

REFLECTIONS ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JNR

On 4th April 1968 Martin Luther King Jnr, minister, leader, civil rights activist, orator and activist, was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, robbing the world of one of the greatest ambassadors for racial equality and social justice in the 20th Century.

Martin Luther King was passionate and practical, an orator and activist – but committedly Christian and also deeply spiritual.

Some religions are so esoteric and mystical – so “spiritual” that they have little practical impact. For others religion is seen as an essentially practical matter. But in reality, according to the Bible, the healthiest Christian life is one that is both deeply-rooted in a relationship with God and issues in consistent, practical everyday action for and on behalf of others in the name of God.

Just as the plant without roots will fail to thrive, bear little fruit and eventually die, so the Christian in name only, who is not rooted in a relationship with God, will be less “productive” than God intends and desires in their everyday life. Our relationship with God (gifted by Jesus) is the ROOT. Only by maintaining and cultivating that relationship can we, as Christians, “bear much fruit” as Jesus commands.

This is why PRAYER is not an “optional extra” for Christians. God may seem far away – but, wherever you are, He is ALWAYS within speaking distance. Perhaps you haven’t had a conversation with God for a while. Life has been too busy. Or perhaps you “fell out” with Him and haven’t been on speaking terms recently.

Holy Week Meditations

Thank you to all who attended the Holy Week meditations held in Dalmeny church. It was well received by all who attended. The children also had a fun night with their own journey through Holy Week. They experienced waving palm branches, washing feet and a last supper complete with unleavened bread (which was a great hit). The best bit for the leaders was several children who came from outwith the church asking if they could come again.

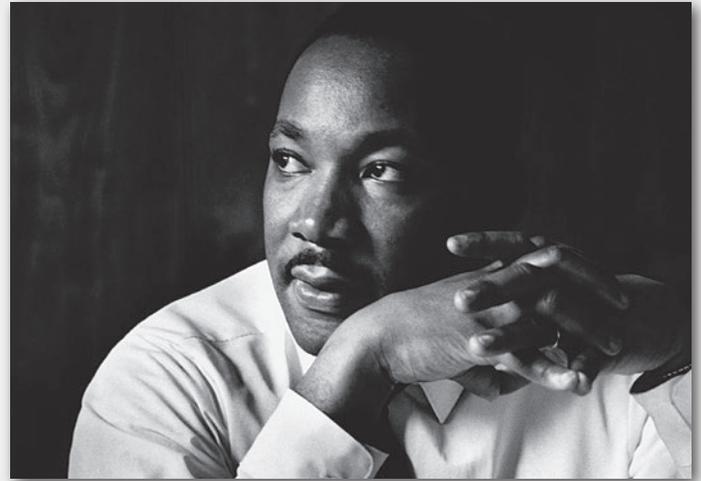
Join the Squad at TeamBuilders Holiday Club

Children, from rising P1s to graduating P7s, join us for TeamBuilders Holiday Club, 30th July to 3rd August, from 10am-12:30pm daily, here at Queensferry Parish Church!

We’re looking forward to the most fun week full of crafts, games, songs, and silliness, and learning that everyone’s unique gifts and talents are important on God’s team.

Mark your calendars and tell your friends!

To sign up or for more information, visit qpcweb.org or email childrenyouth@qpcweb.org
Grownups, we’d love it if you shared your time and talents,



Being on speaking terms with God will enrich YOUR life as well as making it more productive, beneficial and useful to others - and to God!

The TRY PRAYING SEASON from now until the Summer is a good time to root yourself in God again and perhaps re-grow a lost or forgotten relationship with Him. Here are two inspiring prayers written by Martin Luther King. Perhaps you could use them regularly or even daily for a while?

“Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself”... “Deliver me from self-centeredness and a selfish ego. Dear Heavenly Father, help me to rise to the place where my faith in You, my dependency on You, brings new meaning to my life.”

Graham Leitch
Associate Minister.

as registrars, kitchen staff, team leaders or helpers, upfront characters, or praise band members.

Give us a shout if you can help out!



Getting to know you... Alison Freeland

Alison was born in Belfast and grew up during the height of the Northern Ireland troubles in the 60s and 70s, a time when explosions, armed forces on the street, emergency measures and the great chasm of religious and political division impacted on everyone's day-to-day living. She was brought up in a very close family, perhaps brought even closer in supporting Alison's brother, Richard, who has cerebral palsy. Her father was Mayor of Lisburn, a town about ten miles from Belfast.



On leaving school she studied medicine at Queen's University in Belfast and it was there, in her third year, she met her husband, Peter. While some folk might have soft lights and sweet music to kindle the flames of love, Alison fondly remembers how romance blossomed over a dead body in the Anatomy lab. They qualified in June 1980, married in July, and started their first hospital posts in August - with an initial shift of 72 hours. Some honeymoon period! After a year or so, both were bitten by the travel bug and spent some time working in South Africa, Australia and USA. By this time, they had chosen to specialise, Peter in Accident and Emergency medicine and Alison in Radiology. They moved to Scotland in 1989, to consultant posts in Central Scotland, and set up home in Dalmeny. With the arrival of their daughters Claire and Liza, Alison took some time out from medicine but subsequently resumed her career in the Breast Screening Centre in Edinburgh, a position she loved, and held until her retirement in 2015.

She was brought up in a "quietly Christian household", her parents giving her a "good, moral, Christian basis" on which to build her life. Since childhood, she has had strong church connections, and although like many young folk, she drifted away while at University, church was re-explored when they settled in Dalmeny and QPC became their spiritual home. In her busy life, Alison has given much to our church community. She was a GB officer. Many will also remember the fun of the Christmas plays she wrote as leader of Junior Church and the thoughtful and inspiring multi-media presentations of words, poetry and music of recent Martha and Mary evenings. She is also responsible for teaching the YF graffiti - but all with the best possible motives! You will see the banners on the external wall of the St. Andrew Hall. As current Leader of the Communications Team she fizzes with ideas and has set the team an ambitious agenda- "getting the church "out there", moving communications forward, strategies, protocols, opening doors to the wider community", and more! And now she is retired, what are her plans? *"My first year of retirement was spent mostly having post-accident physiotherapy, my second in wedding planning for daughter Claire, roll on the third!"* Intriguingly, Alison has mentioned her enjoyment of creative writing courses. Perhaps a blockbuster is in the making?

Through illness and accident, the Freeland family has had to face hugely challenging and difficult times, and many have admired how Alison has come to terms with these with remarkable courage and resourcefulness. She is naturally upbeat, and an optimist at heart but says, "It is important to work hard to keep together all that is valuable to you. I could not survive without MY faith. I feel Christ walking with me." We all pray for the best of times ahead. the end had prevailed.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Queensferry Parish Church will hold its annual fund raising Coffee morning and Plant Sale for Christian Aid on Saturday 19th May in the Church Centre, 10am-12 noon.

Attractions will include a cake and candy stall, a bookstall, a toy stall, a 99 pence bazaar and a Tombola stall and our famous 'Potted Plant Bonanza'. A great opportunity to have a real spring clear out! A Kid's Zone will be held with a variety of games, children's activities and face painting.

Admission of £2 includes refreshments. Accompanied children are free. Donations can be uplifted by phoning 0131 331 3410 or can be handed into the Church Centre.



Guild Afternoon Tea

The Guild will be having their annual afternoon tea on Tuesday 12th June 2-4 pm.

This event is not just for Guild members, but we would encourage anyone who would like to find out more about the Guild to come along to have a chat with us.

And the food will be good too!

We'd love to see you.



Inchcolm Island

Edinburgh Presbyterial Guild Council have organised a trip to Inchcolm Island on Tuesday 12th June. The boat leaves the Hawes at 1.00pm and returns at approximately 4.15 - 4.30pm.

The Rev. Ian Gilmour, Minister of St Andrew's & St George's has offered to lead the worship and communion. The cost is £11.00 with a donation when we land to Historic Scotland. There are a few places left and if anyone is interested please contact myself for further details.

Jeanette McIvor, 0131 331 1731,
Jrmcivor@aol.com



3 K Visit to India and Nepal

Ken and I took up an invitation from The Rev John Webster (who married us in Troon Old Parish Church over 40 years ago) to join him on his 17th annual tour of India Nepal. This included a visit to Dr Graham's Children's Homes in Kalimpong where John was Pastor and farm manager for many years. With warm wishes and our bags filled with the many gifts donated by our church family here at Queensferry, and from our family and friends too, we set off with much excitement, hope, optimism and faith. To grow wider, deeper and closer to God and to engage with those around us in need of help and support.

Following a 24 hour journey we arrived in Kolkata to a cacophony of sound and colour, it was hard to take it all in. What was immediately obvious though was the huge disparity between the few who are relatively wealthy and the many with nothing, or very little at most. So many people live under trees and many of the street children appear to have no adult support or supervision. We visited Mother Teresa's kindergarten and were shocked by the enormous room filled with cots, each with a little child, yet no toys. We gave a bag of teddies and toys for the children donated by friends at QPC. Outside desperately long queues of mothers with babes in arms, their faces gaunt and with little energy, waited at the food bank counter. We pooled our resources to buy food for them. Walking along pavements to visit a vibrant open-air market with no stalls - just blankets on the ground - with fresh vegetables, fruit and fish, we were conscious of the large number of poor people with little to do; children whose toys were a pile of rusty nails, babies lying on the streets with no clothes, while their mothers begged.



We met two ex-pupils of Dr Graham's Home, supported by Troon Old Parish Church throughout their education. Despite the fact that the parents of one young woman had been unable to raise her, she is now back in Kolkata, working hard to support them in their old age.



We flew to Kathmandu to enjoy Nepalese hospitality, the Himalayas and a game reserve. The Bengal tiger remained elusive on our jungle trek atop an enormous elephant. We saw many rhino, crocodiles, monkeys and a variety of birds including the woolly-necked stork. Our guide in Chitwan told us more about the plight of the Nepalese people whose lives have been hit hard since the earthquakes of 2011 and 2015, and more recently, by devastating floods washing away some villages and hitting already struggling families and leaving some children homeless. The group pulled together to donate bulk bags of rice, fruit and veg for children at the nearby orphanage and we were able to leave bags of toys and teddies donated by the kind folks here at QPC. Grateful thanks from all.

Returning to India we took the incredible hill road up the mountain towards Kalimpong and Dr Graham's Homes. This was the reason we had come to India to meet the children and staff. What a welcome we received! Garland

after garland of huge marigolds were put over our heads along with friendship scarves. They were all smiling and happy. In school assembly the children sang hymns and read from the bible. John led a beautiful children's address, saying that they were each unique and that only they would find the future that is meant for them and told them to be good, work hard, stay happy and love one another.

We visited a number of classrooms where children sang songs or recited poetry and also visited a few of the cottages where the children live. The Lucia King cottages for 3-7 years olds was a great example of how the Homes care for and support the youngest of children. We distributed bags of toys and educational materials for each age group kindly gifted by QPC. The educational programme and teaching aids were of a high standard, however, the cottages where older children live, as well as many of the other buildings on the campus, are in need of major repair and refurbishment. Also the memorial chapel built in memory of Dr Graham's wife has been left structurally unsafe since the 2011 earthquake. There is so much to commend the Homes in terms of the love, care and education the children receive. However, a lack of maintenance and administrative management gave us cause for concern. This charity is in need of support!

We headed up towards Darjeeling, which sits in the Himalayan Foothills at an elevation of 6500 feet, once a summer resort for the British Raj elite. At the beautiful Windamere Hotel we were served afternoon tea of scones and cucumber sandwiches before heading off to find our 'Bungalow' which was amazing with a roaring log fire in the grate, a king size bed and a stunning view of Mount Kanchenjunga (the world's 3rd highest peak). A little cooler here, and although the fire wasn't really necessary it was nevertheless much enjoyed.



What a contrast to what we had seen and experienced. Ken and I climbed into bed feeling more than a little bit guilty about all that we had, compared to that of the people we had met on our journey who had so little. It is still difficult for us to come to terms with the fact that India is a wealthy country yet the majority of its people are living in extreme poverty.

Christine Kirkcaldy

12 Rules for Life

In mid January, first one of my daughters, and then a second, alerted me to a Channel 4 News interview of Jordan Peterson by Cathy Newman. Peterson is a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto and a clinical psychologist. They were in contention over how young men can find meaning in their lives, the 'gender pay gap' and a couple of other controversial issues. It was a fascinatingly robust thirty-minute exchange. If, like me, you missed it you'll find it on YouTube. In the wake of the debate Newman and Peterson were each in receipt of both praise and criticism in various online chats, blogs and Twitter feeds.



Watching the interview encouraged me to buy Jordan Peterson's recent book: "12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos". If I had been expecting a strong correlation between his "12 Rules" and the Ten Commandments in Exodus Chapter 20 or with Jesus Sermon on the Mount, I would have been disappointed. However, there are at least a couple of connections: Peterson's Rule 8: "Tell the truth - or, at least don't lie" echoes "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour" (Exodus 20:16); and Rule 6: "Set your house in order before you criticise the world" reminds us of Jesus probing question "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:3).



Jordan Peterson makes no claim to Christian faith. For example, in another interview when asked, "Do you believe in God?" he settled for, "I behave as if God exists." So as I read the book, what surprised me - for someone who has been described as "one of the most eclectic and stimulating public intellectuals at large today" - is just how much he refers to the Bible. He points out that our modern world has ignored or rejected the wisdom of our ancestors, regarding it as superstition and irrelevant today. So, for example, there are a few references scattered throughout the book to ancient Chinese wisdom - the 'yang' and 'yin', ('order' and 'chaos').

Again and again, however, he uses stories from the Bible to develop his argument or to make a point. For instance, in his Rule 7: "Pursue what is meaningful (not what is expedient)", he recounts a couple of stories from the early chapters of Genesis. Peterson opens the chapter with, "Life is suffering. That's clear... It's basically what God tells Adam and Eve, immediately before he kicks them out of Paradise." Adam and Eve had been led astray by the serpent and the entry of evil into the world was a consequence of disastrous magnitude. He continues, "Earthquakes, floods, poverty, cancer - we're tough enough to take on all of that. But human evil adds a whole new dimension of misery to the world." He then recounts the story of Cain killing Abel and cursing God in a rebellious act of vengeance against the world. Peterson argues that Cain's poor decision is the route to chaos for society, and to depression for individuals who follow him. Instead, Peterson proposes that the way to find meaning in our lives is to strive for the good; to alleviate unnecessary pain and suffering wherever we possibly can. As he puts it, "It's a choice between two opposing personalities... It's Abel or Cain - and it's Christ or Satan."

Isn't it fascinating that one of today's prominent thinkers is rediscovering Biblical truth?

Guy Douglas

Church and Parish Register

Baptisms

28th Jan Theo Alexander Hepburn

Marriages

10th Feb Margaret Ravie and Fraser Summers
(at Dalmeny Church)

24th Mar Jenny Bowden and Steven Eardley
(at Dalmeny Church)

Deaths

17th Jan John Gray, Stoneyflatts Crescent, SQ

26th Jan Agnes (Terry) McAdam, Blenham House, Sighthill,

23rd Feb Nelson Mather, Echline Gardens, SQ

25th Feb Ada Laughlan, Middleton Hall, Uphall

8th Mar Lynn Martindale, SQ

13th Mar Fiona Leil, Echline Rigg, 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 June.

Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from 9th SEPTEMBER 2018. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by 19th AUGUST 2018.

Please send pictures as separate attachments.

