

Travelling together

It's that time of year again – on a blue sky clear day you might be out for a walk when above you in the sky you hear the sound of honking geese.

Their pattern of flight is often beautiful to watch – a V formation ensures some vital energy saving features. Research has shown that there is good sound reasoning behind such a formation for as each bird flaps its wings it creates uplift for the bird behind it. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds 71 per cent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

Whether geese or people and yes even church – when sharing a common direction and sense of community then we travel better and further than we would alone.

When the lead goose in the V formation begins to flag it falls back into line to pick up a lift from the bird in front, and when one bird sees a bird ahead beginning to flag, that familiar and distinctive 'honk' is offered by way of enthusiastic encouragement.

What simple yet profound insights from the geese in our natural world and how good for each of us in the Church to see how we might be like them.

Look around you and where you see folks flagging a bit, find a way to enthusiastically encourage them (honking might be fine for geese but perhaps we need to be a bit more creative in our encouraging...).

Conversion to a Unitary Constitution

Some five years ago, we introduced nine teams and a management Forum to carry out the work of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board. These teams continue to work extremely well. The Church of Scotland is encouraging congregations to move to a single "Unitary Constitution" and we in QPC want to bring our teams into a single body of Trustees (the Kirk Session) for decision-making.

Moving to a single governance structure such as this will

- Enable better alignment with the legal requirements we have for Charitable Status
- Simplify governance arrangements
- Reduce the frequency of scheduled meetings and allow meetings to cover the entire range of decisions involving spiritual, property-related, financial and other matters

The Kirk Session and Congregational Board have considered carefully the implications of this change and have unanimously decided this is the way ahead for the



Have you been in leadership for a while and feel you've lost something of that initial vision and passion – maybe time back in the team might refresh you and at the same time enable someone else to step up and lead the way for a season.

Maybe you haven't yet found your wings and hanging about in the field is how you feel at the moment. Time to fly – to rise and get going? Remember: when sharing a common direction and sense of community we travel better and further than we would alone.

In the coming months at QPC we hope to do a bit of restructuring in the way we work together – as part of this we hope to re-launch our teams as well as looking to initiate new opportunities for mission. Maybe the time to fly is just around the corner.

Every blessing
David

congregation of Queensferry Parish Church. We now need to obtain agreement from the membership and regular worshippers by a majority congregational vote. It is planned therefore that this vote will be held during both services on **Communion Sunday 3rd December, 2017**.

The intention to vote will be intimated on the preceding two Sundays, and more information will be available on these Sundays, on the website, and from visiting elders.

The Great ADVENTure:

An Interactive Day of Prayer for the Whole Family

Saturday 25 November in Queensferry Parish Church.

See notices and fliers for more details.

We will be there. Will you?

Rev. Susan Brown

Congratulations to the Rev. Susan Brown, Minister of Dornoch Cathedral, now Moderator Elect of the Church of Scotland, and most importantly, Queensferry Parish Church's very first probationer assistant. A diminutive figure who sometimes struggled to see over the lectern, Susan is remembered with great affection for the fun of her children's addresses, for her easy and informal approach to worship, for her thoughtful words and for her great approachability. She also had a wicked sense of humour. Such was the impact of Queensferry on Susan, that our second probationer assistant was her husband Derek, now Chaplain to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness. Susan and Derek have two children, Simon, a published author, and Hannah, a social anthropology graduate, now working abroad. We wish them all every blessing for Susan's moderatorial year.



Christmas Post 2017

31st Edinburgh (South Queensferry) Boys' Brigade

Collections at Queensferry Parish Church on Sunday 3rd, 10th & 17th December.

Deliveries from 17th December.

Deliveries to South Queensferry, Dalmeny & Kirkliston only.

Cost 25p per card (Please ensure that the correct name and address are clear on each envelope).



Bridge Crossing

The Boys' Brigade were lucky to receive a small number of invites to take part in the walk across the new Queensferry Crossing before the official opening of the new bridge. We used this 'Once in a Lifetime Opportunity' to raise sponsor money for Queensferry Churches Care in the Community. We are now delighted to announce that we will be able to hand over a cheque for over £1000 to QCCC this month. Thank you to all our sponsors and everyone who took part.



Teddies for Tragedies

Norma Brown would like to thank everyone who helped on the day and supported in various ways with the recent Teddies for Tragedies Fundraising Coffee Morning held on 7th October. R. McIvor, with B. Christie a worthy runner up, won the Quiz prizes. N. Nisbet won the Britannia tickets. Money has been coming in and the final total is now a fabulous £640.53p. This will go a long way to helping with expenses incurred in the running and the donation distribution of this valuable project, also to buy some lovely teddy print fabric to make the drawstring bags in which most of the Teddies travel to their new homes.

Collection of these teddies knitted to the special pattern has already begun for next year, along with the knitted scarves, hats mitts and blankets we collect and distribute to children. Recent distributions have been to children in Moldova, Syria, Haiti and Chernobyl. With hats scarves and mitts going to Blythswood Care in Glasgow to be added to their Christmas Shoe Boxes. Four Teddies went with Ken and Christine Kirkcaldy, on the expedition party to the Dr Grahams Homes in Kalimpong, India, in November and 10 teddies went with the organiser Rev John Webster.



Getting to know you..... Jill Meek

We bid a very warm welcome to Jill Meek who has recently been appointed as Queensferry Parish Church's Children's and Family worker. And are we not fortunate indeed to find her? Jill already has extensive experience in working with young folk. As a graduate in Children and Family Ministry from John Brown University in Arkansas, she says she "found her niche in her High School years", volunteering at church, and for the last eight years has been Director of Children's Ministry in the National Presbyterian Church in Washington DC – an impressive track record! Interestingly, her mother, brother, and sister-in-law all work in churches too! And her husband? Well, he's the reason Jill is in Scotland. Having tuned in to Scottish Theology, he is now studying for a Ph.D. at New College and is an assistant at St. Giles'. Jill was surprised and delighted to find work akin to what she had been doing, and sees God's hand in orchestrating her present situation.

Jill assesses her job here as being somewhat different to her more defined role in Washington. There, she worked mainly with up to 100 children already associated with the church. Her main responsibilities were tied in with Sunday mornings – developing a curriculum, leading volunteers, helping the children to build friendships with each other – as well as organising seasonal events, for children and families, such as for Christmas and Easter, and Vacation Bible School. In Queensferry she sees her role more in outreach to the community and developing a ministry for families—at present "a bit of a blank canvas". Although there is already well-established provision for children in church she would like to develop that further. She is greatly looking forward to working in schools, to connecting with youth organisations, and to serving and meeting families "right where they are". Just as she felt "church was as a home" to her growing up, she wants local families to know QPC as "a safe and caring place" within the community. She is very upbeat about our church and describes us as "creative, adapting, and excited about the Christian message." Wow!

Kidz Corner

Kids & Families:

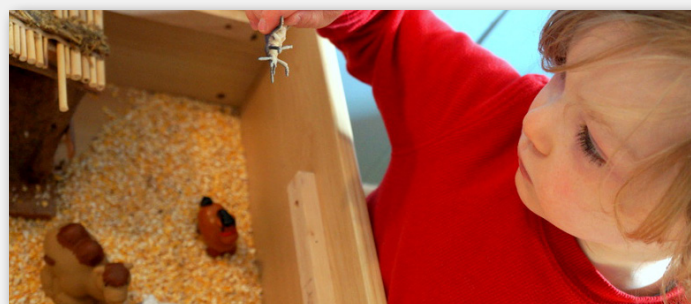
Are you counting down to Christmas yet? At Christmas we celebrate Jesus' birth. Jesus is God, but Jesus is also human. He nursed in a manger, was dunked under water, he ate, drank, spit, wept, and even bled. Jesus experienced all 5 senses, and this Christmas you can use your 5 senses to discover more about Jesus.

Make a Nativity Sensory Bin or Advent Nature Table. Dedicate a bin or tabletop for this space. Take out your Bible and read the story of Jesus' birth. Gather up figures to represent the main characters. Use stones, straw, or dry beans to create the dusty ground or a pathway to the manger. Find something sparkling or glowing to imagine a starry night. Wonder what other textures and materials appeared in the story—oil gifted by Magi, sheep's wool, swaddling cloth? Add in whatever you'd like. Be creative! Play with the items any time or come to them once a day to move figures along a pathway closer and closer to Jesus.

Images and inspiration via: wildflowerramblings.com & exploreandexpress-sheila.blogspot.co.uk

Does she miss the States? Jill certainly misses her friends and family, but also her Washington neighbourhood block with its coffee shops and bookstores. Fortunately, she has found friends, coffee, and books easy to find here! Jill and her husband love living in Edinburgh with its historic heritage and green spaces - Holyrood Park is near their house. She is an outdoor girl, and a sports enthusiast, keen to experience what Scotland has to offer. Scotland's easy access to Europe is a huge plus and she looks forward to travelling in her leisure time. And the downside? Well, she is unsure of how she will feel in the dark-long days of winter. But in this she finds a Christmas message:

"Others have expressed, as an antidote to dark afternoons, the helpful practice of filling your space with light, sounds, and smells which offer brightness, warmth, and awaken the senses. I wonder if this is not what advent is all about—intentionally seeking and creating space for this Jesus who is the true Light and Life come to fill our heart and homes. We sing the words: 'Let every heart prepare Him room.' Let's practise these words too. This Advent, may every ring of bells and whiff of cinnamon awaken not only our senses, but also our hearts to the movement of God in our world. May each strike of the match remind us that even as the days grow shorter, the Light of Christ shines brighter!"



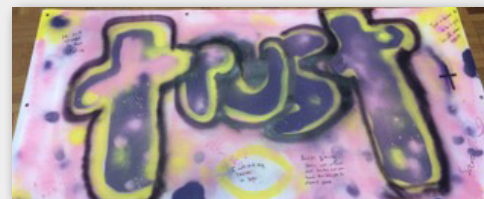
GRAFFITI COMES TO QPC

While researching the replacement of the wooden notice board at the front of the Church, Alison Freeland, leader of our Comms Team discovered a Church in Edinburgh using graffiti as a positive art form to give a striking message to the public passing by.

Following some more research and a graffiti lesson on one of the two legal graffiti sites provided by Edinburgh City Council, Alison took her suggestions to YF and on a sunny summer evening we met on the slope beside the Church to create our own graffiti.

After considering the origins and impact of graffiti the young folk came up with words about faith, which they felt were important statements they wanted to display. Three striking and eye catching banners were created, and hung outside the St. Andrew Hall over the summer.

There was positive feedback and it is hoped that more graffiti can be created to follow our Church seasons. Watch this wall!!!!!! (especially over advent)



Queensferry Parish Church Guild

Saturday 2nd December

10 - noon

Queensferry Parish Church Centre

Coffees, Teas, Home baking, Stalls

Admission £2. Accompanied children free.



Christmas Fayre

Church and Parish Register

Deaths

26th Aug	William Tierney, Ochil Court, SQ
6th Sept	Peter Watt, Livingston Care Home
13th Oct	Sandra Christie, Dundas Avenue,
16th Oct	Fiona Stewart, Atheling Grove

Communion

Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of December (3rd December 2017).

Weekly Worship Services

Sunday 10:00am - 11:00am	Family Service
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

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



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 **4th February 2018**. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by **13th January 2018**. Please send any pictures as separate attachments.