

From the Minister's Study - Forgiveness

Back in January 2015 a letter was sent to the Oxford University Press regarding the following:

'We the undersigned are profoundly alarmed to learn that the Oxford Junior Dictionary has systematically been stripped of many words associated with nature and the countryside. We write to plead that the next edition sees the reinstatement of words cut since 2007.'

Two of the signatories to this letter were Robert McFarlane, a writer and academic and Jackie Morris, a children's illustrator.

Drawn together by their mutual concern they have created a beautifully illustrated book with some acrostic poems (spells) and some wonderfully contrasting illustrations. This in turn has inspired a movement and a series of songs as well as an exhibition at the Botanic in Edinburgh, which runs until the 2nd September and is free!

Wandering into it last month I was captured by its beauty and impact – author Robert Macfarlane sets the scene:

"Once Upon a time, words began to vanish from the language of children. They disappeared so quietly that at first almost no one noticed – fading away like water on a stone. The words were those that children used to name the natural world around them: acorn, adder, bluebell, bramble, conker – gone! Fern, heather, kingfisher, otter, raven, willow, wren...all of them gone! The words were becoming lost: no longer vivid in children's voices, no longer alive in their stories."

MELODY IN F – Author unknown

Feeling footloose and frisky, a feather-brained fellow forced his fond father to fork over the farthings, and flew far to foreign fields and frittered his fortune feasting fabulously with faithless friends.

Fleeced by his fellows in folly, and facing famine, he found himself a feed flinger in a filthy farmyard. Fairly famishing, he fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from fodder fragments. "Foey, my father's factotums fare far finer," the frazzled fugitive forlornly fumbled, frankly facing facts.

Frustrated by failure, and filled with foreboding, he fled forthwith to his family. Falling at his father's feet, he forlornly fumbled, "Father, I've flunked, and fruitlessly forfeited family favour." The far-sighted father, forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged the factotums to fetch a fatling from the flock and fix a feast.

The fugitive's faultfinding brother frowned on the fickle forgiveness for the former folderol. But the faithful father figured, "Filial fidelity is fine, but the fugitive is found! What forbids fervent festivity? Let flags be un-furled! Let fanfares flare!"

Father's forgiveness formed the foundation for the former fugitive's future fortitude.

Advance Notice: Moderatorial Visit

Edinburgh Guild Council is delighted that the Church of Scotland Moderator Rev. Susan Brown has accepted its invitation to address all members and friends on Wednesday 5th December at 2pm at Queensferry Parish Church, on

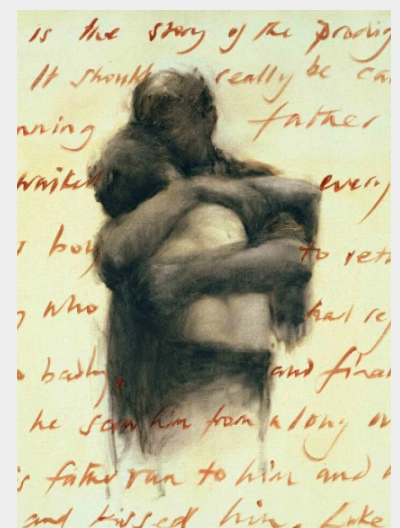
Since then it's got me thinking about what other words are slowly being eradicated from our world. In our increasingly polarized, combative and aggressive form of discourse – be it found on social media or in Council Chamber, Scottish Parliament or in the Houses of Commons the tone and content seem today to leave little room for kindness, courtesy and that wonderful and rare commodity 'forgiveness'.

Forgiveness – a lost word which if rediscovered and widely practiced would transform nations, communities and families.

Within the reservoir of Christian teaching there is, many suggest, little written of depth about the subject – should we be anxious about this?

Perhaps yes, perhaps no, for we have at the heart of the teachings of Jesus an outstanding short story of a father and his two sons. In Luke 15 verses 11- 32 the story of the prodigal son or the grumpy brother or THE FORGIVING FATHER gives us a story that restores the increasingly lost word of 'forgiveness' to our world. Let's be ambassadors for its restoration and wherever we go let's plant it wherever we can!

In keeping with the Lost Words exhibition however let me also leave you with a poem and a visual illustration from Charlie Mackesy:



the Guild theme "One Journey, Many Roads". Susan was Queensferry's very first student assistant and is remembered here with great affection. All are welcome to attend and to meet with Susan.

25 Years of Ministry

Having served in Maxwell Mearns Castle for almost 16 years and here for 9, David recently celebrated 25 years of Ministry. It seemed a good time to reflect.

How did you come to be the minister in QPC?

On a golf course overlooking the Kyles of Bute, shooting for the green with a 7 iron, I idly tossed up a prayer 'Lord, is there any new calling you have for me?'

That night I awoke from a dream with the strong impression I should become Minister in QPC. I knew nothing about Queensferry. I didn't even know there was a vacancy!

What element of Ministry are you most passionate about?

The symbol of the Cross, reaching upwards to God, outwards to the world is very important to me. Helping people hear from God and step out in faith, seeing people through testing times, discovering the relevance of faith.

Can you describe a typical day?

A typical day? No such thing. Today started with a meeting about a cross-community support project. Then I conducted a funeral and prepared for another. This interview, another meeting, later I am helping a couple arrange their wedding, and there's always urgent business and emails.

That's quite a range of emotions to encounter in 1 day.

In the early 80's, many ministers were experiencing stress and overload.

A paper presented to the General Assembly suggested 7 basic tasks for ministry:

- Preaching and teaching
- Pastoring and caring
- Leadership and planning
- Mission and evangelism
- Administration and organisation
- Presbytery and assembly
- Personal devotion and study.



I use the analogy of plate spinning. Keeping all these tasks in the air is a challenge. Sometimes they wobble and sometimes they fall!

What gets you stressed?

Administration! Managing expectations and demands. My training did not include managerial skills. I had to learn all about the business of a 'working church' on the job.

Who ministers the Minister?

Staying in touch with God is vital. Through my own ministry I feel God ministering to me.

Support groups here and in Presbytery are important. The Church of Scotland provides study leave to allow ministers to take time out to reflect and I try to reserve a day each month for personal reflection. And the 'Uno society'.

The UNO society?

I went through Ministerial training with this bunch. We played 'Uno' together. After qualifying we agreed to meet up three times a year for prayer, encouragement and lunch! This peer support is invaluable.

Most families relax and have time together at the weekends, just when you are working hardest. How do you juggle Ministry commitments with family life?

Badly. Ministry is both predictable and unpredictable, planned and unexpected. Key events like team meetings provide structure. And I married a very gracious lady who has shared my journey. When I was considering ministry we had 2 small children. Lesley, initially horrified, quickly became excited as she experienced the same sense of calling.

Where would you like to see QPC in 5 years time?

I hope to see Fresh Expressions of Church; a refurbished Church fit for the 21st century and us continuing to reach out to the community.

What is your favourite way to relax?

Good food in the company of family and friends. And golf, of course.

What was the last film you saw or book you read? (Other than the Bible)

Movie - Peter Rabbit, with my grandsons.

Book - The most recent LJ Ross, crime fiction set in Northumberland. I like the genre.

And finally, what is it with Tunnocks teacakes?

Scottishness in a bite.

What's not to love?



The full interview can be found in the blog section on the Church's website.

Big Green Coffee Morning

The Community Team within the church has been busy following our successful achievement of a Bronze award. We are already working towards the Silver award and as part of this we held our 'Big Green Coffee Morning' on Saturday 26th May. We were able to team this with hosting the Christian Aid 'Inherit the Earth' photo exhibition, which was a thought-provoking addition to the event and carried on all week.

What was the Big Green Coffee morning all about?

We focused specifically on one issue - single use plastics. We use coffee cups, water bottles, straws, plastic bags once and then throw them away. There are 1 MILLION plastic bottles purchased per minute worldwide. We may remember to recycle some of these plastics - but many items, such as coffee cups head straight to landfill. Even worse they are thrown away as litter and pollute our landscape and in many cases end up being washed into the sea.

There are 46 THOUSAND pieces of plastic in every square mile of ocean? It's estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish.

We learnt about the scale of the problem and how to solve it! We were grateful to Sophie Bridger from Plastics Free Scotland helping to raise awareness (have YOU sent your postcard to Tesco asking them to reduce plastic packaging) <http://plasticfreescotland.org/>. We had lots of plastic-free alternatives on sale as well. The One World Shop had supplied examples of recycled and alternative products and "Anything but Plastic" had a stall with plastic free products. Their stall offered everything from metal straws and reusable Keep Cups to shampoo bars and cling film alternatives: www.anythingbutplastic.co.uk/



Actions:

- Buy a coffee on the way to work? Take your re-useable cup with you (you often get a discount too!).
- Always have a bottle of water? Use a refillable alternative.
- Have lots of plastic bottles lining your bath or shower? Replace them with a bar of soap and a shampoo bar.
- Always buy your veg in a plastic bag? Buy them loose (yes even in Tesco! Weigh them loose, self-scan and put straight into your reusable shopping bag!)
- A straw with your drink? Just say no!
- Plastic plates at your barbeque? Try the www.vegware.co.uk alternatives or of course use your usual plates and wash up afterwards!
- Plastic bottles of milk? You can get glass bottles delivered to your doorstep! www.mcqueensdairies.co.uk/deliveries/ is one local supplier.

Each item of plastic you ditch is one less bit of plastic taking up to 1000 years to decompose
We also want to take action as a church - watch this space for news.

TeamBuilders Holiday Club

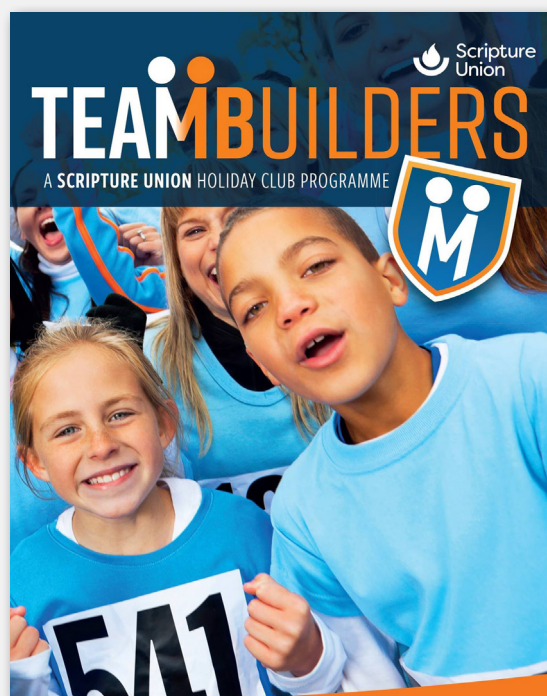
With 55 children attending every day at TeamBuilders Holiday Club we had lots of fun together in our squads, building friendships, creating team cheers, funny jokes, playing team games, exploring God's story, earning stars for teamwork and good sportsmanship.

We discovered there is room for all on God's team and everyone plays a valuable role. The Bible says: "Each of us has one body, made up of many parts... so also we are many. But in Christ we are one." (Romans 12:5)

I hope every child who came and every teen and adult helper will always remember that there is a place for them on God's team forever; you don't have to feel like a star to make the cut. May we also extend that grace to others, for we are all different by design, and through Jesus, we play as one!

Thank you to our Head Coach, Head Tactician, Squad Coaches and Assistants, and all who helped with snack, set-up and tear-down, craft prep, donations, registration, organisation, games, etc. It truly takes a team, and I couldn't have asked for a better one!

- The Gaffer (aka Jill)



FAMILY FOCUS

September 2018

This Issue: The Spirituality of the Seasons

Before the summer break, QPC's newly formed Family Ministry Team met for the first time, to ask how we can support families in South Queensferry. We quickly realised that the answers are as diverse as families are. Particularly, families in different stages of life need different kinds of support. Some families with wee ones at home are in a sort of survival mode, while families with teens are navigating exam anxiety and consequential choices. We look forward to developing meaningful ways to support families at each stage.

Building onto the idea of seasons of life, I also hope to support families through the seasons of the year, beginning with our backpack blessing a few weeks ago. The year is rhythmic without our trying to force it. Each season comes and goes with its own sounds and smells and particular light, its own feel and pace and traditions. I believe that leaning into these rhythms can be a spiritual practice, and that doing so with the children in your life is one way to help them look for and connect with God in the every day.

Below you'll find one suggested practice from a book I love, packed full of simple practices for special days and everyday. The one printed here is suggested for the youngest of children, but as an adult with no children of my own, it resonates with me as a meaningful practice as is or adapted. I hope you think so too.

Best to you in your current season!
– Jill Meek, Children & Family Worker



Bedtime: Marking the Days God Has Given

When my son Clayton was about 18 months old, we began to add a sticker to a piece of poster board every night before bedtime. The original idea was to keep track of books we were reading, but it became more than that. Removing a sticker and affixing it to the poster board had a sort of ritual feel to it. It wasn't a "reward" for reading a book anymore; it was a moment to mark the fact that another day was through and that it was time for bed. This tradition is inspired by that same tradition I started with Clayton. Much like writing in a daily journal or marking off the days on a calendar, this tradition says, simply, "Another day has come and gone." As the days go by, the stars on the board become more numerous, and a simple piece of art is created. It's powerful to look at the board after a few months of this tradition.

Designed for Ages 18 Months-5 Years

Materials 1) Piece of poster board 2) Small star stickers

Time Investment: 30 seconds-1 minute per night

How To:

- 1) Every evening, just before bed, walk to the poster board, choose a star sticker and place it on the poster board.
- 2) Say "Thank you, God, for another day. Amen."



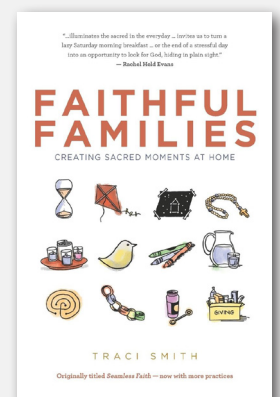
Notes:

- This tradition is particularly effective for little ones. While they might not understand some of the spirituality behind marking the days God has given, they will still appreciate the tradition and routine feel of it. As they grow, the conversational aspect can grow and develop as well.
- Like some of the other traditions in this book, this tradition is effective in its simplicity. Some of our days are challenging; some are easy. This tradition thanks God for the day and does not offer commentary.
- Another beautiful thing about this tradition is how the days accumulate over time. Each of the stars represents a day, and over time it is impressive to think about the days, and the joys and challenges they presented.

Variations:

- Use stickers with varied shapes or symbols.
- Put the stickers in a book rather than on a poster board.
- Say a prayer after putting the sticker on the poster board.
- Decorate or paint the board before hanging it.

This practice excerpted from the book Faithful Families: Simple Practices for Daily Family Life by Traci Smith. Published by Chalice Press, 2017. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



Return to Routine

What are your favourite traditions from childhood?
A special meal on your birthday?
Summer holidays spent with grandparents?
Christmas day?

Every family has its traditions, some that have been passed along for generations, others that came to be accidentally.

Traditions are formed intentionally or not. In fact, it may be that it is the everyday routines and rituals, more than special "traditions" that stand out in our hearts and minds as we look back. Favourite meals made, or games played, morning car-ride chats or sing-a-longs, weekend hours spent together in the garden or on the football pitch.

In Deuteronomy 6:6-9, the instruction for passing along the faith to our children is that it is to be woven in with the everyday. *"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates."*

Nurturing our children's faith doesn't need to be some big event, or formal thing, and extra "to-do" that we never get around to. Rather, it happens in a conversation here, a cuddle there, through symbols, and songs, or a meal shared.

What would it look like to begin to see your everyday routines as spiritual? How can you help the children in your life to find God in their play, at mealtime, at school? How might they help you to do this too?



What's On (& Why Not Join In?)



Teas & Tots has started up again. This group meets on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 at Dalmeny Kirk. It is a place for parents and childminders to bring their children so all can play and chat together. It is a lovely way to welcome our neighbours. Dalmeny's Café team serves tea and coffee and we end our time with story and song. We do need volunteers to make the coffee and others to read the story. If you can do either, please contact Jill.



Messy Church meets the first Sunday of the month at 4:00 at the Priory church. We are excited about what is in store for this year. If you've never been, come check it out! You might love participating or leading.



SU: We have a wonderful opportunity to encourage and walk with the children in our community through lunch groups in the schools in partnership with Scripture Union. Please pray for the leaders of and children in these groups, and let Jill know if you are interested in assisting with one.

Year of Young People Prayer Focus

September: Global Justice

For young people around the world who suffer, may they receive kindness and experience wholeness, may we see in them the face of Christ.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.
Matthew 25:35-40



October: Harvest

Seeds sprouting
Trees budding
Youngsters discovering
Maturity honoured
Hope renewed
Purpose realized
Progress made
Fear overcome
Insight unearthed
Commitment expressed

A Harvest expression of hopes and thanks,
adapted from a prayer by (Source: Rev Grant Barclay)



We hope you have all had a great summer holiday.
 We are looking forward to lots of fun, games,
 action and stories during the new term.
 It is always super to have new kids to come along and
 join us.
 Why not bring a friend?



Girls Brigade starts on Wednesday 22nd August in the Church Centre.
 Explorers (P1-P3)
 Juniors (P4-P7)
 Brigaders (S1 upwards)
 For more information Email: 46edinburgh@googlemail.com

Boys Brigade starts on Friday 31st August in Queensferry Primary School
 Enjoy an action packed programme of games, crafts, sports and learning new skills whilst having fun and making new friends.
 Anchor Boys (P1-P3) 7pm-8pm.
 Junior Section (P4-P6) 7pm-9pm.
 Company Section (P7-S6) 8pm-10pm
 For more information Email: bbsouthqueensferry@hotmail.co.uk

Boys' Brigade Historical Scrap Book

We are looking to create a historical scrapbook of The Boys' Brigade in South Queensferry. If any one (old members, parents or friends) have any old photographs, newspaper cuttings, display programmes or any information that may be informative, please contact ourselves by email bbsouthqueensferry@hotmail.co.uk. Where possible, we will copy the information and return it to you.

Homegroups

What is a homegroup? The obvious answer is that it is a group that meets in a home.

WHAT are they?

In the context of Queensferry Parish Church and Dalmeny Kirk, they are small groups of around 8-12 people who meet every 2 weeks in school term time in people's homes. Currently there are 2 groups who meet in an evening.

WHY have them?

The purpose of homegroups is to help people grow in their Christian faith in an informal, interactive way, and to build authentic, supportive friendships.

HOW do they work?

There is a varied programme of topics which enable us to explore how Jesus is relevant to every part of our lives. We also pray for the Lord's guidance and help for those in need, whether or not in the group. There is of course time for refreshments and a chat.

WHO goes?

Adults of any age attend. Some have been committed Christians for many years, some are new to the Christian faith.

WHEN are they held?

At the moment, they are on every second Wednesday from 7.30-9.30pm.

If you would like to try a group, please contact Rebecca Saunders on discipleship@qpcweb.org or phone Ian Forsyth on 0131 629 7833.



Is Christianity boring, untrue and irrelevant?

On Thursday 13th September Queensferry Parish Church (alongside Kirkliston Parish Church) will be hosting our third joint Alpha Course. This is an opportunity for those who might not otherwise come to church (and those that do) to explore and ask questions of the Christian faith.

Our lives are busy...busy raising a family, caring for elderly relatives, working for the next pay increment, never mind the pressures of social media and keeping up with friends. But how often do we take time out to ask some of life's bigger questions, like Why am I here? What's the point of my life? Is there really a God? Is humanity just a huge accident? These are just a few of the questions that are explored on the Alpha Course each week. The format of each evening takes the shape of a meal together, followed by a short film and then discussion about the content of the film. One of the main principles of Alpha is the emphasis on a non-judgemental and informal approach to discussions. As an attendee you can be as involved in discussions as you feel comfortable – there's no pressure to join in. For some, Alpha is the time in their otherwise busy lives to have space to think and reflect on some of life's big questions; for others it's a place to belong and make new friends. Whatever it is it's certainly not dull or boring...just like life!

If you would like to attend this year's Alpha course please contact us at office@qpcweb.org, call us on 0131 331 1100 or text 07598 397962 or find us on Facebook – Queensferry Parish Church.

More information is also available on our website at www.qpcweb.org/notices/alpha-course-2018



For the little ones. Creche available during Sunday's Family Service. Mother and Toddlers on Wednesday and Thursday. Jo Jingles on Monday for fun and movement to music.

Find out more at www.qpcweb.org/community/community-in-church

Golf This year QPC had 2 teams entered in the annual golf competition organised by QCCC for the John Carrie silver salver. The salver was won this year by the 'swinging quartet'.

Hillstop Mon-Fri: 10am – 11:30am. Drop in for tea/coffee and chat. Why not volunteer for one morning every second week.

Rosemary Bain: 0131 331 1558.

Teddies for Tragedies.



Our Teddy Blessing Service will be on Sunday 23rd September at both services. Please try to get knitted donations, especially teddies, to Norma before this date to decorate the church. Knitted/crocheted donations can be handed in to Hillstop any weekday morning between 10am - 11.30am, for attention of Norma Brown with your name.

Many children benefitted from last year's donations. If you have some time on your hands, please pick up your needles and make something much needed by a child somewhere. Teddies are always in demand and scarves are much needed by Blythswood Care Charity to be added to their Christmas Shoe Box donations. No pattern needed, just a pair of old size 6 (5mm) needles and DK yarn (please not chunky), knit approx. 36 stitches until long enough for a child to wrap around them a couple of times. A pattern for everything is available in the "Teddies for Tragedies" folder in the Lounge.

Contact Norma at clairebear_tft@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Queensferry Guild

The Guild session recommences on Monday 24th September at 7.30pm, and a warm welcome is extended to women and MEN to join us, even on a "drop-in" basis.

Our first meeting acknowledges the important role women played in wartime with a presentation on the Land Girls. We are privileged to have as a speaker the BAFTA winning producer of "Vera", "Death in Paradise" and "Shetland" amongst others. Nicola Wight commemorates the centenary of the granting of womens' suffrage. Our Projects for this year are the Seema project, based in India offering support to vulnerable street children in Pune, India, and Faith in Young People, a collaborative project with the Boy's Brigade.

We hope we have chosen topics to stimulate your interest. Please contact [Lesley MacKenzie 331 3410](tel:3313410) or [Annette Carrie 331 4311](tel:3314311) if you would like to find out more about the Guild, or if you would require transport to attend.

Evenings at 7.30 pm

24th September	Land Girls
29th October	What's on Telly?
26th November	The Suffragettes' Story
10th December	Christmas party

Afternoons at 2pm

9th October	Cancer Research
13th November	Guild Project – Boy's Brigade



Queensferry Parish Church Guild Christmas Fayre

Saturday 24th November 10am – noon

Tea/coffee, home baking, stalls
Admission £2



16th Global Bazaar

The members of Queensferry Fair Trade Group invite you to their 16th Global Bazaar on Saturday 27th October, 10am – 12.30pm in Queensferry Parish Church Centre on The Loan.

Stalls include – The World Shop selling a wide variety of Fairly Traded craft products and food items, Kwai River Crafts from Thailand – handmade greeting cards, Hadeel – a wide variety of crafts from community based groups in Gaza, Lebanon and the West Bank, Tearcraft – now known as Created – selling handcrafted home, gift and novelty items from Fairtrade producers all over the world.

Admission £2.00. Free entrance for all school age children.



Prayer in QPC & Dalmeny

How do you feel when someone mentions prayer? Are you confident or feel "Help, how do I do that?" Prayer is a conversation between you and God and can take place at anytime, anywhere about anything.

Much has been said about prayer but we each pray in our own way. There is no right or wrong way. In our churches we pray together as part of worship and we publish suggestions for prayer so that the whole congregation can pray together for the same thing. Prayer is also an integral part of our home groups and the ecumenical bible study group which some of our members belong to.

Occasionally, we hold open days for prayer and meditation and invite the congregation to come to church and pray for specific topics usually using "prayer stations" to focus attention.

The next event is on Saturday 6th October when the theme will be praying for the harvest of our minds, focusing on the groups which meet in our church and are a part of our mission. Have you booked the date yet?

Within the congregation we have a Prayer Circle of over 50 people who pray daily at home for those in need in our church family and local community. There's always room for more members.

For the techno generation there is a Prayer Wall on Facebook called "Queensferry Prayer" posting daily prayers for the wider world.

If you would like to be part of our exciting Prayer Ministry we would love to hear from you, especially if you could help us bring down the average age of the team. We have plans to involve the youth groups during the coming year so no excuses about age and inexperience.

Interested? Email: prayer@auld.me.uk

Give it a go at our next prayer event.

Harvest Festival

We are celebrating the Harvest Festival on Sunday 30th September. Please note that there will be only one service that Sunday, bringing the Church family together, with a sandwich lunch following the service. For details of timings, please check the Church website or notices. All are welcome!

Church and Parish Register

Marriages

11th May Jane Forrester and Alex Harkin

Thanksgiving and Blessing

6th May Lucy Anne Hall, Sommerville Gardens, SQ

20th May Emily Bakke Simpson, London

Deaths

6th Apr Polly Ridge, Kirkliston Road, SQ

11th Apr Patrick Raven-Hill, Echline Grove, SQ

14th Apr Gordon Ensor, William Black Place, SQ

6th Jun David Nisbet, Parkgrove Gardens, Edinburgh

10th Jun George Grubb, Wellhead Close, SQ

19th Jun Ivor Thomson, Clovenstone Park, Edinburgh

8th Jul Georgina Quinney, SQ

2nd Jul Jane Hardwick, Kirklands Park Gardens, Kirkliston

21st Jul Ray Haigh, Springwell Terrace, SQ

25th Jul Alice Raven-Hill, Echline Grove, SQ

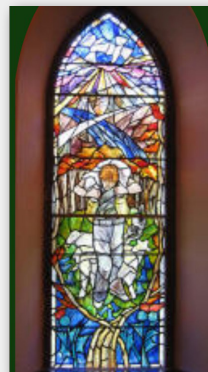


Website and Facebook

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.



You are invited to join us at Queensferry Parish Church for the celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday services are at 10:00am or 11:30am

Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from 25TH NOVEMBER 2018. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by 4TH NOVEMBER 2018. 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.