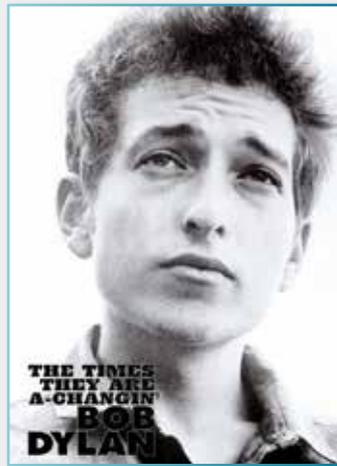


For the times, they are a-changing'

Yes, the announcement has been made that the man who was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for Literature is 'lost for words'. We hope that this is not so, for Bob Dylan, singer-songwriter for many generations, so often was able to capture the mood and message of the hour. None more so when in 1963, at the heart of the liberated days of the 60's, he wrote the song "The times they are a-changin'." In the final verse, the words "As the present now, will later be past, the order is rapidly fadin'." Words for the 60's yet words for today, particularly as you step back and look at the current situation facing our national Church. This may surprise you given the perspective we come from in Queensferry and Dalmeny, but recently, through my involvement with the General Assembly's Panel of Review and Reform, I have been presented with some shocking statistics which seem to indicate that the 'order is rapidly fadin'!

Figures such as:



Membership in 2005 - 520,940

Membership in 2015 - 363, 597

A 30% drop!

Ministers in 2005 - 1,032

Ministers in 2015 - 786

A 24% drop

With 76.5% of ministers over 50, more than half of them are due to retire within 5 years! "The times they are a-changin'."

Carol singing plus!

Each year a group from the church entertain the community as they go out carol singing.

This year we have been invited to put on an evening of Christmas music at Shore Road sheltered housing complex. This will be on Monday 12th December from 7:30-9:00pm and we would love to have more voices to help. Don't worry if you can't sing, perhaps you could read a Christmas poem or even do a turn on a musical instrument.

If you would like to join us please let Wendy know on wendy@auld.me.uk or phone 331 2446.

There will be other opportunities to sing carols in the community as well so please lookout for the intimations.

Associate Minister

Appointed Honorary Associate Minister in September 2016, Rev Graham Leitch "retired" in 2012, following parish ministries in Angus (5 years), in Barclay Church Edinburgh (23 years) and in three parishes - now Tyne Valley Parish Church, south of Dalkeith (9 years).

For 13 years he was Chaplain to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, taking a special interest in the development of the services for Bereaved Parents in his role as Chair of the Bereavement Committee. But now, already a member of South Queensferry, he has been appointed as a regular part of the Preaching Team, to support the Minister in his work, and to offer special pastoral care. "I appreciate the opportunity to serve in this way", Graham says, "and look forward to playing a useful and fruitful part in the service of the congregations and the Gospel in Dalmeny and at South Queensferry."



As a Church of Scotland minister my workload and calling invites me to be involved not just at Congregational level but also across Edinburgh through the work of the Presbytery and nationally through the work of the General Assembly, in my case with the Panel of Review and Reform. For over three years now, in my work with the Presbytery, I have been journeying alongside the folks of Dean Parish Church as their Interim Moderator. On 20th November my season of service will come to an end, as the congregation will close. "The times they are a-changin'."

Challenging times across the Church in Scotland, across the Church in Edinburgh and also across Queensferry and Dalmeny.

In response to such challenging times, we in the leadership of the Church in Queensferry and Dalmeny have recognised that we dare not become complacent. Over the last few months we have been giving consideration to what we might do to build and grow the church in our area.

To this end, we are committing ourselves to exploring the appointment of a "Fresh Expressions" project worker, someone who will help us engage with folks who at present aren't engaging with the life of faith and church as they might. Our congregations are now well served with the recent appointment of Rev Graham Leitch as our Hon Associate Minister and our exceptional team of folks who lead us in worship week by week. So, because "the times they are a-changin'," we are looking to do all we can to ensure that with God - the best is yet to come!

Blessings,
David

Getting to know you: Rebecca Saunders

Rebecca is a Northern Irish lass. Born in Belfast, she moved with her family in her early years to Corstorphine. She was educated locally and after leaving school progressed to Queen Margaret College to complete a degree in Marketing and Business. Initially, she worked in this field for some years, then changed jobs to become a coordinator at her own church, St. Thomas' in Corstorphine. During this time, she felt drawn towards a career in midwifery, and now must be congratulated on her recent graduation in a degree in Midwifery from Napier University, and a new job at Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy. We wish her well. Rebecca is married to Eddie, and has two sons, Owen (10) and Micah (6). Her leisure activities? Ruefully she admits that although she is an avid gardener, for the last few years, study and a young family have precluded her from pursuing many other activities. But now.....

Rebecca and her family have lived in Queensferry for twelve years and had maintained their deeply rooted church connections with St Thomas'. However, two years ago, they, "felt a pull" to worship and be part of their own home community. Now, as a family they are enjoying the fellowship of a supportive church family in QPC, and Queensferry has been greatly blessed with their involvement. "Church" says Rebecca, "is part of our relationship with Jesus. It's who we are. It's everything". Rebecca is the team leader of the Discipleship Team which includes Alpha, home and prayer groups, and both she and Eddie have led worship and youth activities.

A lively and sparkling person, Rebecca speaks passionately and compulsively about her faith. For Rebecca, faith is not just a Sunday morning activity, it is at the heart of everything. Prayer and bible reading are central to her daily life and over the years, she has felt guided through "God incidences", which have led her to making major changes in her life and in her work. Her spirituality "Lord, surprise me with your spirit" and her commitment to the Christian life shine through in conversations with her.

And her Christmas wish for QPC? "To let the spirit impact on our Christmas so that we can see the story of the nativity with fresh eyes, and experience the wonder of the shepherds, the wisdom of the wise men and the praise and joy of the angels."



Bridge of Kindness



During the last few weeks children have been enthusiastic about the Bridge of Kindness and have been keen to note the things they have been doing. Several have helped, played with or shared various items with their friends or siblings. It is good to hear from you, children, keep it up.

It is also encouraging to read how several adult members of the congregation have been sharing acts of kindness. Some have been giving lifts whilst others have been helping folk to cross the road. One person has given bunches of flowers to lots of people while others have visited the sick in hospital or helped the sick or less able in their homes. Several people have been collecting litter from around Queensferry and someone has weeded a family's garden. Why not visit the Bridge of Kindness so that you can read the comments for yourself and see what progress has been made.

Sharing acts of kindness can be a tremendous encouragement to the recipients. There are so many things that all of us can do so why not give some thought about what acts of kindness you could share. There are further suggestions in the Bridge of Kindness leaflet. At the time of writing, about 40 spaces on the bridge have been filled up. In total, there are over 300 spaces on the bridge so we hope to complete the Bridge of Kindness before the opening of the Queensferry Crossing.

CHRISTMAS POST 2016



31st Edinburgh (South Queensferry) Boys' Brigade will be raising funds for

Queensferry Churches Care in the Community by collecting and delivering Christmas Cards in South Queensferry, Dalmeny & Kirkliston.

Collections at Queensferry Parish Church on Sunday 4th, 11th & 18th December.

Collection point also available at QCCC centre from 1st – 16th December.

Deliveries from 18th December

Cost 25p per card

(Please ensure that the correct name and address are clear on each envelope).



Offerings and Donations – Thank you all

The Congregational Board would like to thank all members and friends for their offerings and donations during 2016. Our weekly and monthly givings support work here and across Scotland. Our congregation has been able to extend our Children and Families work into the local schools, through Messy Church and with the Nomad team at the High School at Easter. We've supported an Alpha Course over the autumn. Your donations pay for our heat and light, cleaning and office-work, insurance and communications through our website and this newsletter. We continue, through the central church, to support necessary pastoral and social work across Scotland. With your help from our Annual Appeal, we have continued to maintain the fabric of our church buildings.

We thank you whatever you give, no matter how often. It all helps. With your help, we will continue to Grow Wider, Deeper and Closer as God's church in Queensferry.

Plans for a new crèche facility

As part of our growing wider, deeper, closer vision, Queensferry Parish Church is currently making plans to provide a formal crèche facility at our early service at 10am. This is so that parents attending the 10am service (and there are quite a lot of them!)



can come and enjoy and participate in worship whilst their young ones are being cared for in the safe and secure environment of the crèche. However, in order to be able to provide this service, we do need plenty of volunteers to join a proposed crèche rota. This is so that we can maximise the flexibility of the rota without overburdening any of the volunteers. Around 10 people have already come forward, which is great, but we ideally need more to create a large enough pool of people to draw from.

So if you, or anyone you know, would be able to spare a couple of hours on a Sunday morning on an occasional basis (perhaps once every 6 weeks or so), then please do get in touch ([contact Huw Thomas email: huwandjanet@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:huwandjanet@tiscali.co.uk)). Safeguarding checks for potential volunteers working with children is a normal part of the process and will be undertaken for everyone before being able to join the rota. The safeguarding process is already underway for those who have so far come forward. Appropriate crèche training will also be offered to those volunteering.

Ideally, we would like to get the crèche up and running before Christmas but that of course depends on sufficient volunteers coming forward and to allow enough time for the safeguarding process to take place.

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Queensferry Parish Church
Guild**

**Christmas Fayre
&
Coffee Morning**

Saturday 26th November
In
**South Queensferry
Parish Church Centre**

10 am until 12 noon

**Tea & Coffee Cake & Candy
Christmas Gifts
Books Tombola**

**Admission and Refreshments
£2.00
Accompanied Children Free**

Kidz Corner

Sundays@10

If you've been at church on a Sunday recently, you may have noticed that our kids' slot is a bit different. Instead of going off to separate small groups in different places, the primary and nursery age kids are all staying together. This means that we can do lots of different activities – and we all get a choice!

You might want to do some drawing, or make something with bits of string and craft materials, or you might want to be in the "quiet zone" and talk about the bible story that we're reading or do a word game – and some weeks there will be a video, or a new song to learn, or a lively game with lots of running around!

If you've not given it a try – come along one Sunday and find out!



Christmas lights

Lots of people do things with lights, to brighten up the dark winter at Christmas time. This year, Messy Church Queensferry is having a special celebration called a Christingle. It's on Sunday 18th December at 4pm at the Priory Church. Never heard of a Christingle? Why not find out what it is – ask a grown-up to help you look for it on Wikipedia, and if you come to Messy Church, expect to see candles and oranges and maybe some sugary sweeties too!

You Can Make a Difference to a Family Facing a Crisis With Safe Families for Children

Soon after Linda gave birth to twins, she felt like her world was falling apart. On discharge from hospital, she became poorly and was facing the prospect of being readmitted. Feeling unwell, she struggled to care for her two new-borns, and her 3-year-old son Ross couldn't understand why he no longer had his mum's undivided attention. Linda's husband worked from home, but the chaos in the house also began affecting his job. With no friends or family in the area, Linda had no one to turn to.

We paired Linda with two Family Friends who visited periodically to help with household chores, play with the 3 year old, help mum feed the twins, and reassure her when she felt exhausted and overwhelmed. One of our Host Homes who lived nearby offered support too and discovered that their child went to the same nursery as Linda's son. The Host Home arranged play dates and helped take Ross to and from nursery, giving him a fun outing to look forward to and rest away from the stresses at home.

After two months, Linda was able to manage caring for the twins on her own so the Family Friends stopped visiting, but the play dates with Ross and his new friend look like they will continue. Safe Families for Children empowers local churches to care for families like Linda's. By training and supporting church members, we equip the body of Christ to reach out to families in crisis.

To get involved, you can contact Safe Families for Children by phone (0131 603 8430) or e-mail (alangray@safefamiliesforchildren.com).



Winter 2016 Litterpick

Thank you to the volunteers from Queensferry Parish Church Eco-congregation and Community Group who gave their time to conduct a major clean up of Queensferry. 18 adults took part, and they were able to collect over 28 bags of litter and remove it from the landscape. Amongst the more unusual items found were a printer, grass box, traffic cone and a rubber duck!

Queensferry Parish Church participated as part of a registered Clean Up Scotland event, which is run by the independent environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful. We were delighted to be joined by some of the Cleanferry volunteers for our Clean Up, who regularly go out litter picking around the Ferry.

On behalf of the volunteers Janet Thomas said the volunteers were delighted to have been able to make a real difference to Queensferry. Not only did it leave them with a great deal of satisfaction that they were able to help our community, but it was great fun! I'd recommend it to anyone. Some of the worst areas were beside the Road Bridge junctions – where thoughtless drivers had thrown litter from their cars. Over the past few years Queensferry Parish Church has organised 5 Clean Up events which have now cleared over 130 bags full of rubbish from Queensferry.



Church and Parish Register

Deaths

17th Aug	Elizabeth Jackson, Rose Lane
30th Aug	Lynn Young
5th Sep	Catherine MacKenzie, Broxburn
27th Sept	Jess Allan, Riverside View, Hopetoun Road
17th Oct	John Fairweather, Moubray Grove
20th Oct	Jean Denholm, Scotstoun Park

Thanksgiving and Blessing

23rd Oct Maya Markowska Harris, Whitehead Grove

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

Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from 19th February 2017. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by 28th January 2017. Please send any pictures as separate attachments.