

Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Letter from the Minister

Autumn 2024

As most of you know, the Kirk Session, augmented by Janice Clark-Dick and Helen Ooi, has been looking at the issue of appointing a Ministry Assistant. The idea is that this person would come alongside us here, and help us explore areas of future ministry for our church. They would also be open to being part of that future when I retire. Our church leaders have spent much time prayerfully reflecting on all of this, and a Job Description has now been prepared which will come before the Kirk Session to be signed off (or otherwise) at the beginning of September.

I am conscious that not all of us are aware of what this idea would involve, or are even sure about the thinking behind it, so I will try and explain the concept.

Firstly, the days when a congregation could be confident that in the event of a vacancy it would be able to quickly call a new minister are long gone. Within the United Free Church, there are no ministers in training and few who would even be, hypothetically, available for a move. The most recent vacancies have been filled with ministers coming into our denomination. The challenge of that is that often bringing folk into a church, without any real knowledge of the history or ethos of a congregation, can be difficult, especially when it follows a relatively long ministry.



In reality, Park could well face a long vacancy with, humanly speaking, few options open to it. The pressure of such a vacancy on those who are bearing leadership responsibilities would become a burden. The temptation to grab the first possible available person would become great. To use a wedding metaphor, as we all know, "marry in haste, repent in leisure". A "shotgun marriage" could well be inevitable, and that may well not be a sustainable relationship that would prosper the work of the kingdom.

Secondly, to have someone who becomes known to the congregation, and can begin to exercise a ministry amongst us, would allow you to gauge their suitability to be your next pastor-teacher. It would also allow the person to ascertain their own suitability and yes, quite frankly, whether they would want to serve the Lord amongst us, or not! Again, the wedding motif; a time of courtship could take place prior to any *engagement* and provide a sure foundation for a lasting relationship.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, there is scriptural warrant for such an arrangement. Moses mentored and supported Joshua to become the next leader of Israel; Paul did the same with Titus and Timothy in New Testament times. The Early Church Fathers usually sponsored someone who would carry on the teaching ministry into the next generation.



In contemporary times, the idea of having a colleague and potential successor has been embraced by a number of other traditions, although it may be a new endeavour within the United Free Church. Another congregation within the denomination wanted to explore the idea, but were told they couldn't. We were less easily put off the idea!

However, even in secular employment, the idea of planned succession is being adopted.



The apostle Paul, as well as supporting Timothy and Titus in leadership, gave clear instructions as to how leaders were to be appointed. He gives instructions to them both to:

...appoint elders in every town...he must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine. Titus 1 v 5, 9

As a teaching elder, he must:

...be above reproach, faithful...temperate...self-controlled. He must manage his own family well...not a recent convert...have a good reputation with outsiders. 1 Timothy 3 v 2-7

It is similar qualities that will inform us as we begin our search for this Ministry Assistant. We won't be rushed into it, or present to the congregation someone who does not fulfil the overall qualifications.

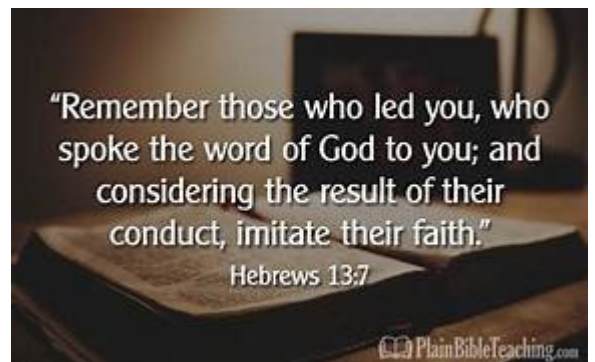


Your responsibility is to

- **pray about this time of change and**
- **pray for your leaders as we seek to journey through it.**

Remember your leaders...consider the outcome of their faith...have confidence in them and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. Pray for us...

Hebrews 13 v 7, 17-18a



As a congregation, you will be kept informed of due processes and whoever the person may be, they will lead worship one Sunday before any commitments are made. Watch this space!

Thank you for your prayerful concern and interest in this matter.

With my prayerful best wishes

Wm B Russell

Fellowship Groups

As we start a new session, it may be that you have always wanted to join a Fellowship Group but didn't know how to go about it. We have a variety on offer across the week that cater for both working and retired people. Speak to **Bruce, Elizabeth** or **Jessica** for more information.

Why join a Fellowship Group? God did not make any of us to live in isolation and we desire to be connected with fellow believers. In a small group we can encourage and support each other in our spiritual growth, safe in the knowledge that our fellow believers have our best interests at heart. Coming together with other believers in study and conversation reminds us we are not alone on our journey of faith or in this world.



What happens at a Fellowship Group? Different groups' programmes may vary, but normally we would start with sharing the word of God, by reading a Bible passage, watching a video or studying a book together. We would then discuss the passage and explore its relevance to our lives today. The meeting concludes with a time of prayer, but there is no pressure on anyone to pray out loud, it is perfectly ok to sit and pray in silence. And of course, there is always a cup of tea provided and opportunity to chat and build up friendships.

If you are not part of a group already, maybe this is the year to join!

PRIVATE PRAYER/DEVOTIONALS

The church will remain open on a **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** for private prayer. During these times, short devotionals will be led by the minister at 10.30am on Tuesday morning and at 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening.



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

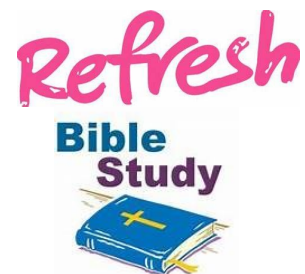
Re-fresh on Wednesday is held weekly at 2.30pm in the church hall

Men at the Manse is held fortnightly on a Thursday at 7.30pm

Faith on Friday is held fortnightly on a Friday at 10am at the Manse

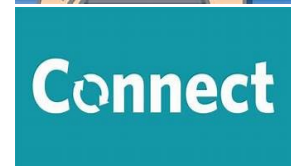
Women in the Word is held fortnightly on a Sunday evening at 8pm at the Manse

Younger Women in the Word (on Zoom) is held fortnightly on a Wednesday evening at 8pm



YOUTH MINISTRY

CONNECT—our ministry with younger people on a Monday evening will be held in the church hall from 7-9pm.



PRAYER GROUP

The Open to God prayer time on a Saturday morning at 9am continues on Zoom and you are encouraged to join with others in this vital corporate prayer ministry.



Let us not neglect our meeting together...but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.

Hebrews 10 v 25 (NLT)

Living by Faith

Russell and Helen Brooks have recently joined our fellowship although Helen attended Park during her childhood and for part of her adult life. They got married in May of this year and have settled in Hamilton with their little dog, Jackie. Russell is a retired minister so has been able to help out with preaching at various UF churches including our own. Here they tell us a little bit about themselves, their lives and their faith.



Tell us a little about your early childhood and education

Russell: I was born in Ashgill, Lanarkshire and brought up in a Christian home with a Brethren background. My father was a nurseryman who grew commercial tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers and numerous flowers. He was also a poultry farmer. My mother taught me about the gospel from childhood, and I went to the local primary school in Blackwood, then onto Lesmahagow for High School.

At that time, I had no interest in education and left school to do my apprenticeship in Stonehouse as a joiner, shopfitter and cabinet maker. The company I worked for made us all go to Technical College, and although at first I was very reticent, I ended up loving college and finished my education at night school. I moved to Glasgow and worked for a larger London-based company who taught me structural engineering. I completed the training once again at College. God was good to me and opened doors I would never have thought possible, and I give Him all the glory for that.

Helen: I had a very happy childhood and grew up with my brother Jim and sister Shona. Every Sunday after church, we visited our nana and papa in Larkhall and spent many happy times with them over the years, sometimes going to the Tabernacle with our nana. Mum and dad took us to lots of parks where we had many picnics during the summer holidays and life was full of joy and laughter. I attended Halfmerk and Muiredge Primary Schools and completed my secondary education at Uddingston Grammar.

When did you come to faith?

Russell: As a child I came to faith in the Lord Jesus through my older brother, Lindsay. My parents were out for the evening, and I remember asking Lindsay when they would be coming home. Using that as a scenario, he asked me a simple question. What would I do if I awoke in the morning and all my family had gone to heaven? Where would I be? He showed me, through the scriptures, how I needed to be saved if I wanted to go to heaven with them. I trusted the saviour that night at the age of eight.

Helen: I was born into faith. I have believed in God all of my life.



What brought you to Park?

Russell: After I retired as full-time pastor at Troon Baptist Church, I met my wife Helen, and we were trying out different churches for us to attend. One Sunday she said to me that we should go to her Dad's old church and the church she had been brought up in. This happened to be Park. I immediately felt at home after that first service and we have been coming here ever since. I joined the church as a member last year.

Helen: Both of my parents (Jim and Helen Dow), lived daily by faith all of their lives and we attended Park Church all through my childhood. I was christened here, as were my own children. I was also a Sunday School teacher at Park for a few years.



Working Life and Hobbies



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CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
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Reaching children worldwide™

Russell: Lindsay and I both became pastors in different churches, Lindsay in Canada and myself in Scotland. He and I were extremely close until he passed away a few years ago. Both of us enjoyed mission trips together, and through that I became a missionary with **Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)** and travelled all over USA, Europe and Central Asia with my work for them. God gave me the opportunity to preach the gospel in many different churches all over Europe as well as India, USA and the UK. Our God is so good! Because of my pastoral duties and mission work, I did not have time for a lot of hobbies, but I still enjoy making things out of wood when I get the chance. I also enjoy a game of golf when the opportunity presents itself.

Helen: I am recently retired after a long career working in the sales department of the Housebuilding sector, latterly being Sales Director for a developer. I like to spend quality time with family and friends and going on holidays and days out with Russell. We like to walk our dog, Jackie, who is a Jack Russell terrier. Russell named her! I am also interested in both interior and exterior design. And of course, shopping!

What are your favourite scriptures and why are they important to you?

Russell: I have two favourite verses; the one I learned as a child when I was saved, **Romans 10 v 9-10**.

....because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart, one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

My dear mother died last year at the age of 103, and Helen and I used to sing the little chorus she taught me as a child, using this verse, every time we visited her in the retirement home.

The other verse that is very special to me is the verse God gave to me when He called me into full-time service with CEF, **Esther 4 v 14**.

And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this? (ESV)

How true it has turned out to be on many occasions in my life as I seek to serve Him. Thank you, Lord, for calling me, unworthy as I am. Thank you, Jesus, for saving me with your precious blood.

Helen: I too have two favourite verses to share. The first is **1 Corinthians 13 v 13**.

So now faith, hope and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love. (ESV)

If we don't know or have love, we have nothing. So many people fail to know the true meaning of love.

The other verse that means a lot to me is **Jeremiah 29 v 11**.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." (NIV)

This passage helped me during a personally trying time.

What is your favourite hymn?

Russell: My favourite hymn is MP 641. **The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended**. We sang this hymn at every evening camp meeting before the children went to their tents or dormitories. I remember singing it as a child at my first camp when I was ten years old. And we sang it at every camp thereafter. It is a wonderful hymn of praise to our great God and Father who gives us all things so richly to enjoy.

Helen: My favourites are **The Old Rugged Cross** as I loved to hear my father singing it and I also like **It is well with my soul** which is a beautiful, meaningful hymn that touches my heart. A modern choice would be **Champion** by Dante Bowe as this is my testimony song. [Champion \[Studio Version\] - Bethel Music, Dante Bowe \(youtube.com\)](#)



Running the Race for Jesus

I am sure many of us have been glued to our TVs over this past month watching the Paris 2024 Olympics. It is 100 years since Paris last hosted the Olympic Games. The Paris Games in 1924 signalled the acceptance of the Games as a major event and introduced the Closing Ceremony where three flags were raised, the flag of the International Olympic Committee, the flag of the host nation and the flag of the next host nation.

Many athletes work for four years to peak in time for the Games but in 1924 a Scottish runner, called Eric Liddell, refused to run his 100m heat because it fell on the Sabbath day. We look here at the man and his faith and why He put honouring Jesus before taking any glory for himself.



And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12 v 1b-2

The Race of His Life

Eric Liddell was born in 1902 and died in 1945, but he packed a lot into his short life. Liddell was born in China, to Scottish missionary parents, James and Mary Liddell, and the young Liddell considered himself Chinese. Later, Eric, along with his brother, was sent to a boarding school near London but he never forgot China. He went on to study at Edinburgh University where he became well known as both a preacher and a runner. Liddell was also capped for the Scottish international rugby team seven times. He first gained national recognition by winning both the 100 and 200 metre events at the Amateur Athletic Association championships in 1923.

His best event was the 100 metres where he was expected to win the gold medal. However, when he arrived at the Games in 1924, he discovered the heats were to be run on Sunday. He dropped out despite enormous pressure from the British Olympic Management and the popular press. Liddell felt that God wished him to keep Sundays free from sport, and in so doing, he was honouring God. Instead, he trained for the 200 and 400 metre races. He finished third, winning a bronze medal in the 200 metres race. He was not expected to do well in the 400 metres as this was not his preferred distance. On the morning of the race he was handed a slip of paper with a verse of scripture, **1 Samuel 2 v 30**:

He that honours me, I will honour.

Against all odds he won gold in the 400 metres in a record time of 47.6 seconds, shattering both Olympic and World records. This story is well documented in the 1981 Oscar-winning film ***Chariots of Fire***. In the film Liddell's character says,

I believe God made me for a purpose—but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.

These words were not actually said by Liddell himself; they were from the screenwriter. However, Liddell believed that, **God made him for China**. Within a year, with the world at his feet, he left for China to serve as a missionary, teaching English.



In 1943 he was imprisoned by the Japanese and served his fellow prisoners with unrelenting self-sacrifice. His witness for Christ, even in these circumstances, astounded fellow Christians in the prison. Sadly, by 1945 his health was failing and he died of a brain tumour in the prison camp, aged just 43.

His grave on the site of the prison camp is marked with a memorial headstone with the well-known verse from **Isaiah 40 v 31**:

They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary.

In his excellent booklet telling Liddell's story, called **Running the Race of Your Life**, J John shows how Liddell's example poses us some serious questions:

**What takes priority in our lives?
What controls how we live?
What price are we prepared to pay?**

He says that, "Liddell's life was dominated by three things: one guide, the Bible; one figure, Jesus, whom he took as his living Lord; one goal, giving all he had for the Jesus who had saved him". And he concludes with this question:

Eric Liddell ran the race of his life faithfully and well. Will you?

You can read the booklet for yourself online at:
<https://issuu.com/philotruf/docs/running-the-race-of-your-life->



Paris 2024 Olympics

Eric Liddell's story is inspirational for any Christian and is well-known throughout the world. However, there were also many Christians competing in the Paris 2024 Olympics who were not afraid to share their faith.

Adam Peaty, a three-time Olympics champion swimmer, credits finding faith in Jesus for changing his life around. He had battled with depression, alcoholism and mental health problems for many years. After his silver medal-winning swim, he posted on his Instagram account:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3 v 5-6

The first St Lucien athlete to win a medal for her country, **Julien Alfred**, wrote on Instagram:

I told God whenever I win I will give Him the glory. So I thank God for bringing me through, for giving me the strength to come so far, and Father, I give You the glory.



And it was a gold medal!

The Australian high jumper, **Nicola Olyslagers** (formerly McDermott) is well known for her Christian faith. She has many biblically-themed tattoos on her body and whenever she jumps, she writes a biblical reference on her wrist. Before winning silver in the Paris Olympics, she wrote this verse from **1 John 4 v 18**:

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

She also has the word **REVIVAL** written on her shoes. She is co-founder of **Everlasting Crowns Ministry**, which aims **"to see fellow athletes transformed by Jesus' perfect love, planted in churches, and brought out to be a blessing to every place they are sent"**.

As athletes compete and lean on the promises of God, they have endless opportunities to grow as they live out their faith. Their standing and identity as a child of God remains the same, win or lose, and God uses all situations, both the highs and the lows, to draw His people closer to Himself. We thank God for these athletes who have been bold to speak out about their faith, just as Eric Liddell did all those years ago.



Church News

Children and Families' Worker Appeal

On 19 May the congregation was asked to prayerfully consider supporting the funding appeal for our Children and Families' Worker post for the next two years. Helen explained why it was so important that this work continued and informed the congregation we were hoping to raise £12k per annum. Pledge forms were given out which had to be returned by 30 June with Standing Orders to be set up by 1 August to allow the work to continue.

We were overwhelmed by the generous response from the congregation so **THANK YOU** for both your prayers and financial support. We have received in the region of double what we asked for, a staggering **£24k per annum**, including the all important Gift Aid!

To God be the Glory!

Football Fever

The summer of sport kicked off with the UEFA Euro 2024 tournament on 14 June. Jessica arranged for the opening match between Scotland and Germany to be shown on the big screens in the church and an invitation was extended to all families in the community to come and watch it together. The church was decorated with Scottish flags and those who came enjoyed both the match and the juice and popcorn provided. We just won't mention the score!



Ladies' Association Afternoon Tea

by Pat Robertson

On Thursday 11 July, the **Ladies' Association** had the privilege of holding a social afternoon tea event in the Manse garden with 23 ladies attending. We were blessed with a dry afternoon with even some sunshine which was greatly appreciated and you will see some ladies really got into the spirit of a "Garden Party" having come attired wearing hats. Home baking was provided by the ladies on the committee and good natter was exchanged at each table. The group of ladies have been faithful attenders of the LA monthly meetings where on average 23 folks have come month on month, which has been extremely encouraging.

We commence our monthly meetings for the new session on Thursday 3 October at 2pm. There is an open invitation for all to come along and join this lovely group of ladies; you will be made very welcome. We endeavour to provide a varied programme of speakers so please consider joining us. Our theme for the year ahead is very aptly, **Help In A Troubled World**.



So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12 v 5

Fire Drill

On Sunday 11 August we held a fire drill at the start of the morning service. The church was evacuated quickly and efficiently with everyone accounted for. We hope that we will never need to put this into practice in real life, but it's better to be prepared! Thanks to everyone for cooperating with this important exercise.



Back to School with God

This year's Scripture Union-based service was held on Sunday 18 August and was led by Ian and Jessica. The theme this year was **Spot the Difference** which explored Jesus' interactions with the blind man and Zacchaeus in Jericho (**Luke 18 v 35– 19 v 10**). We see how meeting with Jesus changed them in ways others could clearly see, they could **spot the difference** of how they were before and after meeting Jesus. The children participated in spontaneous drama to illustrate the two stories and the congregation was invited to discuss the following questions:

- Can you spot any differences between the blind beggar and Zacchaeus before, during and after they met Jesus?
- If you were the blind beggar or Zacchaeus, how would you have felt when Jesus spoke to you?
- If you had been in the crowd that day, what would you have gone home and told people?



We compared the attitude of the two men before meeting with Jesus. The blind beggar was desperate to meet with Jesus as he knew Jesus had the power from God, and so he cried out for his help. Zacchaeus, however, was just curious, hoping to see what this Jesus was all about. We also looked at their subsequent response to this meeting. The blind beggar danced around and praised the Lord telling others what Jesus had done for him. Zacchaeus was convicted of his sins, righted his wrongs and showed God's love in practical ways.

When we meet with Jesus and start following Him, there is an inner change in us. God gives us a new start.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5 v 7

Both men came from Jericho and we can only wonder what impact their experiences had on the people around them. Similarly with ourselves, we are called to make an impact for Jesus in our community today. The inner change in us should be manifest in our outward actions. Is It?



Harvest Thanksgiving

This year's **Harvest Thanksgiving** service will take place on **Sunday 1 September** and donations will be in aid of Scripture Union in Ukraine and Hungary.

Karen Stangoe will speak about her work with SU Lanarkshire and Elizabeth McDowall will talk about the camp she attended with the young people from Scotland in Budapest this July.

Special envelopes will be provided so that you can donate a monetary gift to this work as the Lord lays it on your heart to do so on Harvest Sunday.



OPEN
BIBLE



Come let us sing for joy to the Lord!

There is no more relevant message today that the world needs to hear than, Come unto Jesus. The modern version is based on the original hymn, Come, Ye Disconsolate, which is not the catchiest of titles but the message remains the same. Jesus invites us to bring all our hurts, our anxieties and our weariness to Him, especially when we are wandering in the valley of despair. He knows our brokenness and stands ready to offer us His healing and love.



Come, Ye Disconsolate

The words of this old hymn were written by Thomas Moore who was born in 1779 and died in 1852. He was an Irish Catholic and attended Trinity College in Dublin but was not allowed to graduate because of his faith. Although he trained as a lawyer, he found no satisfaction in this field and devoted his life to literature. He wrote about 32 poems which were set to Irish tunes which were then published in *Sacred Songs* in 1816.

Moore wrote the first two stanzas of this hymn. The first verse depicts a tone of melancholy and deep despondency. The disconsolate are encouraged to bring their troubles to God "at the mercy seat". Verse 2 shows us the joy offered by God if we repent and finally verse 3 tells us who can remove our sorrows. It is Jesus that offers us the bread of life and through Him that we can experience the living waters flowing from the throne of God. In 1831, Thomas Hastings altered the text and rewrote the third stanza when it was published in *Spiritual Songs for Social Worship*, thus ensuring the song would live on. The biblical foundation of the hymn is taken from 2 Corinthians 1, v 3-7.

1. Come, you disconsolate, where're you languish
come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish,
Earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal.
2. Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,
hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure!
Here speaks the Comforter, in mercy saying,
"Earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot cure."
3. Here see the bread of life; see waters flowing
forth from the throne of God, pure from above.
Come to the feast prepared; come, ever knowing,
Earth has no sorrows but heaven can remove.

Despite the title, this is a hymn of comfort and encouragement for those facing sorrow or those who are feeling wearied by life's challenges. Most of us will have faced crushing disappointments in our life at one time. In **Hebrews 4, v 14-16** we are reminded that through Christ, our High Priest, there is "mercy and....grace to help in time of need". We are told to approach the Throne of Grace with boldness. If you are carrying a heavy burden today, give it over to Jesus. We are assured that **"earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot cure"**. Jesus is the great physician, of both body and soul; He is the only one who can restore us and make us whole.



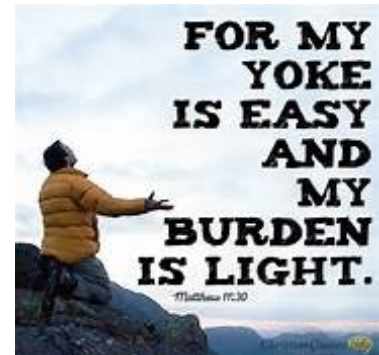
To listen to the song, click [here](#)

Come unto Jesus

This song was written by Laura Story, Jordan Kauflin and Matthew Merker, with collaboration from Keith and Kristyn Getty, and was released in 2023. It is based on the old hymn discussed on the previous page, and embraces a modern hymn style of worship with the intention of bringing people to the heart of Jesus. In the words of Laura Story:

...there seems to be this idea that we have to have it all together...But the standard of Jesus, the invitation of Jesus is to bring our weaknesses to Him. It's to bring our mess to Him, our lack of togetherness to Him, and really experience from Him a deep soul rest that the world can't offer.

The invitation is for everyone, not just the righteous, it's for those who are weary, broken and weighed down by life's sorrows. We are invited to find our solace and rest in the arms of Jesus. The first verse reminds us that no matter what heartaches or challenges we face in life, Jesus is the one constant and only He can heal our fractured hearts and weary souls. Verse 2 acknowledges our human propensity to wander in the wrong direction or without purpose, and in these periods of our life, Jesus should be our guiding light, bringing us back to the path of righteousness. We are reminded of those verses in **Matthew 11 v 30: For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**



1. Come unto Jesus, all you who are weary
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel
Here bring your wounded heart, broken and needy
Come unto Jesus, mighty to heal
2. Joy of the comfortless, light for the straying
Hope for the penitent, peace in our strife
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying
"My yoke is easy, my burden is light."
3. Come, taste the Bread of Life broken for sinners
Drink from the cup of His promise made sure
Feast at His table as sons and as daughters
Grace overflowing is yours evermore
4. Come now and follow Him, this life forsaking
All that was gained count as nothing but loss
Trade all this world for His kingdom unfading
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross
Life everlasting He offers to us

Chorus

Come unto Jesus, come unto Jesus
Lay down your burdens, He is enough
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love

Last Chorus

Come unto Jesus, come unto Jesus
Lay down your burdens, He is enough
Come unto Jesus, come unto Jesus
Lay down your burdens, He is enough
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love



Verse 3 invites us to share in the Bread of Life and to drink from the cup of His promise—this is not to satisfy any physical need but to feed the deep hunger that lies in our souls which can only be filled by Jesus' love and grace. Verse 4 offers us a new way of life. We are invited to take up our cross and follow Him (**Matthew 16 v 24**), to leave our old lives behind and to find our true purpose.

The world can maybe offer relief from pain for a moment, the world can offer us distraction from our problems for a moment but Jesus is the only person who can truly offer us rest. He doesn't always do that by changing our circumstances, but He actually offers us a rest that we can deeply feel in the midst of our hard circumstances.
- Laura Story

To listen to the song,
[click here](#)

A Peep Behind the Curtain

Marcus Bailey spent a month with us this summer, shadowing Bruce and finding out what life as a pastor entails. Marcus is currently completing a PhD in Theology at the University of Oxford so is used to a very different environment. He has kindly taken time off from his studies to share his experiences of his internship in Uddingston and how these few weeks helped focus his thoughts on what the future might hold for him. We wish him all the best as he concludes his studies this term.



Tell us a little about your journey to faith

I grew up and went to school in Airdrie. My only engagement with church as a child was at Christmas and Easter with the primary school. It was just before my teenage years that I began going to church regularly with my grandfather. If a verse could sum up my coming to faith, it would have to be:

Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6 v 37

I couldn't have given you chapter and verse at the time though! So simple, and yet so profound, Jesus' statement was the key to the right relationship with others and, most importantly, with God.



During my teenage years, I grew in confidence in the teachings of the Bible, in no small part due to the influence of an RE teacher at school. We were never taught "the right view" in class, but through group discussions on a range of biblical and ethical topics, I came to a surer view on what I believed. The class sparked an academic interest too; I've studied theology to PhD level.

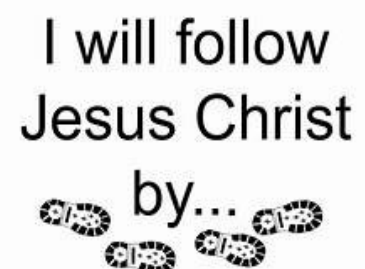
How did your internship at Park differ from your preconceived perception of it?

I visited Park once at New Year before deciding to come on the internship. Something which never struck me then, but which I sense more clearly now, is the church's engagement with the community, whether in providing support or being a forum for public discussion, most notably at the Hustings for the General Election. What is encouraging is that these efforts are not simply about promoting the good, but rather they are a bridgehead from which we can demonstrate our faith to a society that has largely forgotten it.



Your "Oxford Experience" obviously differs greatly from life in a suburban village and parish like Uddingston. What differences stood out for you?

Oxford is, in many ways, different from Uddingston and church life is no exception. There are many lively churches across the range of Christian denominations/traditions to choose from. As a university city, Oxford sees many young people in their twenties and thirties in church. In suburban churches, like those in Uddingston, this demographic is often missing from the pews. More affluent and socially mobile than some other areas of Lanarkshire, Uddingston, I suspect, sees more young people with some church background move away to university or work, rather than commute. This would only heighten the demographic gap.



However, what I have encountered in both places are faithful Christians, seeking to live their lives for God.

Has the experience at Park helped focus your thoughts on how you see your future career, e.g. staying in academia, pastoral work or something else?

Being at Park helped me see “behind the curtain”, as it were, into the life of a minister. (In case there is any doubt, Bruce’s job is more than a Sunday morning gig!) Besides teaching, I was involved in pastoral visitation and meeting with church office-bearers. Valuable too was time spent in the wider denomination, at church in Milngavie, and with other ministers.

I am not yet certain about whether to go down an academic or a pastoral route. Both have their own attractions and their challenges; whichever I choose, I want to make sure my faith remains a practical one. My time at Park has helped focus my mind. I am grateful that I could begin to explore whether I have a calling to ministry.

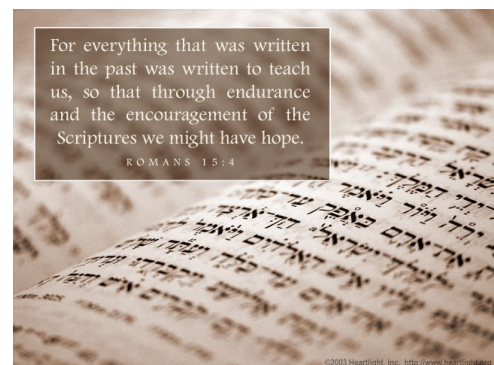


Shadowing Bruce and getting to know you all for a month was a real joy.

How did you find the preaching experience?

Preaching is not entirely new to me; I have preached twice before at mid-week communion services in Oxford. Sermons there would be shorter and pre-written. So it was a new experience speaking for 30 minutes without complete notes!

As I explained in my sermon on my last Sunday at Park, I think it’s especially important to explain how the biblical stories relate to us today—this is something Paul makes clear.



Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction. Romans 15 v 4

He was speaking of the Old Testament, which can be daunting for many Christians to read. “What does this mean?” and “What does this mean *for me*?” are questions people often ask. But if we can see in the narratives, not just history, but examples for us to follow; as types and shadows of what is fulfilled in the New Testament, then we can get more from reading and hearing the Old Testament.

What did God teach you during your time at Park?

I am reminded of Jesus’ encounter with the centurion in Matthew’s Gospel (**Ch 8 v 5-13**) . The centurion says

Just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

This kind of faith, one of obedience to God, one which trusts in His power to change things dramatically, is what we are all called to. Yet, I find a particular application for me as I consider a calling to Christian service. The centurion recounts telling his servant to do something, and he does it. I have to ask myself,

Do I follow Christ’s commands like this?

I found the internship helpful in learning to live this way. Receiving instruction in the simplest of tasks, as well as in more weighty matters, continued to form in me this attitude of obedience and service necessary for all of us, but particularly for those called to lead.

For Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve. Matthew 20 v 28

And so must I - in whatever role I am given.



Grow Uddingston Update

by Donald Burt



SUMMER IS IN FULL BLOOM!

Although the Summer so far has been very poor weather-wise, the baskets, planters and tubs around the village are all looking very colourful and hopefully giving everyone a lift, as well as a sense of pride to live in Uddingston.

As mentioned previously, we had quickly to contend with some local council cutbacks in the Spring, with the council intimating that they would be grassing over some of the flowerbeds that they usually maintain, as well as no longer placing baskets on the lampposts along the Main Street. In addition to making alternative planting arrangements for the flowerbed at Kylepark Drive/Blantyre Farm Road, we managed to quickly obtain eight sponsors, who sponsored a lamppost each. Our sponsors included **The Ladies' Association** at Park Church who donated the proceeds of the Tea and Coffee sales during our Plant Sale in May. The sponsored lamppost is located adjacent to the church, with a notice carrying the appropriate details.

The grass at the entrance to Crofthead Park had suffered due to people taking a shortcut, so we tried placing some wooden planters at one part of the entrance. This seemed to work and so recently **Bothwell and Uddingston Men's Shed** kindly built us more so that the entrance to the park could be further enhanced.

We entered the **Keep Scotland Beautiful Beautiful Scotland** competition again this year with the judges visiting us on 2 August. We do not receive the results until early September; however, things seemed to go well. Thanks to **Park Church** for hosting the initial presentation, prior to the judges going on a tour of the village. The judges always like to get their photograph taken with the vintage Tunnocks' van!



The major construction project at the railway station was completed at the end of July, with the new lifts and bridge in place and the old bridge removed. **Grow Uddingston** is part of Scotrail's **Adopt a Station** programme. Although we lost some planted areas due to the new layout, we have gained others and so we are currently in the initial stages of replanting some saved climbers and perennials, as well as planting new perennials in the newly created areas. We hope that all of these will become established over the next few months and will be an asset to the station environment by next year.



Dates for the Diary



Sunday 1 September	10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving Monetary Gifts for SU Ukraine and Hungary	
Sunday 6 October	10.30am Communion Sunday 6.30pm Joint Service of Praise at Milngavie UF Church	
Sunday 20 October	10.30am Sacrament of Infant Baptism	
Sunday 10 November	10.30am Remembrance Day Service	
Sunday 24 November	10.30am Try Praying Scotland Visit from David Hill	

And finally



Sometimes in life, we pray for God to take away our struggles, to stop the rain that seems to pour down on us. But instead of stopping the storm, God often gives us an umbrella—a way to endure the challenges while still moving forward.

This umbrella might be a word of encouragement, a friend who walks with us, or the strength to keep going when everything feels overwhelming. It's a reminder that God is with us, providing what we need to get through, even if the rain doesn't stop.

Trust that He knows what's best, and that He will always provide what we need to weather the storm.

Credit to LivingChristian.org



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