women who have, allegedly, slept with Trump in the past. Whatever the truth or otherwise of these stories, the group that I was part of at Re-fresh all commented on the general decay in values, morals and truthfulness of so many within public life. Most of those present were brought up in a society where, generally, truthfulness and integrity were seen as positive values and requisites for those who served in public life, both at a local and national level. However, the erosion of these values is now commonly accepted and the consequence is a general skepticism and cynicism within society. People shrug their shoulders and say, "If you can't beat them, then join them"!

As Psalm 11 v 3 states:

*When the foundations are being destroyed,
What can the righteous do?*

It is, of course, easy to fall into the trap, like the psalmist, of feeling that "no one is faithful anymore". As in David's day, so today, many people are faithful in what they do and not everyone lives on a diet of lies and deceit! However, as people who profess to believe in a God whose

...words are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times...Psalm 12 v6

it is understandable that we should be troubled when such anti-truth is too often seen in life. At work, amongst friends and even within our own families, there can be people whose attitude towards being truthful, when it is no longer personally convenient, is to

...bend their bows and set their arrows against the strings. Psalm 11 v 2

who say,

*By our tongues we will prevail;
our own lips will defend us - who is lord over us? Psalm 12 v 4*



As an antidote towards being dragged down by such a moral relativism, the psalmist focuses on who the God that he puts his trust in is. He reminds himself, and us, that:

The Lord is in his holy temple;

The Lord is on his heavenly throne.

He observes everyone on earth, his eyes examine them.

For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice. Psalm 11 v 4, 7



The antidote to anti-truth is not to descend into skepticism, cynicism and passive acceptance. Rather, we are to have a God-ward and outward looking recognition of the One whose very character and nature will, ultimately,

...silence all faltering lips and every boastful tongue. Psalm 12 v 3

Indeed, the Lord*hates with a passion Psalm 11 v 5* those purveyors of falsehood and “fake news” that circulate our society today. As Christians, our confidence is in the Good News of Jesus Christ, the One who said,

I am the Truth... John 14 v 6.

The Bible is brutally honest about how things are.

This is the verdict. Light has come into the world, but people love darkness instead of light because their deeds are evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth, comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. John 3 v 20, 21



You might well agree with this. But, you say, what can I do about it? This is where groups like Re-fresh come in. At all of our fellowship groups there are opportunities to talk through real issues and concerns in the light of the Truth of God revealed in Jesus Christ and made known to us, by the Holy Spirit, through the Bible.

When what is vile is honoured by the human race Psalm 12 v 8, it is vital that, as Christians, we spend time together in Fellowship, Bible Study and Prayer, in order that we might be more able to

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth around your waist. Ephesians 6 v 14

Indeed, faced with the realities of a society which is rapidly shifting from those foundations that once made it stable and secure, we thank God that He is the One who

...will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the wicked. Psalm 12 v 7

As we enter into a new session of Worship and Witness, make a point of attending worship on a Sunday where God’s Word is opened up to us. But also make a point to seek out a Fellowship Group where we can work out the timeless truths, revealed in scripture, into our lives and our living today.

Why not try our **Third Sunday** where we will be exploring the ups, downs and challenges of walking with Jesus in daily life? And if you can’t find anything to suit, there is always the opportunity to establish more groups if, and when, necessary.



With thanks to my brothers and sisters in Christ for our stimulating conversation at Re-fresh!

Your friend and minister

Mr B Rees

A list of all available Fellowship Groups is on the noticeboard in the church hall.

Church News

Manse Garden Party

We enjoyed a lovely fellowship meal in the manse garden on the evening of Sunday 1 July. We were blessed with really good weather for a change and there was a record turnout—53 people! As well as enjoying an abundance of good food, we were able to sit and chat and enjoy fellowship with one another in the warm evening sun. After the meal, Bruce read from the Book of Psalms and we enjoyed a very special time of holy communion together. As a congregation we would like to extend a very warm word of thanks to Bruce, Elizabeth and family for hosting this evening. *(Photos courtesy of Ronald Hamilton)*



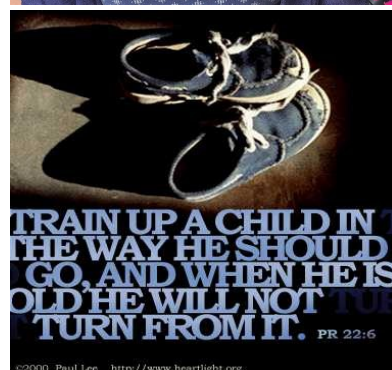
Children and Families' Worker

The Kirk Session and Board of Managers would like to extend a warm word of thanks to all who felt able and called upon to contribute to the funding of the post of Children and Families' worker for the next three years. We anticipate a total of about £20,000 when gift aid is taken into account. This means that Karen, our children and families' worker, will be able to continue her work, not just within Park Church, but also with children in the local schools and community. This work is making a vital difference to children who would not hear about Jesus in any other way.

Although not overtly Christian in origin, Whitney Houston's song, "I believe children are our future, train them right and let them lead the way", echoes the words of Proverbs 22 v 6 : **"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it"**. Today's children are the future of the church and we have a duty and responsibility to teach them about Jesus.

"Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power." Psalm 145 v 4

Thank you for being part of this great commission!



Acknowledgement

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Jim Bird on the 14 May 2018. Agnes would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sent her a letter or card to express their loving care at this sad and difficult time for her. All your love and concern was greatly appreciated.



New Beginnings

Allan has been working with Agapé for 10 years but has recently felt God telling him it was time to move on. He took some time out in his last week to tell us a little about his role in Agapé, what God has been teaching him during this time and what the future might hold for him in his new job with Jaguar Land Rover. No doubt it will be very different but one thing will remain the same—God will be there in the midst of it all!



1. What is Agapé and how did you get involved?

Agapé is a Christian charity (also known as Campus Crusade for Christ) which helps people encounter God's unconditional love. I got involved as a student in London where I was actively involved in sharing my faith. Agapé trained me in how to do this, and I joined them as an intern for a year in their head office after I graduated.

2. You say you joined as an intern for a year. How did you end up staying for 10?

I'd only intended on staying with Agapé for a year and then moving on to use the skills I'd learnt in a "normal" workplace. I guess God had other plans for me!

3. Tell us a little about your role in Agapé and how it evolved over the years.



When I first joined I did lots of different jobs, trying to find my best fit. My degree was in Economics, but I couldn't really see how to apply it. In the end I joined Agapé's Communications team, where I've worked for the last eight years.

I've been responsible for many things including Agapé's website and social media, our outreach resources, overseeing the design and distribution of Agapé's MOVE Magazine, editing and proofreading, graphic design...and more! It's funny how you can end up doing things you never thought you would - English wasn't exactly my favourite subject at school, so I didn't expect to end up working in Communications!

4. How have you grown and matured as a Christian through this time and are there any scripture verses that have been particularly helpful?

I've learnt that I need to (and can) trust God in all situations. There have been many times I've felt out of my depth or not quite known what to do. But God has always provided and seen me through. It's hard, and sometimes I've struggled to understand God's ways, but I know he is good and faithful, so I can depend on him.

I've also learnt the importance of building relationships and sharing your story of God at work in your life as ways to witness. It's great when we get an opportunity to clearly explain the gospel, but often this comes nearer the end of a longer process. We've got to keep in step with where God is leading us.

**Trust in the Lord
with all your
heart and lean
not on your own
understanding.
Proverbs 3 v 5**

5. What have been some of the highlights of your time with Agapé?

There have been many memorable moments, from dressing up in a goat costume as part of our 'Goat vs iPod' campaign during freshers' week to making students pancakes on a camping stove in the middle of campus. I've had the opportunity to travel around the UK and also overseas to places like Russia, Estonia and Switzerland.

I think by far the thing I've most appreciated is the Agapé family. Everyone looks out for each other and it's a really supportive environment to work in. I've made some great friends here!



6. We know that you are passionate about good worship music and that you are involved in the worship in your church. Tell us a little about your role, why you feel worship is so important and your favourite song (or two!!)

For me, music is one of the key ways I connect with God and hold on to great truths about who God is and what he has done for us. I lead the music team at my church in Birmingham, so I'm responsible for coordinating the rotas, choosing the songs and organising rehearsals. It's a job I love doing, and we're blessed to have a great group of musicians.

There are so many great songs out there. There's a group of songwriters from a band called **CityAlight** who have written some great songs recently including one called "*See Him in Jerusalem*" which is about the cross. Matt Redman's "*Who, O Lord, could save themselves?*" is also a favourite - a really simple message but also profoundly powerful. Anything by the Gettys is great too. There are too many to choose from!

7. You are now moving on to pastures new. Looking back on your time with Agapé, how do you think it's prepared you for your new role and what are you looking forward to in your new job?

I start a new job in August at Jaguar Land Rover as "Communications Coordinator" on their Global Technical Support team. I'm really excited about starting something new and the opportunities that brings, and my time with Agapé has given me many skills and experiences to help with the role.

God has brought me on a journey through Agapé, often in unexpected ways, so I look forward to seeing what he has in store for me next!

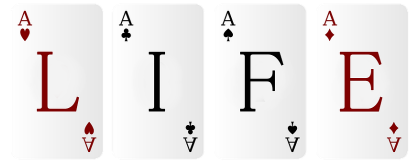
Finally, I'd like to say thank you to Park Church for their generous support of me and my work with Agapé over many years. I am so grateful - thank you!



We thank God for providing for Allan these past ten years with Agapé and for all the skills he has learned there. We thank Him that He has used these years to allow Allan to grow in his faith and to use his skills to be a blessing to others in the ministry. We pray that Allan will continue to be a real witness for Him as he enters the secular work environment and that God will protect and guide him.

Playing Cards with God

After one of the summer sermons, a member of the congregation approached me with the following letter but asked for it to be published anonymously. It was written on Tuesday, 2 January 2001 and the person was obviously reflecting on their life at the start of the new year.



I have been giving my life some thought; I feel I can see it as a deck of cards. All quite neatly stacked together but there are some that look a bit battered and used. Some are clean and have never been used. Some I had given away, but the people I gave them to used them for their own ends, messed them up and I had to get them out of the rubbish bin. Some folk held on to them for a while, giving me hope that they could be used in a really good and positive way. But while I wasn't looking, they threw them back, saying thanks but no thanks.

It took me some time to recognise that they no longer held the cards of my life, but that the remnants of these were lying at my feet. I had to pick up the pieces, clean them up, do my best to straighten them up and try and put them back into place as well as I could. I know life will never be perfect and I will have to have faith in God to continue to deal out the cards of my life, but hopefully, and prayerfully, God will show me who, when and where to deal them out.

I know I will still make mistakes but I will learn from experience who not to give them to, and only give out appropriate cards to appropriate people. I have given God this deck of cards of my life and have asked Him to help me give them out, because so far I have made a right mess. I pray that I will not take them back to deal out myself or use them for building things from my imagination that will fall flat with the slightest movement or breath of air.

So...for today I can see a **whole** pack of my life and God is right beside me with them. All the cards I need for **today**. I can't see them yet but when I need them, I need only look to God to pass them to me. The cards from yesterdays are all in place, a bit worse for wear but they are there. Tomorrow's cards may never be used, but then that is deo volente—God willing, whether I use them or not.

Pastoral Care Team



Helen McQuarrie

Our pastoral care team has been quietly busy listening to and journeying on with some folk. However, it's not only the pastoral care team that has been doing this, but also some of the congregation. I find it very encouraging that our Park Church Family is caring for one another.

Years ago I read a book by David Augsburger called *Caring Enough to Hear*. One of the things he said was, "Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person they are almost indistinguishable". I think we all can identify with this. When something is causing us to be upset, or fills us with anxiety, sharing it with someone we trust gives us a sense of, not only being heard, **BUT** also understood, which brings a peaceful quietness to our soul. The problem or heartache hasn't been taken away, but by being heard and understood, that person feels loved and valued.

I will be putting a book on the side table in church so you can record any requests for prayer (this can be anonymous if you wish) and for information of anyone in hospital, unwell at home or just wanting a visit. Recently we have missed a few people so the book will help keep us informed!

A little reminder of the members of our team who are always on hand to listen or help in any way they can.

Jessica Beecroft

Carol Murray

Nick Beecroft

Wilma McLean

Robert Miller

Helen Ooi

Ian McQuarrie

Helen McQuarrie— Phone 01698 816400

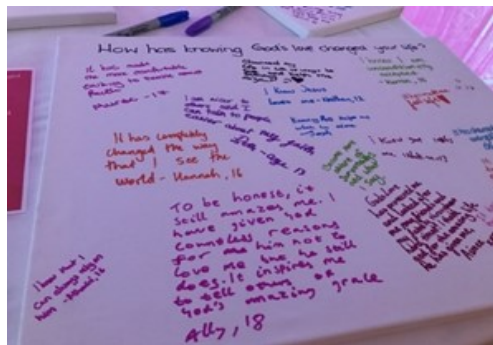
Summer “Encounter” at Park

One Sunday back in July, those coming to church had a new experience – one of interactive, creative prayer. Around the church were various prayer zones, each with a Bible verse to meditate on, a challenge to think about from the verse, and something to pray for. Each zone also had some sort of creative focus, such as writing in sand or making a ‘prayer pot’.

Prayer zones, or stations as they are normally called, are a highlight of the *Encounter* youth prayer event which I organise every year as part of my job for SU Scotland. A group of young people from church and Connect engage with this event each year, and thoroughly enjoy it!



It was a new venture for a Sunday morning, and a bit ‘out there’ for some of us who have never experienced anything like it before – so well done to everyone at Park for embracing it so openly! No one refused to take part; several folks came up at the end and said how much they had enjoyed it; and the feedback forms were certainly encouraging. Many found it challenged them to deeper prayer and compassion for others, making them think.



It isn't something we would do every week, but it did provide an opportunity to be challenged as to how we pray, how much we pray for others, and what we pray about. It was particularly lovely to see all ages mingling together and engaging, from tots to nonagenarians – truly a picture of the whole church family in worship. The silence gave us something rare in our busy world – precious time to reflect, and an opportunity to hear God speak; an opportunity to **encounter** God in a new way. *Elizabeth McDowall*

Local sponsorship to SU Holidays

About six or seven years ago I shared the vision of sponsoring local children to attend an SU Holiday each summer. Seeing the needs of some of the children who attended the SU Group at Muiredge Primary and Bothwell Primary, we desired to give these children – who were already showing interest in the Christian message and lived in challenging family circumstances – an opportunity to have a break and learn more about God. As ever, you responded generously and have continued to do so every year since, through the offering at our Easter services. Here is a wee update on the exciting things that have been happening as a result!



Rather than sponsoring different children every year, we are following our sponsored children on a journey. This summer we sent seven children in total to four different holidays, some primary camps and others secondary. Last winter we were also able to support them to local SU Lanarkshire weekends away. Going year on year to camp, and weekends in between, really makes a difference. It gives them a break from their challenging home circumstances and a chance to experience things that other children take for granted. Living in a Christian community is truly transformational – they experience Christian attitudes and values, a safe family atmosphere, the love, presence and power of God. Most significantly, they hear the good news of Jesus.

As a result, we have seen individuals grow in confidence, conquer fears, take steps of faith to follow Jesus, start attending church and start reading the Bible. Our oldest sponsored boy is now 16 and has been attending since he was in P6. After returning from camp last year, he indicated he wanted to become a Christian and go forward into trainee leadership. He attended SU's Basecamp leadership training event in June, served at a camp at Scoughall and got a great report! His Team Leader said he was sitting reading the Bible before camp began, was loved by the children in his care and was a popular team member. He is now asking to go back and also wishes to attend SU's discipleship conference for those in S4-S6. Praise God indeed!

Sponsorship has opened up pastoral opportunities with two families in particular. I am a welcome visitor, and both mums are very open about their struggles. Both recognise and appreciate the support that comes from the church - and ultimately from God. Please pray for them, that the grace of the Lord Jesus might touch them too. And pray for these children, that they may continue to grow in faith.

Elizabeth McDowall

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord!

The issue of what music we sing in church can be contentious but we should always remember the main purpose of worship: to give glory to God. Worship is not about us, it's about God!

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!” Psalm 98 v 4.



Both of these songs help us to reflect on God's goodness and mercy and his infinite love for us!

The hymn *How Great Thou Art* is one of the best known throughout the world and was made famous by the Billy Graham Crusades. However, this hymn was written in several different countries and in many different languages over a span of 70 years. It started out as a simple poem written by a Swedish lay pastor in 1885 who was describing the beauty of the countryside after thunderstorms. It was then translated into German and subsequently into Russian. Stuart K Hine, a British Methodist missionary stationed in the Carpathian mountains in Ukraine in 1931, heard the song and translated it into English, adding several verses of his own.

The first two verses take their inspiration from the beauty of God's creation after thunderstorms; the calm returning after the storm. The author's awe in response to this is recorded in the chorus.

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

*Then sings my soul, my saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

X2

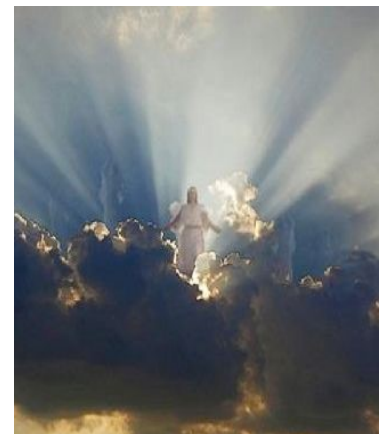


Stuart Hine and his wife were visiting a small village in Ukraine, and as they approached a believer's house they heard the crucifixion story from John's Gospel being read out loud. As they listened, they heard villagers crying out to God, asking him to forgive them of their sins and giving their lives to Christ. This act of repentance inspired Hine to add the third verse.

*And when I think that God, his son not sparing;
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died, to take away my sin.*

When famine and World War 2 forced Hine to leave Russia, he returned to Somerset in England where he worked with Eastern European refugees. These refugees expressed despair at not seeing their loved ones again on this earth and looked forward to seeing them again in heaven, thus prompting Hine to write the final verse.

*When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart,
Then shall I bow, in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"*



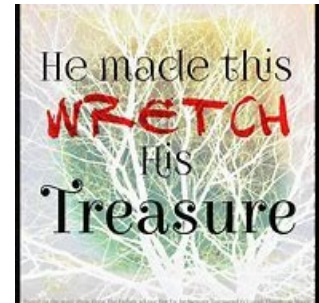
The final version was published in England in 1949 but did not become famous until the New York Crusade in 1957, when it was sung 99 times. From its origins as a humble Swedish poem, this hymn has become one of the most popular in the world telling the truths of God's greatness in creation, the greatness of Christ's redemption and the greatness of our future inheritance in heaven. O Store Gud—O Great God indeed, as the original version in Swedish proclaims!

To listen to the song, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GKhDCsLrUg>

How Deep the Father's Love by Stuart Townend was written in 1995 but has the air of a classic hymn and so appeals to the broader church. Like most Townend songs, it is theologically rich and, although it tells the redemption story from a personal perspective, it ultimately points to Christ. Townend says the melody came first, very easily and spontaneously. He then thought about a theme that would suit this simple melody and decided to tell the story of Christ on the cross, but from the point of view of what it cost the **Father** to give up his beloved son. We often focus on Christ's suffering but Townend wanted to emphasise the sacrifice the Father had made.

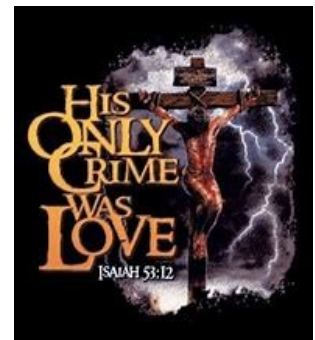
The first verse talks of the depth of the father's love, a depth that Paul reminds us of in Ephesians 3 v 18 "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ". We are filled with both joy that God would save us, and sorrow that our sin cost the Chosen One so dearly. The stark imagery of the Father turning his face away in anguish pierces our souls and emphasises the depth of the sacrifice.

*How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.*



In verse 2 the weight of our sin is juxtaposed with the vastness of his love for us. We are reminded that it is **our sin** "that held him there". We are made to examine our complicity; would we too have been one of the scoffers, crying out "Crucify him"? We cringe at that thought, thinking of the excruciating pain Christ felt for our sakes and marvel that God's love is deeper than our sin.

*Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon his shoulders,
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there,
Until it was accomplished,
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.*



In verse 3 we are reminded that it is only through Christ's ultimate sacrifice that we are saved - *His wounds have paid my ransom* - as prophesied in Isaiah 53 v 3-5. We cannot boast in anything we ourselves have done, it is purely by God's grace that we are saved and we can rest in the Father's love, knowing the work is completed.

*I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart -
His wounds have paid my ransom.*



This is a simple song but it proclaims the gospel in a nutshell. It encompasses the events of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ and our subsequent redemption through them. Our human minds cannot fathom why we "should gain from his reward?" but we know that through his death we are given life. There is no greater love story in history than that of God, the Father, sacrificing his only beloved son so that we, wretched sinners, are transformed into treasures that will one day take our place in heaven *with Him*. What an amazing love!

To listen to the song, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzQj7XvKFmA>

Verona calling...

Fabri and Elaine Toni have been living in Chiang Mai, Thailand for the last three years. God has been working in their lives during this time, preparing them for a new calling he has on their lives—to be missionaries in Fabri's home country of Italy. They shared a little of what God has been teaching them with us one night in August.



Fabri

During the three years Fabri spent teaching religious studies in Grace International School in Chiang Mai, he felt God telling him that, although learning doctrine is important, living out that doctrine is far more important if he was to have an impact on the boys he was teaching. We are not called to be scholars of Christ, we are called to be *followers*. He decided he needed to keep God uppermost in his mind at all times and chose to meditate on Psalm 23; he especially focused on the line, "I lack nothing". He realised that even though life wasn't perfect, that they faced economic challenges, not knowing if there would be enough money to cover their second year in Thailand, God was bigger than all these problems. ***"It is not for us to worry if there will be enough money; our job is to seek God and His kingdom and if it is God's will that we remain in Thailand, then He will provide. We need to live by faith and rely on God in every situation. We have a good Father."***

At the start of their second year in Thailand, Fabri felt God calling them to be missionaries in Italy. This seemed crazy when they had only been in Thailand a year! So Fabri asked God to show him, through books, the bible, fellow Christians, if this really was from Him. There were a few signs; a colleague asked if he'd ever thought of going to Italy as a pastor, his head of department said he thought Fabri would make a good pastor in Italy. This plan seemed to be coming from God. However, Elaine wasn't keen!

Elaine

By Elaine's own admission, she had a "resistant heart". She loved Thailand; she had already spent five years teaching maths there when she was single and hoped to do so again. At first she couldn't even pray about Italy but Fabri was patient; he knew it was up to God to change Elaine's heart. After three months, she was able to pray, but she was honest with God, she still didn't want to go! She didn't doubt that the calling to Italy was from God, for her it was all about submitting to God's will. She had made teaching maths her idol, it was the "love of her life" and she wasn't ready to give it up. She called this period her *Journey of Laying Down* - she would have to lay down all her dreams, her career as a teacher, her feeling of self-worth. However, over the period of a year, when God was very gracious to her, not ordering her to go, but being kind and patient, she came to realise that **God** is the source of her identity and self-worth, and He was asking her to repent of putting her dreams before His plan for her life.

By God's grace, Elaine was able to accept that God was shutting the door on Thailand and opening a new door to Italy. She reflected on many bible stories through this difficult time, particularly identifying with Jacob as he was asked to sacrifice Isaac. Jacob was being asked to give up so much more than her but he had faith that God would work all things together for the good if he put his trust in the Lord.

Now that Elaine was on board, they had to persuade their church elders at home that God was calling them to Italy. The last time they had spoken about Italy, the elders had said "no". Fabri and Elaine arranged a meeting with the elders in summer 2017 and were full of trepidation about how they would broach the subject. To their surprise, the elders responded with, "We were wondering when God would call you to Italy". God had gone before them and changed their hearts!

In September, Fabri and Elaine will start their ministry at the *Centro Cristiano Evangelico* in Verona, a small evangelical church founded by an Australian missionary in 1969. This is an independent church of around 40-50 members. There is no pastor; it is led by senior elders. Please pray for Fabri and Elaine that they will be able to reach the local community, through bible studies, clubs and simply getting alongside people. They envisage a "Barnabas-like Ministry", encouraging people in their faith so that they would really enjoy life **IN** God. Pray too for encouragement and God's peace for the Toni family as they settle into life in Italy. We pray for the provision of a house, a car, school for the children (Rebecca, 5 and Matteo, 2) and for Elaine to pick up the language easily.

When Fabri left Italy all those years ago to study at Tilsley College and the ICC, his church in Italy had said, "Don't forget us here". God has taken him on a journey; via theology training in Scotland, marriage to Elaine, teacher training and teaching positions in Scotland and Thailand, but now he is taking him back to pastor his own people.



**How great is our
God!**

Lode a Dio!

Uddingston Pride Update

Craft Fayre

The Craft Fayre in Park Church in June proved to be very popular with locals and visitors once again. Every available table was booked by enthusiastic local crafters, and the standard of goods on display was as high as ever. The level of support from local people was most gratifying, and a good many items were bought to decorate houses throughout the village.



A special thanks to the ladies who so ably managed the tea room, and to those who produced the home baking.

In mid-July, we held an Open Garden event; visitors were able to visit and enjoy a number of very different private gardens. 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 tea or coffee with some delicious home baking. The purpose of this event is mainly social, but the group's funds received a modest boost from the donations received. Many thanks to all who came along and gave their support.

With the prolonged hot, dry spell of weather, it has been a particularly busy summer this year. Keeping the bedding plants watered has been a challenge, and we hope you will agree that the village has looked its best once again. We give a special thanks to all those who gave of their time to keep the plants healthy and colourful.

We put the finishing touches to the village prior to the visit by the judges from **Beautiful Scotland** at the very end of July. Quite an effort, but worth it, we hope!

We were happy to show the judges round our village and we hope they were pleased with what they saw. Highlights of the tour included the War Memorial, the Station, Crofthead Park, and the churches, which always look great and are a credit to their respective gardeners. A new delight for the judges this year was a visit to the Viewpark Organic Gardens, where they were greatly impressed with what has been achieved in such a short time.

We also took them to Bothwell Castle, where one of our members gave them a potted history of the castle, right up to the present day. Then at the Golf Course, the Club General Manager gave them a brief review of the environmental aspects of the care and attention required to maintain the greens to the very high standard achieved there. 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 Ceremony in early September. The judges certainly seemed to be impressed; hopefully enough to award us gold again!

We are co-hosting our local **World's Biggest Coffee Morning** on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support on **Saturday 28 September**. It is being held in the David Milne Centre from 10am-12noon. Hope to see you there!



**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING**
**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



Park Ladies' Association

We enjoyed a varied session last year with speakers from Chilli Children, so-called because the mothers grow chilli to earn money when fathers have deserted their sick children; Rev Clive Tuttle who spoke about William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army; Rachel McLellan who told the heart-warming story of how she made friends with a girl who had received her box in the Shoebox Appeal and Colin Gunning who spoke about the Ministry of Song. Our guest night had to be cancelled because of The Beast from the East but the Inbetweeners have been rebooked for this year, weather permitting!

Some of the ladies are knitting hats for 4-18 year old refugees as part of the UF's Home and Overseas Committee's Appeal.

The theme of the meetings for the 2018-19 session is **"Walking in Wisdom"**. A warm welcome is extended to all ladies in the fellowship to join us at our meetings on Thursday evenings on the dates below.

**How much better
to get wisdom
than gold,
To get insight
rather than silver!**

Proverbs 16 v 16

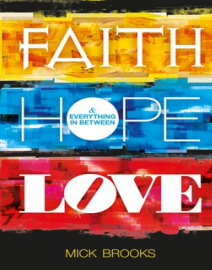
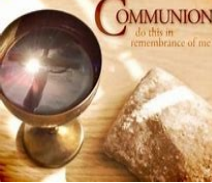
SYLLABUS 2018-2019

4 October		"Walking in Wisdom" Rev. Bruce McDowall
18 October		Gie's a Job Irene Dick
1 November		Stonehouse Primary School Choir Joyce Crichton
3 November		Coffee Morning 10 am—12 noon
6 December		Christmas Evening
10 January		Ukraine Elizabeth McDowall
17 January		Night Out TBA
7 February		Charity work in Belarus Cindy MacKenzie
7 March		The Inbetweeners United Meeting—Guest Night
4 April		AGM and Bring and Buy Sale

For further information, please speak to Mrs Irene Cassels

Dates for the Diary



Sunday 2 September 	10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving Café church format where we will reflect on what it means to be a Fruitful Fellowship for Jesus Christ. Gifts will go to Glasgow City Mission Bield Housing Service 6.30pm
Sunday 9 September	10.30am The Ten Commandments Then.... and Now A new series exploring the significance and relevance of the Ten Commandments for the Christian today. 
Sunday 16 September	6.30pm Third Sunday Faith, Hope, Love and everything In Between A DVD-based course providing a practical, honest look at the obstacles, opportunities and questions common to us in our Christian life. 
Sunday 7 October	10.30am Holy Communion Update from MAF by Ian Neilson 6.30pm Service led by one of our Fellowship Groups 
Sunday 28 October	"Gospel and Blues" Praise with Origin Scotland 7.00 pm Kenmuir Mt Vernon Church
Sunday 4 November	6.30pm Family Film Night with Fish and Chip Supper 
Sunday 11 November	10.30am Remembrance Sunday 1918-2018 <i>The War to end all Wars</i> 6.30pm Nazarene Church United Community Thanksgiving Service 
Sunday 25 November	10.30am Suffering Church Sunday Shoebox Appeal collection deadline 
Sunday 2 December	10.30am First Sunday in Advent Holy Communion Village Christmas Afternoon 



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