

Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Summer 2017

Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends,

As you will know, we are going to be undertaking a major redecoration and ceiling repair to our church sanctuary during July and August. This is going to be a fairly extensive work, costing in the region of £50,000, and has involved a lot of work from a Project Team drawn from our Managers. As well as the repairs and the redecoration, we are also taking the opportunity to replace the carpet. While some parts of the carpet seem to be in good shape, other parts are seriously bleached by the sunlight and are now quite marked. Just as we like to keep our own homes in good order and in a presentable manner, so too we should want to ensure that the House of God is kept in good order and a fitting place for worship and for witness.



We thank the Park Congregational Trust Fund for the generous gift of £10,000 to replace the carpet.

It is 10 years since the major refurbishment of the church took place in 2007. Where have the past 10 years gone?! A number of our Fellowship were not with us at that time and may not know why others of us find this year, not only worthy of a church revamp, but a major season of thanksgiving and rededication.

As a congregation of the Church of Scotland, we were informed in 2005/06 that the major fabric repairs that our building required had not been given Presbytery approval. Indeed, the long-suggested plan of a union between ourselves and Uddingston:Old would now be implemented. During the previous years the theological position of our congregation had developed with a far more evangelical emphasis. Many people had become associated with this fellowship precisely because of that emphasis. This theological position did not align with our neighbours in Uddingston:Old which had moved in a different direction. It was for this SPIRITUAL reason that the majority of our elders, managers and members voted to leave the Church of Scotland and join the United Free Church of Scotland—a far smaller but theologically sympathetic denomination. Many meetings for prayer as well as business took place. Sacrificial gifts by members and friends allowed us to spend £250,000 on our building. Legal experts were consulted and advice followed. A long, and, at times, very challenging journey took place.

However, in August 2007, as well as celebrating the refurbishment of the sanctuary, we were able to “join” the United Free Church of Scotland. Through all of that—and a further major fabric work done in the Hall and upstairs rooms two years later at the cost of another £100,000—we clearly stated that it was done for God’s glory and an enabling of our congregation to fulfil more freely our missional calling to be a People of God within the community.

As we thank God for the past 10 years we recognise that He has enabled us to begin to fulfil our Mission Statement:

“To Know Christ and to make Him known”

We are far from perfect, and often are slow to respond to all the Lord of the Church would have us be—and that includes your Minister as much as anyone else. However, it is right and proper that we should mark this special anniversary. The redecoration of the sanctuary and the Rededication on Sunday 27 August at 10.30am are all part of our response to the goodness and faithfulness of God in the past.

Can I encourage ALL of us, members, adherents and friends to participate in this opportunity for thanksgiving? Help out practically if folks are asked “to lend a hand”, support public worship which during the work on the sanctuary will be held in the hall at 9.30am and 11am every Sunday and **PRAY** for all that will be taking place including the **Holiday Club** in July. And yes, begin to lay aside some monetary gift which can be your contribution to the Thank Offering which will be received on Sunday 27 August and at our Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday 3 September. Our office bearers have resolved that a Tithe of the offering (i.e. 10%) should be given as a gift to the United Free Church as a token of our appreciation for the home they have provided us with and the support they have offered. The remainder of the offering will be placed in the Project Fund to ensure that funds are available for future major repairs and redecoration on other parts of the church building.

When the Temple in Jerusalem was rebuilt and rededicated after the exile, we read that the people of God gathered:

“...with praise and thanksgiving as they sang to the Lord:

“He is good, his love toward Israel celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy because the hand of the Lord our God was upon them and He had brought honour to the house of the Lord in this way.”

Ezra 3:11/6:16/7:27

It is precisely this same attitude that will undergird all that will take place this summer and be properly expressed at our Thanksgiving service at the end of August. For those of us who journeyed that road 10 years ago, it is an opportunity to recall and rejoice. For those who were not with us then, but are part of the Fellowship now, then enthusiastically enter into the Celebration!



“For the Israelites who had returned from exile ate the Passover, together with those who had separated themselves from their neighbours, in order to seek the Lord, the God of Israel. Together, they celebrated with joy...because the Lord had filled them with joy...”

Ezra 6:20-21

Amen! So let it be!

With love and thanksgiving

Your Friend and Minister

W. B. Russell





Music at Park

Two new music groups have emerged over the last few months with the introduction of **Park Praise**, a group of enthusiastic singers who love to come together to give praises to God, and **Park Praise Band** which plays on the last Sunday of every month and gives a more contemporary feel to worship.

Park Praise—Janice Fuller



“O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise”

(Charles Wesley)

At Park we may not have a thousand tongues to sing (yet!) but as a congregation we make a joyful sound in praising our God.

Our Singing group, Park Praise, is an informal group from our church family, young and old - aged 13 to 83 at the moment! - who enjoy singing together in praise to God. We started out as a few keen singers learning some new songs and harmonies at Christmas time. Now grown in number, we rehearse at the end of morning worship, grabbing a cuppa first, of course! A good blether and fellowship are all part of the rehearsal and it has been wonderful sharing new friendships and worship songs together. We liaise closely with Bruce and select music accordingly, some prayerful and reflective, some with a good “gospel” swing: a wide variety of styles and hopefully something for everyone. Singing is such an important part of worship at Park and we hope that as we grow musically and spiritually together as a group, we can add another element to worship and introduce some new music to the congregation. Why not come and join our happy band? – everyone is welcome!



Park Praise Band—Graeme Stangoe



I’ve been aware for a while that there are musicians (when I talk about musicians, I also include singers, as their voice is their instrument!) who don’t have the opportunity to use their musical gifts, so our Praise Band was primarily born out of wanting to give these folk the opportunity to use their gifts. There are lots of newer hymns that help us focus on God, and these are sometimes easier to learn and sing with a band leading.

A Praise Band should not be a distraction to the congregation, rather it should enhance worship; its focus should always be on praising God. This is partly achieved through practice but mainly by keeping in mind that as we lead the congregation, we are not performing but leading worship. We have a practice session one evening before the service but before we even touch an instrument or start to sing, we read a passage from the bible and have a time of prayer to bring our focus on to worship.

Worship is not just about singing or praying or reading the bible. It’s about an intimate relationship with God, and our group is there simply to help the congregation focus their minds on Him through singing.

If you would like to get involved or want more information, I’m more than happy to speak with you.

Thanks for your support and encouragement.

I want to tell you a story.....

Karen Stangoe

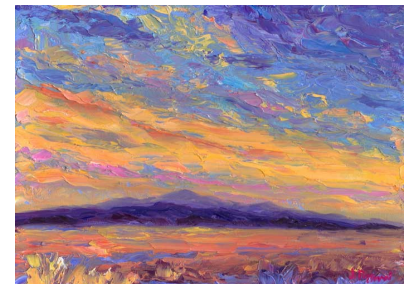
In September this year I will have been in my role as Family and Children's Worker for two years – how time flies! A lot of the different things I do are seasonal, such as Family Services, School Workshops and Holiday Club; there is also MEGA which is semi-regular and finally there are my weekly commitments to running SU groups and overseeing Park Kids and Connect.

I would like to focus on some of the stories that have taken place this past year. Praise God that in all of these areas there have been so many opportunities to share Jesus with the Children and Young People in Uddingston. New relationships have developed as new people have joined different groups. There is lots to give thanks for and lots of stories to tell. But first, let me share with you the direction God has been leading me in. Since August last year I have been challenged to consider these words from Deuteronomy:

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth."

Deuteronomy 11v18-21

I find these words both challenging and inspiring (as a parent as well as the Family and Children's Worker!). They give a beautiful image of knowing God in every part of our lives and sharing Him with our children as naturally as we would share stories from the day around the dinner table. Once we begin to recognise and talk about God naturally, our children not only learn the language they need to talk about God, but their eyes are opened to recognising Him in the world around them. It opens up moments of praise such as this: "Look at the sky, Mummy, I think God must have got his paint brush out to make it look so pretty." This is a child learning to recognise the Creator God and to praise Him for the works of His hand.



The heavens declare the glory of God: the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Ps 19 v1

These words from Deuteronomy have not only been in my thoughts, they have shaped a lot of the work I've done and highlighted the importance of families taking time to read the bible and pray together. Sometimes people just do not know where to begin so in December each family received bible reading notes called [The Jesse Tree](#).



This family-based material wove its way through the whole story of God's relationship with his people from Creation through to the birth of Jesus. Each day the families read a Bible story and prayed together before colouring in a tree decoration. It was encouraging each Sunday to hear the children tell the congregation which stories they had liked. As the families delved into the richness of God's story, fast-thinking young minds were able to join dots and make links that they hadn't known before. The children were very proud of their Jesse Trees and were happy to pose for pictures.

More recently, at Easter time, the families received material to encourage them to engage with the stories of Holy week, this time involving a daily Easter Egg hunt with a clue in each egg pointing to a different Bible passage. It was encouraging to hear one of the children saying, "Yes, more stuff! I loved doing our Jesse tree"!



Please pray for the parents in our congregation that God would help them to model their faith to their children.

Pray too for the children, that they would grow up in the knowledge and love of God, eager to follow Him for themselves.

We are now a year into **Park Kids** and have got into the swing of the new structure and layout. The children continue to love the singing – and we are very grateful for your understanding when the occasional song can be heard blaring through from the hall!!! As well as songs and games we have looked at a variety of stories from both the Old and New Testaments. For me one of the highlights of the year was baking with the children while doing our Moses series and looking at God's provision of manna in the desert. As we enjoyed our Honey Biscuits together, we chatted about ways in which God provides for us today, e.g., families, homes, food etc. One little one then piped up, "I remember one time God gave us yummy bread when we were stuck in really bad traffic and getting very, very hungry." The child then went on to tell the full story of how God had provided amazingly for the family in a tricky situation.



From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise—Psalm 8v2

In recent weeks Park Kids has grown as we've welcomed three of the crèche children who have now turned three. There is the challenge of trying to teach children from 3 right up to 11 all together. And yet we were reminded of the importance of not defining a child by their age as on his very first week in Park Kids, one of the little ones managed to learn and repeat the Memory Verse alongside the older children!

Praise God that His word is living and active, able to reach even those who have not yet learned to read!





Marvellous, Excellent,
Great and Awesome!

In MEGA we have welcomed some new children as well as seeing lots of familiar faces return. Much to the relief of parents we have also seen a few younger siblings able to join with their older brothers and sisters for the first time. For our November MEGA, we ventured out this year to run a 'MEGA Family Fun Day', where the children who normally attend brought along their families. The afternoon was creative and fun and allowed families time to explore Advent together through games and crafts. There was also a time of singing and storytelling based on the bible, before joining together for coffee and cakes. It was great to see so many families enjoying spending time together as they explored the story of *The Three Trees*.



One family who are not connected to a Church came in saying they could only stay for five minutes and ended up being one of the last to leave! Another family left with both of their children saying "Please can we always go to that Church now. It was great fun!" The afternoon was finished off with a gift of a little booklet for each family called '*Live Life Love Advent*' which encourages families to take some time in the craziness of December to do good deeds, pray together and to consider what the bible has to say about Jesus being the light in the darkness.



Connect has changed a lot in the last year with a number of the young people turning 18 and moving on to College and University in August. In order to sustain the group we decided to invite along Primary 7 children. This changed the dynamics of the group which had previously

catered for S4-6 young people but is now mainly P7-S3. The team took a few weeks to adjust but it's been great for the young people. What a privilege it is to see a huge number of them both on a Monday night at Connect and then again at some other point in the week at Park Kids, Muiredge SU or the Grammar SU group. There is a hunger amongst our young people and a desire in them to seek God in order to make sense of the world around them.



"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29v13



**Please pray for those who seek God
that He would reveal Himself to them.**

Since August, membership of the SU Group at Uddingston Grammar has increased from 2 to 13 with an average weekly attendance of 8 pupils. This is mainly down to one young girl who has been inviting her friends along. Praise God for this young girl who is committed to following Jesus and who, in the early years of her faith, is boldly sharing her faith with her peers.

I am always happy to share stories and pass on information of what is happening amongst our Children, Young People and their Families, so if you would like to know more, please get in touch.

***To Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen!
Ephesians 3 v 21***

Your Church Needs YOU!

I am sure we can all smile at the cartoon on the right but Christ calls us ALL to active service in our church; we are all part of the Body of Christ and have a role to play. There are many passages in the bible which exhort us to serve and we only need to look at the example of Jesus himself who came as The Servant King.



It's from our church—we've been called up for active duty!

Scripture tells us that when we become Christians we are given at least one spiritual gift.

"A spiritual gift is given to each one of us so we can help each other." (1 Corinthians 12v7 NLT)

"God has given you each a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another". (1 Peter 4v10 NLT)

Spiritual gifts are specific ways the work of the Holy Spirit is manifested in our lives. These gifts are not just for US, but rather they are to be used in service to others and to the church. No ministry in the church operates without human volunteers but when all parts of the body work together, then the church grows and becomes healthy. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12 that we are all part of the body of Christ and all parts are needed.

Many people think they have no gift to offer their church or community but this is simply not true as evidenced by scripture! The Bible says we have ALL been given a gift when we came to know Jesus. There are so many ways to serve God and others in the church and the following list is by no means exhaustive!

Praying for others; giving to missionaries which helps build the church and brings the gospel to places that might not hear otherwise; hospitality either in your own home or by being part of the tea service at church; being part of the car pool that brings the elderly to church; being a greeter at the door; AV technician; giving of your musical talents; visiting the sick and elderly; helping in crèche or Park Kids; responding to calls for help with tidying up; gardening; pastoral care; doing the dishes; donations to the GCM bin—the list is endless!

However, our gifts are only useful if we use them! A Christmas present under the tree, however nicely it is wrapped up with ribbons and bows, is of no use until it is unwrapped and starts its life of usefulness to the owner. If it remains wrapped it has no use and so it is with the gifts we have been given; if we don't use them they are worthless.

At the moment the church is looking for volunteers with gifts in the following two areas:

The Sunday Tea Service and the Audio Visual Department.

The Sunday Tea Service is not restricted to women; any offers of help will be gratefully accepted! It entails setting up the tables before the service, serving tea and coffee after the morning service and clearing up afterwards. The commitment is only on average once every two months and you work in a team of three. If you are new to the church, it is a great way to meet people and if you've been here a long time, it's a chance to speak to people you maybe normally wouldn't see. If you feel you could give of your time, please speak to **Irene Bryson** who makes up the rota.



The Audio Visual team's job is to enhance worship by ensuring all audio and visual items are displayed on time and accurately. There is a small team at the moment who work in pairs and they desperately need new people to join them; again both men and women are welcome! If you fancy yourself as something of a tech wizard or are competent working with computers, please speak to **Colin McDowall**.



Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." Colossians 3 v23-24

A time to Reflect

Andy Ellison spent three months with us at the beginning of the year as he enquired about entering the ministry. He proved himself to be a blessing to us in many ways as he enthusiastically took part in every aspect of church life. His servant heart was evident and he was not afraid to get his hands dirty! He has recently been busy with exams but graciously set aside some time to be interviewed for Park Pages.



What brought you to Park?

The journey to my being at Park has taken two and a half years (and it wasn't the roadworks on the M74 to blame). During the summer of 2014, my wife Emma and I started worshipping at Croftfoot United Free Church, not knowing that this would be the start of a very different journey in my walk with God. In the October of that year I started to sense that God might have a different plan for my life. I was finding myself up front on a Sunday leading in prayer, reading the bible and doing short talks and testimonies. I also started to help lead the bible study group and prayer meeting.

During January 2015 I attended the service of ordination and induction of Rev Alasdair MacMillan at Cathcart Trinity Church which was my previous church and where my children are members. The message by Rev Tom Nelson really spoke to me about how God wanted to use ordinary men and women in different kinds of ministry. It was also the first night I went into Castlemilk with *Teen Challenge* and found a heart to minister to some of the most vulnerable people in society.

As 2015 progressed, I became more involved in the work at Croftfoot and Teen Challenge but in my own quiet time I was reading passages from Paul's letters to Timothy about preaching, ministering to people and using the gifts God had given me. It was at this point I started to have a sense of calling into a full-time ministry, but I wasn't sure what that would be so I just kept praying about it.

In the first half of 2016 we were doing a bible study based on John Ortberg's book **If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat**. As I've led bible study groups over the years I've found sometimes God says, 'you first'. It was at that point I read a very specific passage in Scripture regarding God's call on my life and after discussions and prayer with my wife, my minister and friends and an informal chat with two ministers on the Ministry Committee, Emma and I felt God telling us to step off the boat in faith, leave my job and start university. It was also at this point I approached the denomination to formally enquire about ministry and the committee agreed to a period here at Park.

Has your time at Park helped you in making a decision about full-time ministry?

The enquiry process has allowed me to participate in different aspects of ministry and church life and has confirmed to me that there is a calling on my life for full-time ministry. This confirmation came not just through the opportunities to take part in the services at Park and Bargeddie, but also through getting to know people and participating in the fellowship group.

The most significant day for me was the Sunday where I led worship and preached before the AGM. For me, that was the reason I was on enquiry at Park and, although very nervous, I felt the Spirit guiding me.

What were the highlights of your time here?

- There were so many highlights over the three months I was with you. Taking a children's talk for the first time was a daunting experience but I loved doing it. It is great to see so many kids attending Park and I felt a tremendous blessing as I sat on the platform with them talking about light.
- MEGA and working with the primary school gave me a very different experience of children's work. It showed me the importance in ministry of the relationship between the church, community and school. I saw the value of having a family and children's worker and you are very blessed to have Karen and the gifts God has given to her.

- The commitment of the congregation to come along and support the work with the children at MEGA and to see some of the youth helping was a big encouragement.
- The Bield Housing service showed me the importance of bringing church to that elderly community and just chatting to the residents afterwards was very rewarding.
- The biggest highlight wasn't anything I did. For me it was the children using sign language as actions to the song *Blessing and Honour* on Palm Sunday. There were tears in my eyes just watching them worship.

Do you have a favourite verse of scripture and what is your favourite hymn?

My favourite verses and hymn are linked. My favourite verses are **Romans 8: 38-39**:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is God's grace and mercy on our lives, that when we come to Him through Christ there is nothing that can separate us from Him. This is why my favourite hymn is **Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine** which speaks to me about walking with Him in the present whilst looking to the promise of one day being with Him for eternity.

Who is your favourite bible character and why?

Peter! I think he is a great example of how Jesus uses ordinary people. He has his faults, he charges in when he shouldn't and even denies Jesus. Yet we have that great moment of the breakfast on the beach when Jesus forgives and restores him. I was preaching on Peter's denial at Bargeddie just before Easter. One of the commentators I was reading in preparation asked the question, "why would the story of such failure of one of the early church leaders be in the gospels"? The answer: Peter was testifying to the early church what Jesus had done for him. He knows the forgiveness and grace through Jesus, the same forgiveness and grace we receive. I love the fact it is Peter that addresses the crowd at Pentecost - forgiven and fulfilling the purpose for his life.

What does the future hold for you?

Since my last service at Park on Easter Sunday, most of my time has been taken up concentrating on finishing my first year of university (finishing touches to the last essay as I write). Most Sundays throughout the summer I will be preaching, including my first visit to Shieldhall and Drumoyne UF and a few months spending time with the congregation at Bargeddie UF and leading them in worship.

With regards to ministry I will be approaching the committee during the summer asking for their discernment on the call that I sense on my life. Whether it is the ministry of Word and Sacrament or another ministry that God leads me into, whatever the future holds, I know being at University is where I am meant to be at the moment and God will use it for His purpose. To quote a hymn:

*I know who holds the future
And He'll guide me with his hand
With God things don't just happen,
Everything by him is planned.
So as I face tomorrow,
With its problems large and small,
I'll trust the God of miracles,
Give to Him my all*

Personal Note of Thanks

I loved my three months with you at Park. I want to thank you for making me feel at home, for your encouragement, the gift and card I received on my last Sunday and the plant at the last fellowship group, which still has flowers on it, and is a constant reminder of you all.

We at Park wish Andy every blessing for the future and assure him of our prayers and ongoing support as he discerns God's purpose for his life.

Farewell to the Clark Family

The Clark Family are leaving for pastures new at the end of June as they move to their dream cottage by the sea for their retirement—which is still a long way away! However, they agreed to answer a few questions in between packing boxes, ripping up carpets and generally experiencing the high stress levels that moving house can bring!



Tell us a little about your backgrounds and how you came to faith.

DAVID: I was brought up in a Christian household; our family church was Battlefield East Church which is close to Hampden Park in Glasgow. My father was an elder and I was ordained as an elder in that Church when I was 25. I had attended Scripture Union when I was at secondary school and when I was 16 or 17 I became a Christian.

When I was at university, a group of us that had been friends at school started a Bible Study Group which helped me develop my faith. The majority of that group are still amongst our closest friends even today. Another influence was Iain Morrison who was our minister when we were at Hillington Park Church in Cardonald. He came from the Western Isles and was a committed preacher of the word of God. He taught me a lot and also encouraged me to participate in the church services, something which I have continued to do on occasion at Park.

RHONA: I too was brought up in a Christian home. My father was also an elder and involved in the Boys' Brigade at district level. I became a Christian through our Scripture Union group at school when I was 14. I became a member of Hillington Park, was married there and became an elder when I was pregnant with Fiona 27 years ago. Both girls were also christened there. A huge influence on my Christian faith was the Youth Fellowship at Hillington Park. I was involved in the Boys' Brigade, heavily involved in the Holiday Club and was also a Sunday School Leader. Iain Morrison was also a big influence on my Christian faith.

Another big influence on my faith was MethSoc – the Methodist Students Society in Newcastle. It was the friendly rival of the Christian Union when I studied librarianship at Northumbria University in Newcastle. MethSoc met in a church near my Halls of Residence on a Sunday afternoon. We had weekly fellowship groups and regularly took services in Methodist churches in the area. During this time I was also a Boys' Brigade Officer in the Anglican Church.

What brought you to Park and how long have you been here?

When we lived in Ralston in Paisley Rhona got a job as librarian at Hamilton College. Fiona was in Primary 6 in Ralston Primary School and Rebecca was due to start school. The decision was made to send both girls to the College. A year of travelling over the Kingston Bridge every school day proved impractical so we decided, in 2002, to move nearer to the school. We started to look for a house and subsequently bought what was then a new house in Blantyre. Our next big decision was which church to attend. We had tried the churches more local to where we live but they were not proving to be right for us.

One day our old minister, Iain Morrison, mentioned "this guy Bruce" who was minister of a church in Uddingston. They had mutual acquaintances and had been at university at the same time. Unfortunately he did not know the name of the church so we could have ended up at the other church in Uddingston on that Sunday morning when we parked on the Main Street and ventured in. Our first Easter Sunday at Park was not a huge success as the time of the service had just been changed from 11am to 10.30am. We were unaware of this change and turned up at 11am to find the doors firmly shut. It wouldn't happen today!

You've both undertaken many varying roles here and contributed greatly to the life of the congregation. Can you tell us how these roles have impacted your own faith?

DAVID: I firmly believe that whilst God does not necessarily put road signs in front of us telling us what to do, He will quietly guide and lead us to his purposes. We are given talents and abilities and we should use them in His service. As an accountant, I not only learned about the technical aspects of the job but also learned how to effectively communicate information and have the confidence to use, stand up and present information. In particular, I hope and trust that these skills were used effectively as the congregation transitioned from the Church of Scotland to the UF and as we dealt with the major refurbishment of the sanctuary 10 years ago but also on other occasions. At times there were tough decisions to be made and caution and judgement were required to make sure we did the right thing. I also enjoyed working with the Bible Class and we should not underestimate what we, as teachers, gain from working with the children.

RHONA: I was involved with the Holiday Club for a few years and have been a teacher with Sunday School/Park Kids for the 15 years we have been here. I became Presbytery Elder and was involved when we moved from the Church of Scotland to the United Free Church. It was a very difficult time. I had to stand up at the Presbytery of Hamilton and announce Park's decision to leave the Church of Scotland. Despite the tough decisions that were made, we felt God's presence and guidance at this time. During the 150th celebrations Helen Ooi and I were tasked with organising an exhibition of Park's history. This was an interesting process and we became firm friends. (I recently came across some of the exhibition when clearing our garage!)

You've both also given of your time to serve on Presbytery committees. What has been your involvement in the wider work of the denomination?

RHONA: I continued as Presbytery Elder when we joined the United Free along with Colin Bickerton who David took over from. I've been privileged to serve on presbytery's Ministry Committee and have been involved in Trials for Licence, the process leading to ordination for ministers; I was especially delighted to be part of David Miller's. I've taken part in Quinquennial visits and am on the denomination's Youth Committee. It was a particular pleasure to work with Laura Mackenzie, the previous Denominational Youth Worker, as she was from Hillington Park and we had watched her grow in faith. We both benefited from the denomination's annual conference in August.

DAVID: My role with Presbytery compared to Rhona's is very brief but has been no less interesting with a good opportunity to meet some great people in the denomination.

You are a musical family – do you have a favourite hymn and why?

DAVID: One of my favourite traditional hymns is **Be Still My Soul**. Whilst some would regard this as a funeral hymn, I find the words deeply meaningful and they give a sense of God's ultimate purpose. I had a classical music upbringing and as the traditional music is Finlandia, written by one of my favourite composers, Jean Sibelius, it is doubly pleasurable.

RHONA: Oh, that's a hard question. If I had to choose I'd probably say **El Shaddai** by Michael Card. The words are so powerful.

What memories will you take away from Park?

We will always remember the impact Mark Sharp had on us, which we didn't fully realise until his untimely death. We will never forget his uncomplicated and passionate faith. We used to pick Mark up at the bus stop across the road from our house; we still look out on a Sunday morning, half expecting to see him there. Also, the liveliness and commitment of the church and Bruce's care and compassion for his congregation.

We are excited to see what God's plan is for us as we enter this new chapter of our lives in Seamill, but we remain keen to keep in touch with Park's journey.

We thank David and Rhona and the girls for all that they have contributed to the life of our congregation and wish them every blessing in their new abode and God's guidance as they look for a new church family to be part of. However, we know this is not Goodbye, only Au Revoir, as we are sure our paths will cross again!

Uddingston Pride Update

Train Station

Those of you who have travelled from Uddingston by train may well have noticed the model train we have installed beside the Glasgow-bound platform. It has been planted out with attractive plants, and has greatly enhanced the appearance of the area beside the cycle shelter. If you haven't seen it, it's well worth the walk to the station to admire the train, and to see the ongoing work at the adjacent banking which is being cleared of weeds and rocks, and is being planted with shrubs and herbaceous plants. Hopefully this work will give the area a splash of colour in the summer for years to come.

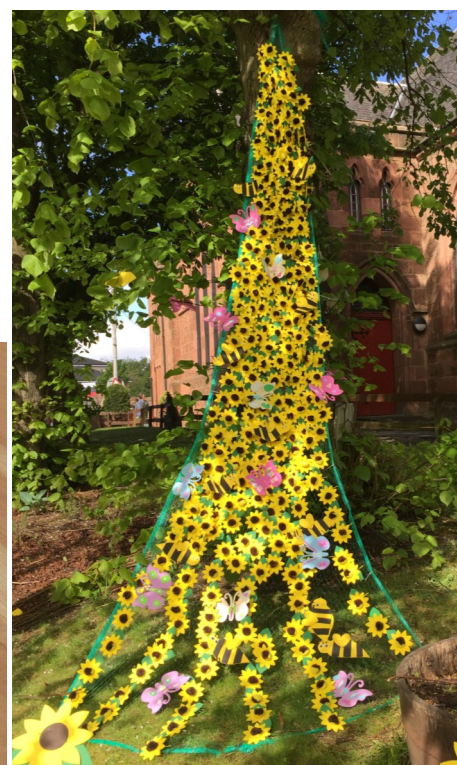


Clean-up Days

The local Beaver Group turned out in numbers on 10th May to carry out a clean-up of some of the streets in Uddingston. The youngsters carried out their tasks with great enthusiasm, and cleared a good area of litter. We greatly appreciate their efforts on behalf of Uddingston Pride. Then on Saturday, 20th May, we held a major Village Clean Up, and we were glad to welcome a good number of enthusiastic helpers, who were able to collect a large quantity of litter and other rubbish, leaving the Village looking a whole lot tidier, all in preparation for the summer period, when we will be judged for Beautiful Scotland and Britain in Bloom. It's always encouraging to get such good support from the community.

Craft Bomb

During early May, Uddingston was "Craft Bombed" by various groups, who decorated the Village with knitted items with the theme of "share the love". This was a joint initiative with some of the enthusiastic knitters in Uddingston, and brought some fun and colour to the Village. The plan was to have Uddingston looking bright and cheerful in the early summer before the bedding plants arrive. We hope you were able to enjoy the displays. Park Church was craft bombed by the Brownies with a stunning display of sunflowers!



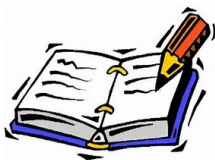
Craft Fayre

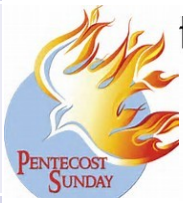
This year, we are holding a Craft Fayre in Park Church from **7th to 10th June** when local craft workers will be displaying and hopefully selling their creations. Entrance to the Fayre will be free and there will be teas and coffees available. This is a new venture and we are confident it will be a great success, and will be much enjoyed by all who come along. Please come along and support us!

**Uddingston Pride**
CRAFT FAYRE
From 7th to 10 June
in Park Church Main Street
ADMISSION FREE
HOURS OF OPENING
Wednesday 1 pm to 6 pm
Thursday 10am to 7 pm
Friday 10am to 6 pm
Saturday 9.30am to 1.30pm
TEAS £2.50 - DEMONSTRATIONS DAILY
For further information telephone 07852740554
or email: thewilsonsholmbrae@hotmail.co.uk



Dates for the Diary



Saturday 3 June	Park Kids Coffee morning 10am-12 noon	<i>Coffee Morning</i> <i>Everyone Welcome</i> 
Sunday 4 June Pentecost Sunday and Communion	10.30am All age Celebration Fellowship Meal at Manse at 6.30pm	 Fellowship Dinner 
Sunday 11 June	Praise Gathering 7.30pm Royal Concert Hall	 praise gathering
Sunday 18 June	10.30am Members talking about areas of Ministry and Mission Bield Housing 6.30pm	
Sunday 25 June	10.30am Service to mark start of Summer Sundays led by Karen Stangoe and Ian McQuarrie	
Monday 17—Friday 21 July	Mega Makers Holiday Club for P1-7 6.15pm-8pm	
Saturday 26 August	Denominational Day Conference Dunblane High School 10am-4pm	
Sunday 27 August	10.30am Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication Led by Rev John Fulton General Secretary of UF Church and Rev David Easton, formerly of Burnside Parish Church	

NOTE

From Sunday 9 July to Sunday 20 August there will be TWO services each Sunday in the Hall at 9.30am and 11 am. During July and August Re-Fresh will continue on Wednesdays in the Hall. Our other Fellowship Groups will have a short break during July and resume in August. The Open to God Prayer Time on a Saturday morning will continue fortnightly as usual during the Summer.



Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland

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