



From the Minister's Study

Greetings to you all from my study!

For 12 years I was Minister of a very rural charge in the Borders and I lived in Cranshaws in the Lammermuir Hills. The Manse was built in 1711 and was one of the few houses of its age about which there was no claim that Bonnie Prince Charlie had slept there! I used to look out the window at Cranshaws Kirk and on down the valley. Sometimes the view was inspiring and sometimes distracting but never dull. I retired (not sure what that means or even if that is how to spell it) 4 years ago.

Queensferry is a wonderful place to live and there are many inspiring views but the view from my study window is less inspiring and also less distracting than from my window in Cranshaws.

I thought my days of writing articles for Church magazines were over! But since David is still on sick leave and the Presbytery of Edinburgh appointed me as Interim Moderator during his absence I find myself returning to this task – never one of my favourites in Parish Ministry.

One of the difficulties is that you find yourself writing at a particular time but knowing it won't be read for several weeks. I am writing the day before the 5th Sunday in Lent and you will be reading it after Easter. Between now and then we will go through the most important time of the Church year – Holy Week and Easter.

But we are an Easter people and so at all times of the year we should celebrate resurrection. There would be no Church if Jesus had not risen from the dead. Without the resurrection he might have been remembered as a good man, a teacher, perhaps as a miracle worker but the Christian Church would have had no foundation and would not have lasted.

Many people predict now that the Church will die within a small number of years. People have been predicting that for as long as I can remember and it hasn't happened and it hasn't happened because people are still drawn to the simple yet amazing message that Christ came to be like us so that we might become like him and that he died for us AND rose from death for us.

Children find it easy to absorb that message and so as a Church it is vital that we nurture our children and excite them about the good news of Jesus and his love for us so that they want to stay in the Church family. I hate when people describe children as the Church of the future. They are the Church of the present along with each one of us whatever our age.



Over the past weeks one of the things I have found most stimulating – and at times challenging – has been interacting with the young children during worship. You have to keep one step ahead of them but they are like little sponges ready to absorb all we teach them. What a privilege and responsibility that is.

It's been for me a great privilege and responsibility to help out during David's period of ill health especially at such a busy time of year. I hope that by the time you read this he will have recovered fully but we all need to give him time and space to get back to full strength. Lots of people have helped during this time, most of all Bob Gemmell. I think he is looking forward to a slightly lighter load. We have tried not just to "keep the show on the road" but also to continue the worship and witness of the Church that we have all been called to serve.

The past months have been a challenging time for me personally. I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many people who showed me kindness and support during Jack's long illness and also after he died. My family and I are very grateful to you all.

Wishing you every blessing
Ann Inglis

Monday night football

The QPC Monday football group has been going strong for over 30 years with many different players aged 16-75 coming and going!

However, due to some recent retirements, we are currently looking to recruit a few new players. We play indoors at Newton Community Centre on a Monday night from 8.15-9.30pm.

If you would be interested in joining us, please [contact Huw Thomas on 07454 959650](#) to find out more.

You would be very welcome!



Foodbank

There is now a box for donations in the Vestibule. Much needed items include TEABAGS. For a full list of items required search: <https://edinburghnw.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

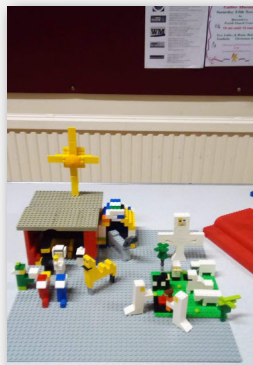


Eco congregation

The application for our silver award has been submitted. We are awaiting the outcome with hopeful hearts. Check out what you can do to help at www.qpcweb.org/blog/our-eco-congregation

The Boy's Brigade

The boys of the 31st Edinburgh were asked to enter a battalion competition against other boys to do a nativity scene in Lego at the end of last year. Our boys were very inventive as to how they did the figures and put it all together. So we were delighted to find out that the 31st had won first place.



Christian Aid Week

This is a busy time at Queensferry Parish Church on behalf of Christian Aid. On the campaigning front we have our visit to HSBC bank on Princes Street on Wednesday 10th April to encourage funding for clean energy and on 11th May 2019 the annual Bridge Cross Challenge launches Christian Aid Week. This is followed by our Coffee morning and Plant Sale on Saturday 18th May. Details as follows:



The Coffee Morning and Plant Sale on behalf of Christian Aid will be held in the Church Centre on Saturday 18 May from 10am -12 noon. Attractions will include a cake and candy stall, a bookstall, and a toy stall. There will be a £1 stall and Tombola so this is the ideal opportunity to have that clear-out you have been promising yourself.

Keen gardeners note that there will be our plant bonanza with a wide variety of plants famous for their quality and competitive pricing.

A Kid's Zone will be held in the Queen Margaret Hall with a variety of children's activities, games and face painting.

Donations can be uplifted by [phoning 0131 331 3410](#) or can be handed into the Church Centre from 10-11.30am Monday - Thursday, or on a Sunday morning.

Much of the money raised this Christian Aid Week will go to Sierra Leone - the world's most dangerous place to become a mum - to build health clinics and improve hygiene and medical training. So a fun morning for all the family could save lives elsewhere.

We look forward to seeing you.

Admission of £2 includes refreshments. Accompanied children are free.

Golf

The golf banner is designed to remind us that in our Christian life as on the golf course we aim for the perfect target of the green and in that to the distant flag of the Cross of Jesus.

The banner also reminds us that on the golf course as in our lives there are a range of hazards but if we avoid them or overcome them we will find peace.

We hope for the peace of Heaven but in the meantime temporarily make do with the 19th hole.



Hillstop

Drop in half way up, or down the hill, for coffee, tea, biscuits and friendly chat. Monday - Thursday 10am-11.30am.

Girls Brigade

Look out for our Family Treasure Hunt, Wednesday 1st May, starting from 6-7pm. Teams of up to 5 - cost £5.

And

GB Open night Wednesday 22nd May, 7pm.

Bridge Cross

The Bridge Cross Challenge returns on Saturday 11th May. Christian Aid's annual sponsored walk over the Erskine, Tay and Forth Bridges has over the last 30 years raised over £1.5 million for the world's poorest people. What's more, in Queensferry it is great fun with a wonderful view from the Forth Bridge of the UNESCO World Heritage Rail Bridge and the Queensferry Crossing.

This year the Bridge Cross Challenge launches Christian Aid Week. So grab your friends and family, have a great day out and let's fight poverty!



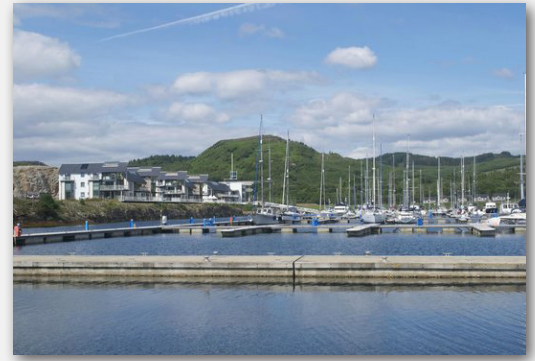


Message from David

A huge thank you on behalf of Lesley and myself for the wonderful gift you presented us with to celebrate our 10 years here in ministry. The journey began for us some 11 years ago at Portavadie Marina when we were staying in a little cottage and the call came! Your gift of an accommodation voucher for us to return there came with the condition that a similar call be not heard!

On a personal note, big thanks for all of your prayers and support during my time of leave. I've done my best to follow the doctor's instructions to "rest" and this is undoubtedly paying off.

I have been advised to have a phased return to normal service and all being well, look forward to this beginning on 16th April.



Prayer Suggestions:

- April: Give thanks for the joy of Easter-tide: the stone rolled away and the Promised coming of the Holy Spirit.
- May: Give thanks for the privilege of work. Pray for those without work. Pray for the homeless and for organisations helping provide shelter and love.
- June: The school year draws to a close. Pray for all who have faced the stress of exams. Pray for those leaving school to move to other things, and may holidays be a time of rest and refreshment.
- July: Pray for Holiday Activities and our Backpackers holiday club at QPC.
- August: The new school year begins. Pray for all in education as the new term starts. Pray for the FERRY FAIR and all who participate in the celebrations.

Kidz Corner

Eggs-ploration

Our family outreach event, "Easter Eggs-ploration" took place at Dalmeny over the Easter holidays and introduced some of the songs, stories, and themes for this summer's Holiday Club.

Backpackers Holiday Club

Backpackers Holiday Club is 29 July to 2 August, for primary school age children. We'll be journeying to many interesting places as we hear the stories of a very important week in Jesus' life. To register, go to www.qpcweb.org

Church

After the first Easter, the church began to grow. That means many people starting believing in Jesus and following His Way.

Before they started building church buildings like ours, they met in homes. They shared meals, prayed, cared for the poor, and talked about what Jesus said and how they could best follow him.

Connect the dots in the picture.

How does this church look similar or different to ours?

Draw what you think is happening inside.



QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Finance Report to Congregation 2018

We are pleased to report that we have met all our external financial commitments in 2018. However, we did not manage to maintain the level of our planned Fabric programme and this is explained below. We aim to rectify this in 2019.

Receipts

Offerings and Donations increased by less than 1% on the previous year. Included within this is £7,700 from our Annual Appeal day which goes towards expenditure on our buildings. A legacy of £1,000 helped but other income was fairly static. With the return of several groups to Dalmeny premises following the refurbishment of the halls there, as expected, income from use of premises reduced by £1,200 to £17,700.

Payments

We only spent £13,800 on fabric repairs and maintenance in 2018 compared with our budget of £25,000. During the second half of the year, our property team realised that the manse drainage system required some serious remedial work. They drew back on our normal programme of work, diverting both expertise and funds to this cause. The work to renew the drainage system was completed by the end of 2018 and I am pleased to report that our insurers have met all the costs, less our small excess. The planned work due in 2018 has been rescheduled for 2019. Administration costs rose in 2018 due to increased printing and improved unlimited WiFi service throughout the premises. Other costs came in around budget.

Reserves

As a charity we must maintain a good level of reserves – for cash flow, to keep our properties in good condition and to develop and grow. At the end of 2018, unrestricted cash reserves are higher than expected due to the lower fabric spending mentioned above. This will return to normal by the end of 2019. We aim to keep sums equal to around eight months' costs, which is within the recommended level set by the Office of the Scottish Charities' Regulator. This is important as we continue to invest for the future, Growing Wider, Growing Deeper and Growing Closer.

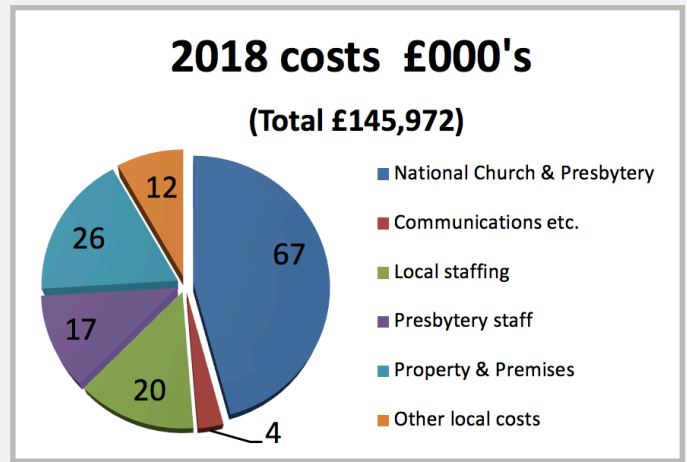
FUTURE

With the exceptions of the extra fabric spend of £11,000 to get back on plan and an increase in our contribution to Ministries and Mission of £4,400, we are aiming to keep our total costs in 2019 at the same level or less than 2018. However, we also continue to seek new ways of reaching more people in our town with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES 2018

We paid National Church & Presbytery for ministers and the church's

mission programme	£ 67,131
Cost of generating funds	£ 4,037
Local staffing	£ 20,444
Presbytery staff	£16,516
Property & Premises	£ 25,720
Other Local costs	£ 12,124
	<u>£ 145,972</u>

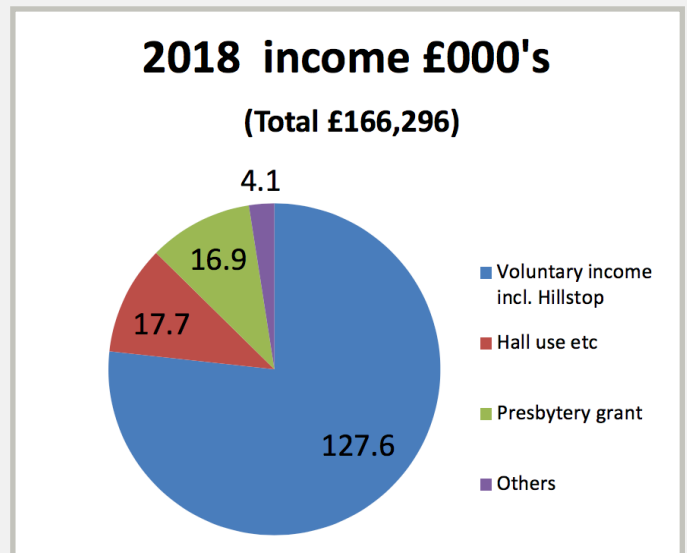


WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM 2018

84% of our income comes from you as voluntary donations and offerings.

Hillstop contributes another £1,800.

The remainder comes mainly from organisations which use our premises on The Loan and at The Vennel. So, we rely heavily on our congregation: regular giving helps us to plan and budget and now many individuals and families give each month by standing order direct to the church bank account. Please read our special section on GIVING!



GIVING

We rely heavily on support from our Congregation. Even with careful management, our costs steadily increase.

If it is some time since you reviewed your giving to the church, would you please consider increasing it this year?

A small increase from everyone will make a big difference to what we can do in our community.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

Last year, we noted that we now received Gift Aid (money for nothing from the Government) on over 80% of all your offerings and donations. This has dropped slightly to 77% in 2018. Do you think we could get this figure up again? If you are a taxpayer (or tax is deducted automatically from your pay or pension), please ask about Gift Aid. It will cost you nothing.

Now that we have no bank in Queensferry, why not give to the church the same way you pay your bills – by standing order? You decide the amount and you have full control over when it is paid and when you want to stop. It really is that simple!

Please speak to Eric Proven, Catherine Lambe or Jim Gaw or pick up a form from the vestibule.

Our challenge to you is:

- If you last reviewed your offerings some time ago, could you please think about increasing what you give, even by a small amount? Thank you for your support.



Seeking Help

Where can I speak to someone about how I feel, or even just make friends?

The GP Practice in South Queensferry now has a full time mental health nurse who can deal with all mental health conditions including depression, low mood, anxiety, stress and drug misuse. She is also trained in talking therapies and can prescribe appropriate medication for all of the above ailments. You do not need to see a doctor to get a referral but can request an appointment with [Cindy Martin](#). 0131 537 4407

Queensferry Churches Care in the Community (the Haven) provides quality support services to older people and carers within the communities of rural northwest Edinburgh. They have created a local directory of activities in the local area suitable for older people in our community (on line and printed) 0131 331 5570

The Priory Community Partnership runs the Edinburgh Food Project on behalf of Trussell Trust (Food bank) on a Thursday from 11am – 1pm and along with this there are staff from the Families and Housing Support Team. There are links to other support services such as fuel poverty and Kids Love Clothes.

Currently in Queensferry

There are many ways to provide Mental Health support and combat isolation.

Cooperative Community Gather Supper Club takes place on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 5.30 – 7.30pm. Although this is held at the Haven it is not just for the elderly. The aim is for a community meal with friendship and support, a way of making connections for people who perhaps feel they would like to meet other people. It is an opportunity for community members to share some food and conversation. It's free, and people are welcome to bring food contributions (bought or made), though this is entirely optional. [Contact linda@edg-sco.org](mailto:linda@edg-sco.org) 0131 476 0522 or 078384 29873

Conversation cafes organized by VOCAL are open drop-in sessions, bringing together carers interested in sharing and discussing thoughts and ideas on a theme over a coffee and in a relaxed, informal space. They are structured to ensure that everyone who wants to gets a chance to share and reflect. The carer conversation café runs monthly, on the last Tuesday of each month, from 10-12noon at The Little Bakery, South Queensferry. [For more information contact Gillian on 331 5570 or email gsmith@vocal.org.uk](#)

There is an active **Mens Shed Group** in the classroom at Craigie Farm every Friday at 10 am. All are welcome to attend, even if it is just for coffee and a chat.

Stepping Stones Local Bereavement Support Group runs for 6 weeks every Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Hawes Inn. [Contact Nara or Christine 07849 648 688](#). The next session starts on 24th April.

Samaritans remain a telephone support for anyone 24/7 [call 116 123](tel:116123)

Many things impact on how we cope with what life throws at us and there are other people who can help.

Helen is the **community Families and Housing support worker**. She runs a drop in session within the Priory Community Partnership /Food bank Thursdays 11am-1pm and is in the Rosebery Hall on a Wednesday 1-3pm. She can help with housing issues and to complete the forms that need to be filled in for both housing and benefit claims. There also is a drop in session in Kirkliston library on a Tuesday 1-4pm.

Young People and Your Home covers Kirkliston and Queensferry, supporting those 16+ who have become, or are at risk of becoming homeless for up to six months, linking them in to appropriate local agencies. Within this they help with a wide range of needs.

For some people being alone leads to feeling down and isolated and joining a local group working in the community may be the answer.

There are many organisations locally and they need more volunteers.

Following the open day held on March 30th we hope to be able to share information about some of these in a future edition.

Stepping Stones bereavement support group

A new 'Stepping Stones' programme is starting on Wednesday 24th of April in the Hawes Inn from 7 30pm until 9pm. This is a community group meeting over 6 sessions and is open to all those going through the bereavement journey. It offers an opportunity to meet others in similar circumstances. The evenings cover different topics, namely: Personal Experiences, the Grieving Journey, Health and Wellbeing, Practical Matters, Money and Legal Matters and Socialising and Thinking ahead.

If you or anyone you know may benefit from attending the group, please [call or text Nara on 07923 545043](tel:07923545043). Leaflets are available from the library, Doctors Surgery, Undertakers and QPC, Dalmeny or Kirkliston Churches.

Dominus Flevit, Jesus wept.

John 11 vs. 35.

If you ever travel on a pilgrimage to Israel this is one of the most striking images you will see. The view of one of the most troubled of cities recording the view of Jesus as he wept over Jerusalem.

Half way up the Mount of Olives and shaped like a teardrop, the chapel of Dominus Flevit.

We are told three times in the Bible that Jesus wept and each time seems to demonstrate something different and something profound, profound in its time and profound for us.

The first time was at the home of Jesus' good friends, Mary and Martha, where their beloved brother Lazarus had just died. Indeed, in their grief they and the mourners were angry with Jesus, because he had delayed his arrival to Bethany, and Lazarus had already been in the tomb for 3 days when Jesus got there. But Jesus must have known He was going to raise Lazarus up, and bring him out of the tomb. So why was He weeping? Maybe he was not weeping for Lazarus after all, because he was about to go in and fetch Lazarus out.

Was he sad for the grief of his dear friends?

Was he weeping for the people who were mourning?

Was the Divine part of him sad for the grief that was, and is, in our world as a result of the fall from grace?

Was he, as God, weeping for His fallen people?

But also knowing that this moment marked the start of the relentless journey towards Jerusalem and crucifixion, was the human part of him weeping for what was to come?

The next time we are told Jesus weeps is when He approaches Jerusalem on the day of the triumphal entry. Palm Sunday. The crowds may have been ecstatic and rejoicing, but He was full of sorrow. Was this the Divine in Him weeping over the City of David? Weeping for what Jerusalem had become? For the city that had failed to realise the Messiah was in its midst? That here they had Him, God the divine, made human?

He now knew that the end game had begun and he weeps over the place that could have made everything so different. And perhaps for all the other places, past, present and future where He goes unknown, misunderstood, denied, hidden; where humanity lives without Divinity.

The final time we hear that Jesus wept was in Gethsemane, that final prayer groaning from the human Jesus, pleading for another way, but ultimately accepting that this was the way: that He was the way, and that this was the cost.

Was Jesus here weeping unashamedly for the person? For His person? His humanity?

And all of ours?

Jesus wept for the people.

Jesus wept for the place.

Jesus wept for the self.

And in Heaven, God as Father, knowing what he was putting his own Son through for His precious creation, His precious child sacrificed, surely God was weeping too.

Two words.

Surely it is in this oh-so simple, not-so simple verse, that God becomes accessible.

Humanity and Divinity overlap, intertwine, become one as we see the true humanity of God as displayed in Jesus, and the divinity of Jesus, the sinless sacrifice for us all.

Dominus Flevit, Jesus wept



Trypraying

The desire to reach out to God is basic to many, many people. Trypraying is a resource for people like that: no church connection or interest, but open to find out about God.

The Trypraying booklet is a 7-day prayer guide and is now being used by many to pass on to friends and family with a few words of encouragement, 'Why don't you try praying for a week and see what happens in your life?'

If you want information about the project that has grown around this, go to www.thereishope.co.uk.

The idea, resources and project are run by a small charity registered in Scotland called 'There Is Hope' (SC048037).



Church and Parish Register

Baptism (Infant)

3rd Mar Grace Barrington, Kirkliston Road, SQ
24th Mar Alexander Brown, Echline Terrace, SQ

Thanksgiving and Blessing

24th Feb Harris Peter David Baptie, Sommerville Gardens, SQ

Deaths

19th Jan Anna Cronin, The Elms Care Home, Edinburgh
7th April Amy Sibbald, Echline Gardens, SQ

Communion

Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of June.



Website and Facebook

If you have something that you would wish to share on the church Facebook page or Website, please send an email to communications@qpcweb.org

Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from **8th SEPTEMBER 2019**. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by **18TH AUGUST 2019**. Please send any pictures as separate attachments. **The editorial team reserve the right to amend items submitted for publication. Items submitted may not necessarily be included in the next edition.**