

From the Minister's Study

Water

I guess it's something that in Scotland we're rarely short of. What am I thinking of? Water of course – clean, fresh, life giving water.

On our recent holiday to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary on the Canary Islands, Lesley and I were struck by the barrenness of the terrain as we set across the island on our holiday coach. Everywhere we looked was mile after mile, mountain after mountain of dry, grey volcanic desert. The only sign of life was an occasional green tree growing precariously out of a dried up riverbed.

Imagine our relief therefore as we entered the seeming oasis of our hotel with its lush, colourful and vibrant flowers and trees. Everywhere we looked the contrast with the bleak terrain surrounding the hotel was evident.

These two images capture contrast:

What was it that made all the difference?

Water of course – clean, fresh, life giving water.

Never before had the impact of water seemed so powerful.

As if on cue an image from the gospels floats across my mind, it is of Jesus by a well, engrossed in conversation with a woman from Samaria. Not surprisingly their topic of conversation focused on water for time and again Jesus connected with people around the ordinary, everyday things of life.

As their conversation unfolded Jesus eventually spoke to her about the kind of water that he had to offer:

'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

Such refreshing, life giving water that he gives us will satisfy even the thirstiest of souls. As a result we are able to flourish; to be fruitful; to blossom; to grow; to bring life to others.

Elsewhere in the gospels Jesus speaks of us being like salt and light. In other words we preserve a decaying society, we add flavour to an increasingly bitter nation, we shine in the darkness of the days we travel through.

How our world today needs refreshing, needs to flourish and to bloom. Good to know then that when we draw near to Jesus and drink of his life giving spirit we create an oasis around us that others are refreshed and nourished by.

CHEERS!

David



Carol Singers Needed

When the Queensferry businesses open for late night shopping on Thursday 5th December we will be singing carols in the High Street.

If possible we would like to cover from 5:30pm-7:30pm but you don't have to sing for 2 hours. You will be welcome to come and go, as you are able.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the lounge just to give us an idea of how many to expect.

Please come and join us for a carol or two as you visit the shops or as you pass by. All welcome.



Mary and Martha

The Mary and Martha event started 20 years ago and was initially the brain child of Sarah MacDonald but then has been led by many others over the years including Jane Anderson, Janet Douglas and Gwenneth Williamson. The idea was to provide a 'timeout' for ladies at the start of the Christmas Season. Reflecting the characters of Mary and Martha, the event has always provided some craft based 'Martha time' followed by contemplative 'Mary time'. Mary and Martha events have taken many forms over the years – but always at Christmas and always with the two Mary and Martha spaces.

In December we held our 20 year celebration of Mary and Martha and incorporated many of the different themes and elements of the last 20 years. To celebrate 20 years we decided to hold an additional event this year – and to reflect that 20 years is a China anniversary, we held an Afternoon Tea party. This was a wonderful chance to catch up with old friends and new whilst sampling delicious sandwiches and cakes over a cuppa.

We would like to invite you to the next Mary and Martha evening in Dalmeny Kirk . Sunday 8th December 2019 6.15pm for 6.30 pm. Cost £8.

This is an evening designed by women for women at a pressurised time of year. There will then be a time of Christmas preparation through both practical crafts and reflection. It seeks to give us all a chance to be creative and to rest in the presence of one another and of the One who loves us best. If you would like to come along please put your name on the noticeboard.



We will all join together in the St Cuthbert Hall for drinks and light nibbles together with an introduction to the evening. We then move into the sanctuary to hear the Christmas story and of course join in singing carols!

Numbers are limited so please sign up as early as you can and before the end of November to allow us to have numbers for planning

Guild

Over the last few weeks of our new session we have learned so much from our speakers. Did you know that the Botanics were first located in Leith. They have now embarked on large extensions to the existing gardens. We also had a speaker telling us that there are so many infant deaths in Zambia as expectant mothers have to bring their own rubber sheets, sanitary towels, etc to the hospital and that many cannot afford what is required so they stay at home with no professional help at all.

We are hoping to raise funds to help these young teenage mothers who are encouraged to marry and have children very quickly as family planning is frowned upon. They miss finishing school and therefore usually end up in poverty and this project aims to teach them how to look after their babies and give them some skills to raise money for their families.

These are just a couple of subjects for our talks. Why don't you join us.

Here is the syllabus for 2020:

14th January	Mairi and Robin Leach – "A Gift of Music in Song"	2.00 pm
27th January	Keith Jones – "The Kelpies"	7.30 pm
11th February	Pamela McLauchlan/Fillian Smith "QCCC The Future"	2.00 pm
24th February	Pauline Robertson – "Global Mission on your doorstep" Sailors Society Guild Project	7.30 pm
10th March	Russell Clink – "Nairn's Oatcakes"	2.00 pm
23rd March	Fundraising Event	7.30 pm
14th April	Christy Thomson – "The Yard"	2.00 pm
27th April	Annual Review	7.30 pm

Weekend Review

I only buy newspapers on a Saturday and it's not for the news, it's for the magazines. In particular I like the part, which in the opinion of the reviewers, recommends the best films in the cinema, the best books (in different categories), the best new music and what's best on TV. I can then decide what programmes to record, what films to see etc.

However there isn't a review, at least in the newspapers I buy, of the best podcasts.

So for this magazine, I would like to recommend a series of podcasts I have been listening to.

The podcasts are from Menlo Church (<http://podcast.menlo.church/>).

There is a 9 part series on "The Way" - and each subject is about how to improve our spiritual lives. John Ortberg gives most of the talks, which are all very easy to listen to, yet challenging; humorous in places, serious in others; very informative, yet very practical. You may have heard of John Ortberg as a writer and I guess his most famous book is "If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat" The beauty of podcasts is that you can listen to them on your phone, tablet, iPad, iPod, or computer. They can be downloaded and listened to at a time and place convenient to you. I usually listen to them when I am out a walk on my own or when doing various chores. I hope you get a chance to listen to them.

Christmas Post 2019

31st Edinburgh (South Queensferry) Boys' Brigade will be collecting & delivering Christmas Cards in South Queensferry, Dalmeny & Kirkliston.

Dates for collections at Queensferry Parish Church
Sunday 1st, 8th & 15th December.

Dates for a collection point at QCCC centre
2nd – 13th December.

Deliveries will be from 15th December.

The cost per card is 25 pence. Please ensure that the correct name and address are clear on each envelope.



Sanctuary

QPC fresh expression is called 'Sanctuary' and began in September this year. We've met as 'The Gathering' every Sunday* since 8th September at Dalmeny Church Centre. Our Gathering meetings begin at 3.30pm with coffee, tea and doughnuts (or a similar tasty treat).

At each meeting we aim to keep things very relaxed and informal with worship, a talk and a response time. So far we have been following a series looking at Jesus; who he is, what he did and how we can know him?

We are enjoying getting to know one another and building a new community. Part of this new expression of church involves establishing 'Life Groups' and these are off to a good start with two groups already established.



If you would like to know more about Sanctuary, The Gathering or would like to join a Life Group please get in touch with us in one of the following ways :

Website: www.sanctuarysq.org **E-mail:** info@sanctuarysq.org **Facebook:** [Sanctuary in SQ](#) **Instagram:** [Sanctuary_SQ](#)

or come and visit us one Sunday afternoon. *PLEASE NOTE: we meet at a different time on the first Sunday of the Month for lunch together.

God with us

This coming Advent season we will wait in anticipation to celebrate the miracle of God with us in Jesus Christ. But even as we wait, we can know that God is always there.

Remind your child of this truth by reading Psalm 139 in an easy to read version such as the NLT (New Living Translation) or NIRV (New International Readers Version). These verses remind children that God is with them always, watching over them with great care, and love, and joy.

Try sharing these verses with your child when:

- * Playing a game of chase "You are all around me, behind me and in front of me. You hold me safe in your hand." Psalm 139:5, NIRV.
- * Reading Runaway Bunny "Suppose I were to rise with the sun in the east. Suppose I travel to the west where it sinks into the ocean. Your hand would always be there to guide me. Your right hand would still be holding me close." Psalm 139:9-10, NIRV.
- * Attempting finger knitting "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous—how well I know it." Psalm 139:13-14, NLT.
- * Counting sheep to fall asleep. "If I were to fall asleep counting and then wake up, you would still be there with me." Psalm 139:18 NIRV.

Unscramble these words from Psalm 139... "You are all around me, behind me and in front of me. You hold me safe in your hand."- Psalm 139:5, NIRV

ruonad _____

ihebnd _____

tnrof _____

dolh _____

sfea _____

ahdn _____

Colour in the Advent Candle wreath:



Answers: around, behind, behind, front, hold, safe, hand

QPC Banners

After I retired I had the opportunity to attend a banner-making course at Carberry Tower, at that time owned by the Church of Scotland. In turn, over a few years, I invited children and adults from the congregation to design and make banners relating to QPC organisations and charities. Ten years ago a Church of Scotland gathering was held at Ingliston. Churches were invited to use one of the small tents provided to give information about their services and organisations. Rev David Cameron from Newton Mearns was one of the organisers of the event.... not long afterwards he applied to be considered as QPC minister!

To draw attention to our tent I invited members of organisations that used our halls to come to a workshop to make A4 size 'banners'. These were linked together and displayed around the outside of the QPC tent. They now hang below the upper gallery ... with the added addition of the QPC golfers mini banner!

Gwenneth

Betty Haigh-100 years young

Well, it was quite an occasion!

There was champagne, there was birthday cake, there were greetings from her Majesty. On 26th September 2019, surrounded by family and friends Betty celebrated her 100th birthday.

Betty lived all her life in Queensferry. As a young woman, she trained as a pharmacist and for many years served the community in Bo'ness through her pharmacy in the town centre.

She and her sister Ray were always seen together in the pews on a Sunday and both were active and committed members of Queensferry Parish Church.

We thank Betty for her lifelong service and support to the church, we congratulate her on reaching this momentous milestone, and we wish her contentment and blessing for all the rest of her days.



Carols, Curry and Beer - A Christmas Event for men.

For many years now, the ladies have had a Christmas event of their own - "Martha and Mary". It was thought this year we men could have Carol Singing. Carol singing as you've never experienced before, with great band, curry and beer tasting. This will be a fun night to remember. Outrageous Christmas jumpers are encouraged.

Friday 13th December, 7.30pm, at Dalmeny Church Hall.

Ticket only event, available from The Ferry Brewery or on line at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/carols-curry-beer-tickets-64142296335> £15. Please book soon as numbers limited.

Profits will go to QCCC

Church and Parish Register

Deaths

26th Aug	Davina Daykin, Daulin Road, SQ
11th Sept	Alison Jones, Farquhar Ter,
13th Sept	Donald Bailey, formerly Shore Road, SQ
5th Oct	Janet Hogg, SQ

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

Communion

Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of December.



Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from 16TH FEBRUARY 2020. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by 26TH JANUARY 2020. 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.