

Still growing wider....

Once again an intrepid band of red clad travellers joined together and made their presence felt in the town's annual Ferry Fair Parade. Its been some 6 years now since we turned up and joined in the celebrations and with our banners, as well as bring-out-the-flavour placards, smiles, waves, teddies and tee-shirts (and not forgetting our waltzing beadle dispensing roses as he goes), we once again let the town know that the church is alive and well in South Queensferry.

Our presence in the parade however is really just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the way our congregation reaches out and into our community and with our vision as a church to Grow Wider, Closer, Deeper we are all called to look for all kinds of creative ways to be salt and light across our town and streets.

When Jesus referred to us as being 'salt and light' in our world then, he was affirming that we would, by our presence, words and actions, preserve as well as heighten the flavour of our communities, that we would lighten the place up, as well as expose the darkness.

Some years ago we undertook an exercise to identify where we all lived in relation to our community and what was heartening was the way we discovered that the congregation was evenly spread across the town. Yes, there were some streets where none of our folks lived but nonetheless the spread across the community placed us in a strong position when it comes to praying for and serving our local neighbourhood. All it takes for us is to open our eyes, ears,



hands and hearts - firstly to God and then to those around us - you just never know where and to what and to whom he might call us.

Ready steady let's go - for the opportunities are there for us all no matter what age or stage we're at in life.

Mary's Meals

Many of the congregation who contributed so generously to last year's Guild Project supporting the work of Mary's Meals will be delighted and astonished to learn that Mary's Meals has now overtaken their very ambitious target of feeding more than a million children each day throughout the world. Today, more than 1,035,637 children will eat one of their meals in a place of education - a miraculous milestone.

Global Bazaar

Queensferry Fair Trade Group invites you to its 13th GLOBAL BAZAAR on Saturday 31st October, 10am-2pm in Queensferry Parish Church Centre. Stalls include One World Shop, Kwai River Crafts, Hadeel, Green Gift Company, Comfort Rwanda, Gogo Olive and Tagua Designs (new this year). In addition to all this, tea, coffee and chocolate tasting by Equal Exchange will be on offer. Admission £2, includes refreshments. Accompanied children - free admission.

It's not too early to do some leisurely Christmas shopping knowing that, ultimately, our purchases will make a huge difference to the producers across the world.



Little did I expect that, after being involved with Queensferry Ambition and the Forth Bridges Festival, the opportunity would come along to put in a bid to host our Sunday Services along with our neighbouring Churches down in a big marquee on 26th July this year. Almost 200 people gathered to celebrate the 125th anniversary of our Forth Bridge and the occasion was topped off through the discrete consumption of nearly 200 large strawberry tarts!

How come we managed to pull this off - simply because of our vision to grow wider and engage more fully with folks across the length and breadth of our community.

What we've accomplished so far is, I believe, just the tip of the iceberg, so let's keep going - growing wider closer and deeper, and this all that a little bit more of heaven might come to Queensferry!



Blessings David
Rev David Cameron



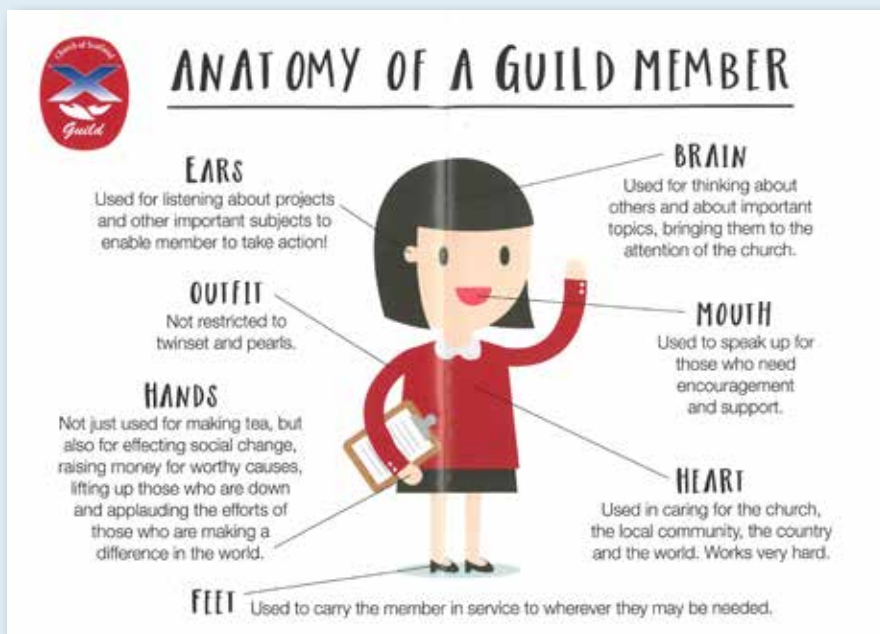
A NEW SESSION BEGINS!

The Guild

Do you think you have any of these attributes? Come along and join us when we resume our meetings for a new session.

Our theme is *Be Bold, Be Strong* and we think the Guild has always been both bold and strong as we've tackled some of the most controversial topics with our Guild funded projects, including this year, FGM, so we are not a load of old fuddy-duddies! As well as some great speakers we have lots of fun and we always have time for a cuppa and a chat!

Our 1st meeting is 6th October at 2pm when Karen Gillon will be speaking on, "The Life of Mary Slessor". Our first evening meeting will be on 12th October at 7.30pm when the Guild General Secretary, Iain Whyte, will address our theme *Be Bold, Be Strong*. Hope to see you there. For more information contact either Catherine on 331 3803 or Esther on 331 1100.



Housegroups

Homegroups are restarting after the summer break. We have two Homegroups meeting in the evenings and a daytime group will be starting up soon. If you haven't been in one before, well you are missing something! The bi-weekly meetings in people's homes are an opportunity to get to know others in a relaxed setting; to discuss things that are relevant to the Christian faith and to support one another as we all journey in our walk of faith.

If you want to know more, please contact Bob Gemmell, Ian Forsyth, Anne Orr (Dalmeny) or email discipleship@qpcweb.org



JC Kids - Junior Church

We hope all JC Kids had a great summer break and are enjoying the start of the autumn term.

Those who were intrepid Polar Explorers got the new term off to an exciting start at holiday club. We hope to continue with lots of adventures this term, including thinking about harvest and retelling the story of Queen Margaret for the whole church. And it'll be Christmas party time again before we know it! If you are between 3 and 12 years old (still in P7), we'd love you to join us on Sundays from 10.30-11.15 for Sparks (3years - starting school age in the Queen Margaret Hall) and Ark (P1-3 in the St Andrew Hall). Its 10.30-11.30 for Tribe (P4-7 in the Vennel Hall).

DIARY DATES -

Sunday 20th September - School holiday weekend. There will still be activities for kids in church though.

Sunday 11th October - No JCKids as it's the local school half term holiday week.

Sunday 8 November - Remembrance Sunday. JCKids still meets.

Sunday 15th November - Queen Margaret Service at 10am.

A big welcome to new children from 3 years to primary 7 any week. Any questions? Please email or phone Melanie Ross: [07973 410044](tel:07973410044), m.ross@doctors.org.uk or Martin Corbett, childrenyouth@qpcweb.org



Boys' Brigade



The Boys' Brigade have now started their new session with a new programme of activities for all sections and hope to involve the boys in a number of new challenges during the coming months. If anyone is interested in joining our Company, please come along to the Church Centre or Queensferry Primary School on a Friday evening and join in the fun. (At time of writing we hope to start the new session on 4th September, but this has still to be confirmed).

The Anchor Boy section (P1 - P3) meets in the Church Centre on Friday evenings, 6.30pm - 7.30pm.

The Junior Section (P4 - P6) meets at Queensferry Primary School on Friday evenings, 7.00pm - 9.00pm.

The Company Section (P7 - S6) will continue to meet at Queensferry Primary School on Friday evenings from 8.00pm - 10.00pm.

If you have any queries or require any further information, please email: bbsouthqueensferry@hotmail.co.uk

Girls' Brigade

Our annual coffee morning and sale will be held on Saturday 7th November 2015. Donations for the stalls will be most welcome and tickets will be available nearer the time. Come and choose your Christmas and greetings cards and browse our stalls for gifts not forgetting to treat yourself from the cake and candy stall. We look forward to seeing you there.



Getting to know you... Ian Forsyth

In this edition, Annette Carrie's interview features Ian Forsyth.

Ian was born and educated in Falkirk – a “Falkirk Bairn”. As a youngster, the grass was always greener on the other side of the fence, for it was next door where a certain young lass called Anne lived. Teenage sweethearts, they later married and have been happily together ever since. Anne, of course, is QPC's very own Parish Assistant. Anne and Ian have three children, two in Scotland and one in Texas, and are proud grandparents six times over, with one more on the way. Ian's hobbies are cycling, reading, walking and travel. They are relative newcomers to Queensferry, having moved from Aberdeen just four years ago to be nearer their family and say emphatically that they love it here.

Ian graduated from Edinburgh University with a BSc in Chemistry and thereafter spent his working life in the oil industry with BP, firstly in Grangemouth and latterly in Aberdeen. It was from the position of manager for leadership and organisational development for the Forties Pipeline System (which goes from the North Sea to Grangemouth, Dalmeny and Hound Point) that he retired early at age 52. He was eager to have time to develop his already well-established community involvement in Westhill, Aberdeen, becoming chair of the Community Council, and also a member of the Leadership Team at the local Episcopal Church. However, Ian admits he was also reluctant to lose touch completely with the network of friends he had made during his working life, and founded the “Last of the Summer Wine “ group, a social and meeting point for “daft old geezers” who had similarly taken early retirement. Ian, of course, was Compo. No prizes for guessing who got the Norah Batty wrinkly stockings!!!

Ian was brought up in a Christian home and church has always been a big part of his life. At age nine he decided he wanted to become a Christian. At University he came across JB Phillips' translation of the New Testament, “fell in love” with Bible reading and has been on a faith journey ever since. In Aberdeen, he took a distance-learning Certificate in Christian Studies. He was part of a local “preaching team” and regularly led worship.

To paraphrase the RSPCA slogan, Ian believes Christianity is for life, not just a Sunday. He sees the church as part of the body of Christ and church folk as a family, a family which can be greatly enriched by using their God-given gifts to work together in mutual support and care. He wholly subscribes to a progression of the vision of Queensferry Parish Church, growing wider - by further outreach to the community, growing closer - by becoming more of a family, and growing deeper - in our relationship to Christ through a culture of prayer.

QPC has benefitted greatly from Ian's prodigious input of faith in action. He is the new Chair of the Congregational Board, he leads the Administration Team, he puts the Sunday sermons on the web and he helps the minister to organise pulpit supply. He is no slouch at preaching a fine sermon either, as many folk have commented, although he says this does not come easily to him. All in all, he makes a huge contribution to church life. Ian is a man who doesn't just talk the talk. He also walks the walk.



Soul Survivor

On a wet and blustery Saturday afternoon at the beginning of August, the youth fellowship grouped together in the middle of a field and set up what was to become home for the next few (still rather wet) days and nights. Once settled, we met with hundreds of other young folk from across Scotland for Soul Survivor in a giant circus tent at Lendrick Muir.

The worship was LOUD and the reading of the word was interactive to say the least!! Mike Pilavachi brought us a message each morning and evening, and the atmosphere in the tent was full of God's presence. During the day the group headed off to various seminars on living their life for Jesus, and even joined in a colourful rave party. The Youth Fellowship is planning to return next year – do get in touch with Liz Laing if you'd like to join our camping expedition.



Polar Explorers



Over the course of a week filled with excitement, around 60 children joined us for our daily expeditions to the poles!

Our huge igloo (thanks for all the milk cartons, folks!) and a blanket of 'snow' across the stage set the scene for songs, drama, craft and games, while the small-group time in the four 'basecamps' enabled the team leaders to convey something of the life of Peter, Stephen, Philip, Saul and Timothy in different ways for different age groups. And the buzz of excitement increased when we had a visit from Gavin Francis, a real life Antarctic explorer.

A huge thanks to the team of volunteers who made this a successful, dynamic and adventurous week of seeking God's Kingdom as we leave kingdom footprints everywhere we go. Our memory verse, which we shall all be putting into action, was **"Wear shoes that are able to speed you on as you preach the good news of peace with God."** Ephesians 6:15



Stepping Stones - a Bereavement Programme

"Bereavement is a journey to be travelled, not an illness to be cured or a problem to be solved"

Local Churches along with funeral directors, registrars, doctors and specialist speakers have set up the Stepping Stones Bereavement Programme. It will be hosted in the Haven and delivered over six weeks commencing Wednesday 14th October through to Wednesday 18th November. The main purpose is to share experience with others who have been bereaved and the topics are a backdrop to assist in that process.

The meetings will start at 7.30 each evening with tea or coffee and chat followed by an invited speaker on each of the topics: Health & Wellbeing, Grieving Process, Cooking for One, Money Matters, Socialising and Personal Experience, and Thinking Ahead. Hopefully there will be something in every evening for you, but we would welcome you to come and try the ones that interest you most. For further information on venue and topics and to let us know you would like to attend please email:

pastoral@qpcweb.org or phone 331 1100.

Church and Parish Register

Marriages

24th July Vicki MacLean and Ramsay Dow

Baptisms (Infant)

19th July Esme Lauren Rosalind Gould, Lang Rigg
19th July Hannah Alison Julia Gould, Lang Rigg

New Members

22nd July Vicky Cameron, Echline Terrace

Deaths

3rd June James Hope, Ochil Court
5th June Jenny Crockett, Moubray Grove
22nd June John Steele, Longcrook
27 July Billy McColl, Arrol Place
10 August Agnes Higgins, The Glebe, Dalmeny
13th August Jenny Park, Plewlands Place
18th August Tom Mabbott, Kirkliston Road

Weekly Worship Services

Sunday 10:00am – 11:00am Family Service (at 10:25 children leave for learning in their own age groups).
11:30am – 12:30pm A more traditional worship service
Thursday 9:30am – 10:00am A reflective service with a Celtic tradition of responses.

The Youth Fellowship meets every Sunday evening from 7:30pm – 9pm

Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from 22nd November 2015. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by 31st October 2015.