



Queensferry Parish Church NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013

CHANGING SEASONS

All around us are the signs of new life as we gradually move from winter to spring. What an amazing thing the changing seasons are.

In the life of our church here at QPC we too journey through changing seasons. Perhaps the greatest season of change in many years happened a year or so ago when the Kirk Session and Board set out a fresh invitation to all our members and friends to look to the future at QPC. The DVD and our invitation for everyone to re-dedicate and commit themselves to the life and ministry expressed through our local church here in Queensferry was well received. A huge thanks to everyone who responded to such an invitation to consider how God has "shaped" them for service and to all who re-considered the level of their financial commitment to the church.

The image that we've been using to sum up our calling as a church is that of a flotilla of yachts, all different yet all heading in the same direction and empowered by the wind of God's spirit. Such an image, though not traditionally Christian in its character, is however a precious one for our congregation and its life at this time. It came as a vision during a time of waiting on God by our



leaders and we hope you will catch a sense that you, as an individual, will feel a part in this calling for us all to be sailing together in the one direction empowered by the wind of God's Holy Spirit.

Since last year much progress has been made as we seek to become a "welcoming, worshipping Church which uses the gifts of its people to reach out, serve and engage with different parts of the communities in which [over...]



we are involved." But as you'll no doubt recognise we still have some way to go as we seek to "GROW WIDER, DEEPER AND CLOSER".

By the summer of last year our new Ministry and Support Teams were in place and since then they have been meeting regularly to explore how, through the ministries they are responsible for helping us all to grow wider, deeper and closer.

Our teams have only just begun so do continue to pray for them in the challenging journey ahead.

During last summer I realised that rather than keeping encouraging everyone else to grow wider, deeper and closer, I needed to 'practice what I preached': result was that when an invitation came along for me to sign up as a member of the newly formed Business and Community Group, Queensferry Ambition, then I didn't have a leg to stand on! (News of what we've been up to there is featured within this news sheet)

How then have you responded to this? Changing seasons often means one thing coming to an end and something new in time emerging.

MINISTRY TEAM CHANGES

Since the turn of the year we have undergone what has perhaps been one of the biggest changes in the make up of the ministry team at Queensferry and Dalmeny for many years.

Three months before, we had Cheryl McKellar-Young, Fiona Devoy and Michael Mair working alongside myself and by the middle of January a whole new team of folks were working among us. Such a quick turn around was no doubt quite unsettling for many folks in the congregation and if you happened not to have been at Church over the week or two when they were introduced you might well have wondered if you'd walked into the right Church!

After much discussion and lengthy negotiations with the Presbytery we are delighted to have been able to appoint two new part-time members of staff. The Rev Alan Hamilton-Messer has been appointed to the post of Associate Minister and Paula Cameron to the post of Mission Co-ordinator with a special focus on our work amongst children and families. Both posts are supported through the newly formed Presbytery Staffing Fund with the congregations picking up responsibility for the funding of Alan's post only. Already they have both discovered that managing to do what is called for in just 20 hours per week is a

This news sheet is perhaps one example of this.

Following the amazing work done by Anne Corbett, the former editor of our Church magazine, Contact, our Communications Team is currently going through a change in its leadership pattern, result being that it will be perhaps longer than we thought before a new Church magazine appears. Recognising the need for good communications we have put together this interim newsletter to help folks keep in touch with what's been happening.

Do pray for the work of our Communications Team as they prepare to take us into a new season in communication in the life of our church. Interested in being a part of it? Then contact one of the ministry team or Guy, our Session Clerk.

So what else is new? Read on

Blessings,
Rev David Cameron

hard task but we're glad they are here and finding their feet in ministry across our two congregations.

The Rev Fiona Tweedie, an ordained local minister, was here on a short term placement from the Presbytery where she has had a special responsibility for helping congregations better understand their parishes. During the first three months of 2013 she has been opening up our eyes to the challenges we face in the parish and we're grateful to Fiona for enabling us to look beyond the walls of the Church as we commit to growing wider, deeper and closer.

Michael Mair, now more than half way through his probationary period as a minister, is thoroughly enjoying the wide range of ministry experiences that life in Queensferry and Dalmeny affords. Do pray for Michael as the next few months in particular will require him to discern where and what it is God is calling him to once his time with us comes an end on 31st October this year.

SO, WHO'S WHO?



Alan Hamilton-Messer

Alan was born in the English seaside town of Bournemouth, quite a long time ago. He is married to Lesley who works for the Church of Scotland in 121 George Street as Church Without Walls Team Leader in the Mission and Discipleship Council. Alan has two children, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Prior to coming to Queensferry and Dalmeny he worked for Gorgie Parish Church for one year, before that living and working in Glasgow and was Minister of Dennistoun Baptist Church for 8 years and later Minister of the "Word on the Street" Community Church.

Both Lesley and Alan felt that God was calling them to move to the East Coast which we're glad to say they did two years ago.

Michael Mair

Michael is married to Laura and is with us at Queensferry on his final period in training to be a minister. Prior to living and working in Queensferry, Michael and Laura lived in Amsterdam where Michael was the Assistant Minister to the English Reformed Church. Michael and Laura live in Queensferry and have a dog, Arthur and two guinea pigs – Duchess and Piglet. Laura is in her first year of a three year PhD at Edinburgh University researching Victorian Social History.

They are very much enjoying ministering to and with the folk here at Queensferry. You can follow Michael on Facebook and Twitter @MairMJ.



Fiona Tweedie



Fiona works with churches in the Presbytery of Edinburgh who are interested in learning more about their communities, coming alongside people to facilitate mission audits and help congregations answer the "so what?" questions that follow. This often ties in with the mission-shaped ministry course that she convenes - a course for people looking to start new forms of engagement with those who don't engage with church as we know it today. When she's not working in Edinburgh Presbytery, she's helping a national group to make available profiles for every congregation in Scotland detailing what the 2011 Census reveals about their community. Fiona is an Ordained Local Minister, which just means that she's part-time and unpaid, and has been ordained for eighteen months. Before a call to this ministry, Fiona was a lecturer in Statistics at Glasgow and then Edinburgh University, carrying out research in linguistics and literature (her first experience of cross-cultural mission!)

Fiona has been married to Stephen for almost 20 years, and they have two daughters, Heather (11) and Susanna (8), so Fiona spends a good bit of time as a taxi-service. Stephen works for Red Hat Linux developing Open Source software, and they all enjoy long-distance train travel holidays, watching Mythbusters and Star Trek and geocaching — a kind of technological treasure hunt.

SO, WHO'S WHO?

Paula Cameron



Paula joined us here at Queensferry and Dalmeny in January 2013, and has a special focus on our local community, particularly children and their families. Previously she has been involved in youth and children's ministry in several Edinburgh parishes, as well as serving alongside her husband in overseas mission in rural Nigeria. Roddy and Paula have just seen the arrival of their first child. Life as they know it is about to change! When not colouring in, covered in paint or reading stories, she loves being outdoors on her bike, or running with her over energetic Collie pup.

Paula and Roddy's new addition — a girl, Gràinne Faith Cameron



QUEENSFERRY AMBITION



Re-established in the summer of 2012, Queensferry Ambition has been active in promoting a wide range of events and activities on behalf of local businesses and community groups across the town. One major initiative which we as Queensferry Parish Church participate in is a special app for iPhone and smart phone users. The miqueensferry app can be downloaded to give you up to date insights and offers from local restaurants, special events and even our church services.

News-sheets with the latest news from QA have just been issued to businesses across the town and there news of the potential award to the Forth Rail Bridge of World Heritage site status is announced. Much more to come from QA in the days ahead.



www.miqueensferry.co.uk



FINANCE SUPPORT TEAM



During this season of change, from the turn of the year we see what has been perhaps one of the most demanding posts in our church being passed on - that of our Finance Support Team Leader and Treasurer. After many faithful years, Andrea Howe is passing on her cheque books, balance sheets and computer programmes to Eric Proven. As a congregation, we are hugely indebted (sorry - bad pun!) to Andrea for the many hours she spent, week by week, writing cheques, settling accounts, balancing books, etc, etc, etc. Due to her exceptional skills in computer programming all our financial matters are managed now on computer - Thank you, Andrea (and Phil) for all you've done to ensure the smooth running of our finances.

And Eric - we promise we'll give you plenty to manage as you set out on this challenging adventure!

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL

Since my arrival at Queensferry and Dalmeny Churches back in March 2009 I have been carrying a fairly major responsibility with one of the main Councils of the Church of Scotland, the Mission and Discipleship Council. My role as a Vice-Convener of the Council with responsibility for Church Without Walls has been a demanding one taking up a significant part of my time. This term of office comes to an end at this year's General Assembly in May and aside from the work of the Council, I've been involved in creating a new vision for growing emerging churches across the church - this challenging invitation of every parish establishing a new expression or experience of church by the year 2020 will be set before this year's General Assembly - do pray it will be warmly received and embraced. Once the Assembly is over I am looking forward to being able to spend more time around the parish.



MISSION SHAPED MINISTRY



Over the last 6 months a group of 8 or so folks from our congregation have been going to a special course called "Mission Shaped Ministry".

Month by month they have been exploring just what it means to be a church that is outward looking and engaging and they will be in a strong place to help us prepare for the invitation to establish a new expression of Church within our Parish in the days to come. We'll be hearing more from them in due course.

SUNDAY MORNING AT QPC

In the lead up to Pentecost we felt, following the insights gleaned from the surveys undertaken by Fiona Tweedie and Paula Cameron, that we should help the congregation reflect on something that will help us to continue to become the people God intends us to be.

The following themes should help us all build a community that is ready and able to face the challenges of reaching out in love to our church, community, town, city and world!

	Building a community:		
7th April	...of servant hearted disciple makers	5th May	...of united diversity
14th April	...of outspoken disciple makers	12th May	...of 21st century understanding
21st April	...of Amazing Grace	19th May	...of Spirit filled adventurers
28th April	...of enthusiastic service	26th May	...of visionary people

FORUM NEWS

Looking ahead over the next twenty years or so, the Church of Scotland as a whole will have fewer Ministers than it has today. This will clearly change the shape of the Church as we know it. The way this trend has directly affected Queensferry and Dalmeny in recent times is that, since Rev Sean Swindells left us, the Kirk Session has been involved in negotiations with Edinburgh Presbytery to secure support for Rev David Cameron in the work of the linked charge.

Resulting from these, at times difficult and protracted negotiations, has been the new appointments already mentioned under "Ministry Team Changes". The discussions with Presbytery have nevertheless been fruitful in:

- Clarifying to Presbytery the demands of the two parishes.
- Helping us to clarify the kind of support that is appropriate for Queensferry and Dalmeny going forward.



Meantime here are a few highlights from the work of the Ministry Teams and Support Teams that make up the Forum.

The **Property, Premises and Environmental (PPE)** Team together with the **Worship** Team have been busy upgrading the projection system in the church thanks to a generous legacy. This is part of an ongoing programme of further improvements including video capability and screens to be introduced into other parts of the Church Centre.

The **Children's and Youth Ministry** Team has just completed an exciting week in Queensferry High School in partnership with Youth for Christ (YFC) and Kirkliston Churches. The three young lads of YFC's Nomad team had a tremendous impact within the school. As a result our Michael Mair and Kirkliston's Drew Kuzma have been able to develop strong relationships with the headmaster, teachers and with many pupils. The door is now open to establish an SU group and for more chaplaincy involvement.

The **Discipleship Ministry Team's** main initiative is 'Taste and See' an opportunity to get to know one another and to grow together in small groups. The next series begins on Sunday 14th April, meeting on second and fourth Sundays at 5pm in the Church Centre for food chat and discussion.

The **Pastoral Ministry** Team has begun exploring alternative models of pastoral care. The Team has been comparing notes with other congregations that have modified their district elder approach and we hope over the summer months to take up the question with our members regarding what may work best for them.

If you have ideas you'd like to share with any of the Teams feel free to send an email straight to the Team Leader's inbox using these email addresses:



childrenyouth@qpcweb.org
community@qpcweb.org
discipleship@qpcweb.org
pastoral@qpcweb.org
worship@qpcweb.org

administration@qpcweb.org
communications@qpcweb.org
ppe@qpcweb.org
treasurer@qpcweb.org



FINANCIAL REPORT

2012 REVERSES A THREE-YEAR TREND

After three years of Expenditure exceeding Income, you responded to our Stewardship Campaign and stopped this downward trend.

Unrestricted and designated funds at the end of 2008 amounted to £102,000.

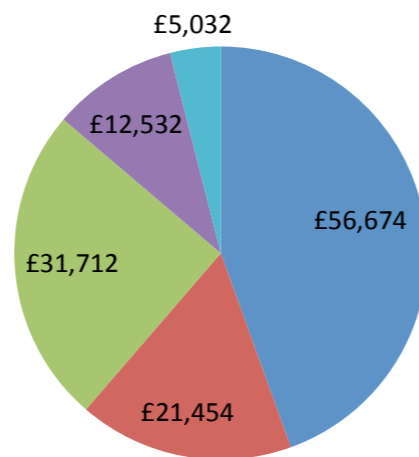
In the years 2009 to 2011 we spent nearly £39,000 more than our income. However, in 2012, with the help of a legacy of

£20,000 and increased income from our congregation, our reserves have been restored to a more reasonable level (at the end of 2012, unrestricted and designated funds are £88,000). This is important as we seek to Grow Wider, Grow Deeper and Grow Closer. With your generous support, the Board and Kirk Session have committed to partially fund two part-time posts for three years. Presbytery has responded by matching the funding provided by our congregation and our friends at Dalmeny.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

In 2012, we spent £127,404, spread in the following areas:

- National Ministry and Mission (central costs of parish ministers and mission at home and abroad)
- Local Staffing costs (minsterial assistance, secretary, travel)
- Building costs (repairs, heating, lighting, insurance)
- Other local costs (worship, discipleship, children and youth, administration)
- Cost of generating funds (stewardship and posters)



PSST! — WANT TO KNOW A SECRET?

Want to know how to help the church increase our income AT NO COST TO YOU?

During 2013, we want to increase the amount we receive from the Government. Can you say YES to these two questions:

1. Do you have tax deducted from income e.g. company pension, salary, wages, investments?
2. Would you like the government to give some of this tax to the church?

All we need is a completed Gift Aid declaration from you (forms are available in the vestibule or from the Treasurer) and your donations need to be traceable – usually by numbered Freewill Offering envelope. (We'll supply these free) or by setting up a standing order for your giving.

If you are not sure whether you have a signed Gift Aid declaration in place, why not sign one next time you are in church anyway?

Did you know that 140 individuals and families now give to the church regularly by bank standing order?

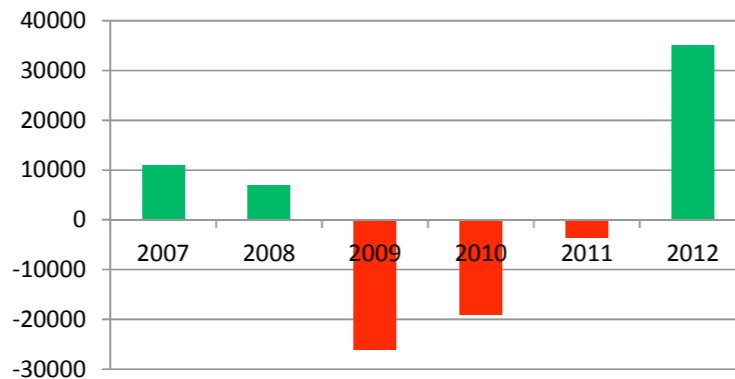
(They're the ones looking at the floor when the offering bag comes round!)

The Board and Session thank all who give generously to maintain the work of the church.

THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU

giftaid it

Surplus/ (Deficit) over 6 years



COMMUNITY & CONGREGATION SURVEY



Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie had been invited to work with us to learn more about our parish community, and Edinburgh Presbytery had assigned her to the congregation for 3 months to carry out this work. Together with Paula Cameron, Dr Tweedie undertook a number of different strands of research.

The Forum and Kirk Session are in the process of digesting the wide range of detailed findings within the reports that Fiona and Paula have produced. Here are just a few of the insights.

- As you will see from the above map almost every area, and even street, within the town is represented at the Sunday services sampled.
- In relation to the Queensferry population as a whole, the pre-school, school and mature adult age ranges are well represented on a Sunday morning. However, the student and young adult attendance is significantly under-represented and the elderly age range is over-represented.
- In thinking about our neighbours in the community, inputs suggested that the big two issues affecting people were: 'ill-health' and 'stress', followed by 'isolation' and various forms of 'relationship breakdown'.
- Facets of the gospel that were felt to be particularly relevant were that the gospel offers an eternal friend to the lonely, healing to the sick and purpose in life to those who feel aimless.

Deeper engagement with the material from these reports and how it might inform and shape our future plans will take place at a Kirk Session retreat later this year.

CONCERTS IN THE KIRK

Over the last few years our linked congregation at Dalmeny Kirk has been running a series of classical, jazz and folk concerts under the banner of "Concerts in the Kirk". This partnership with the Dundas foundation has enabled many amazing artists to come and perform in the unique setting of the atmospheric and ancient Kirk.

*Concerts
in the Kirk*

From the summer of 2013 the main organising group is going to step down and we are keen not to lose the momentum gained through the wide publicity and marketing that has been undertaken. The group are keen to see if some folks from both the Dalmeny and Queensferry congregations might like to pick up the baton and run with a new series of events. Both Kirk Sessions have supported the proposal to create an "Events Team", perhaps made up with members from both congregations, who could develop and run a series of events using the facilities at both Church buildings and continuing under the banner of "Concerts in the Kirk".

Already in place are entertainment licences, lighting, a considerable data base of contacts, a commitment from the Dundas Foundation to support continued marketing through Sanctus Media, an excellent list of artists keen to play for us and even the prospect of tapping into the "Fringe at the Ferry" programme linked in with the Edinburgh Festival.

All that's missing is ... you?

Do speak to David the minister or one of our Session Clerks (Guy Douglas or John Mackay) and let's see if over the coming days we can pull together a team that will develop an exciting series of events to inspire and captivate our community and city!



OUR CONNECTION WITH THE SEA

Queensferry is of course situated just at the point on the Forth where the estuary begins to open out towards the North Sea. In recent years we have become used to seeing an increasing number of huge cruise liners anchoring just east of the Forth Bridge and disgorging large numbers of

passengers via the Hawes Pier. Meantime oil tankers dock regularly at Hound Point. As part of our vision of growing wider there is the potential to make contact with passengers, yes, but perhaps more importantly with the ships' crews.

Recently, Alan Hamilton Messer met with Tim Bell, Chaplain to the Port of Leith, to begin to explore what opportunities there might be in this whole area. Here is the report from his initial visit.



"I met Tim at the Port of Leith at 09:30 today. He had told me that it was important to wear a pair of tough boots and clothing that would be ok if it got dirty. He supplied a Hi Vis jacket and hardhat. We went aboard a rather large and strange looking ship called the Reef Despina. This, I was told, is a subsea support vessel. It has a helipad over the bridge at the bow and a huge hydraulic crane at the stern. It carries two large underwater monitors which are lowered by the crane and remotely controlled from the ship.

There are about 21 crew onboard. The officers are Norwegian, since that is where the ship is registered, while most of the crew are Phillipino. I met the 2nd Officer who was helpful and friendly. The main reason for visiting the ship was to meet the ordinary crew.

Tim has a small minibus and in recent times has taken some of them to the Scottish Museum and some to Mass in St Mary's

Catholic Church. The crew are very friendly and more than happy to talk. I spent some time with a man of about 30. He was married but had no children. He told me that unemployment was much higher at home than here and he was lucky to have a job. His work involved maintenance and monitoring the sub sea monitors. He is a qualified engineer and at home he would earn about the same as a Doctor.

Tim Bell was pleased that we were looking to do something ourselves. He suggested that there was a lot that could be done with the tankers coming into Hound Point. The crews are often not allowed off the ships, so contact could be useful.

With regard to Cruise ships it is likely to prove very difficult to actually board the ships due to passport and immigration problems. According to Tim the people most in need on the cruise ships are the Hotel staff, cleaners and waiting staff. It is Tim's experience that they are generally overworked, underpaid and often disillusioned. Tim has suggested that 2 or 3 people could go with him and myself to Leith docks with a view to boarding some ships."

If anyone is interested in following this up, please speak to Alan.



Queensferry Parish Church,
The Loan,
South Queensferry,
EH30 9NS

0131 331 1100
office@qpcweb.org
www.qpcweb.org