

Inside Out

News from Queensferry and Dalmeny Kirks

Welcome to Inside Out...

Welcome to the second edition of 'Inside Out', a collection of bits and pieces from across our churches and communities which I hope will help us get the most and the best from the season we find ourselves in.

This newsletter will, I hope, give you some inspiration and encouragement as we continue to adapt to our new world order – good news is that even although we aren't sure when this time will be over, since the last newsletter we are now some 10 days nearer it!

Hopefully in the distribution of this newsletter, the great work being done by Esther in pulling together an accurate list of emails means that we will get this out to you all on the first 'click'.

We are also developing a circulation list of folks who aren't on email so that we can ensure that you too are kept up to date with what's going on. Welcome all.

First things first...

Pastoral Support and Practical Help:

With our Church office now closed, we're delighted to report that Esther Conner, our Church Secretary, is able to work from home so the usual services provided by Esther will still be accessible to us all. Just email Esther at the Church Office and she'll pick up your messages (that's the email ones not the shopping!). I know that joke was in last issue – but hey it's quite funny...no?.

Anything I or our Associate Minister, Rev Ann Inglis, can help you with, please just call us.

**Church Office
Phone number:**

0131 331 1100

Rev David Cameron

0773 791 0018

**Office - Esther
Email address:**

office@qpcweb.org

Rev Ann Inglis

0792 022 8545

Life after Easter Did you get to Spring Harvest ?

ec
essential
christian
presents
SPRING
HARVEST
Home



So here I was thinking that this year's stewarding at Spring Harvest was going to pass me by – not so as my stewards had other ideas and every night at 5 o'clock over 30 of us joined together for a Zoom Stewards meeting complete with my obligatory 'wee inspirational thought for the day'. One day they even had a competition to see who could do the most effective bit of stewarding wherever they were 'locked down'!



If you did miss it? Don't worry! Spring Harvest are pleased to announce that they will continue to provide as much content as possible from *Spring Harvest Home* on the Spring Harvest youtube channel for all the time we are in lockdown, and all still for free. They are also regularly going to be adding new material to the site, starting last week with Thought for The Day by Steve Uppal, and with even more to come, including Karl Martin.

As I said before, even though events such as this may not be your normal cup of tea, let me invite you to dip into what is a varied and inspiring programme with something for all ages. Just follow the link below and that should take you in:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SpringHarvest>

Prom Praise goes virtual!

Put this Saturday the 2nd May at 7:30pm in your diary!

Follow the link below and you'll end up in the Royal Albert Hall for an evening of inspiring praise led by the All Souls Choir and orchestra.

Featuring your favourite music from Prom Praise recordings over the last ten years hosted by Michael Andrews... from his home!

<https://www.allsoulsmusic.org>



Stay safe
be creative
be thankful
be kind.

The flowers that never fade...

Each week after our Sunday services the flowers which grace the Communion table during the services at QPC are then distributed to folks across the congregation. Obviously during the present situation we have had to adapt what we do and so each week we send out flowers online - hence the flowers that never fade ☺.

So far we have managed to show our appreciation to many of our folks working in the NHS and the health professions, folks offering essential services such as in our local shops and local emergency services.

This week we are planning to send them to the people working in care homes associated with folks across our congregations.

Do you have someone that might be blessed by such a bunch ... just contact Esther at the Church office: office@qpcweb.org or call 0131 331 1100.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE

Once again we have received this week a very helpful Bulletin produced this time by Elaine Lennon, the North West Lifelong Learning Development Officer at the City of Edinburgh Council. You'll find the link here: [News from CEC North West Edinburgh.pdf](#)

Topics covered include: Council refuge collection news, a Covid-19 support services map, activity guidance, parenting workshops, domestic abuse support, food sources, Police news, hardship fund details, fundraising and much, much more !

Should you require a copy and can't access the internet please call Esther at the office.

And just in is news of a great resource providing a hot meal for folks in need of such – they are called Scran Academy and they aim to deliver Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 4 and 7. Sign up here : <https://www.scranacademy.com/meals>

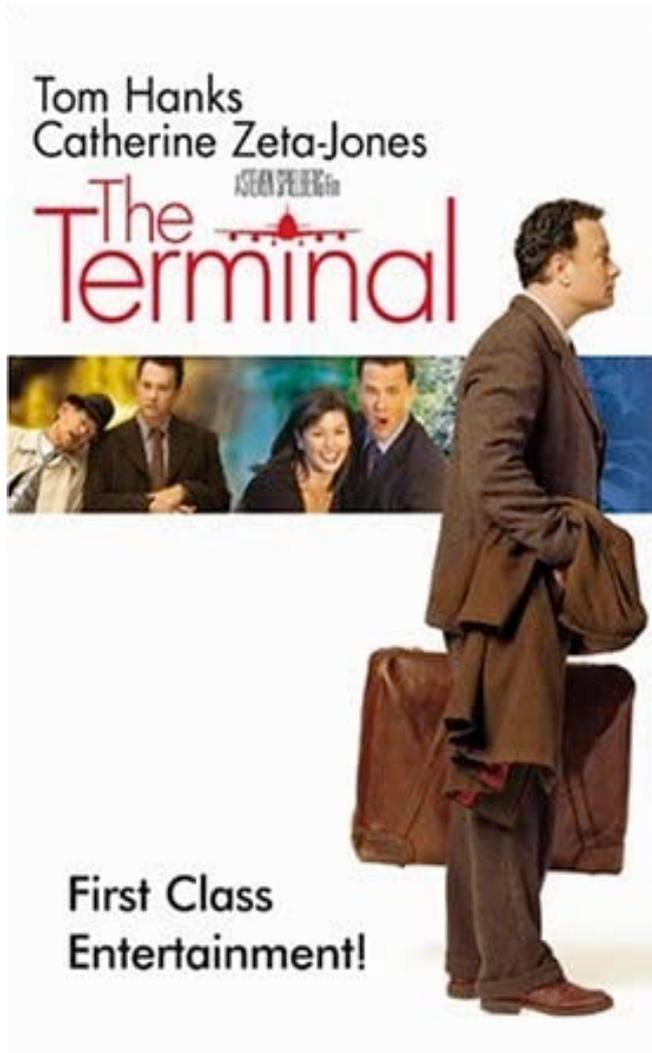
Or you could call them on 07496 850591 or contact Esther at the Church office for help.



Shhh...it's oh so quiet around the town... a few snapshots of our town and surrounds as I suspect you've never seen it before....



The Terminal – Part 2



During one of our recent services, as we were heading into the first week or so of limited movement, I referred to the moment Lesley and I found ourselves captivated one night as we watched Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones in the movie : ‘The Terminal’.

The basic premise of the plot is Tom Hanks plays the part of someone travelling from Eastern Europe into the States. As he arrives in JFK airport he discovers that during his flight his country had been the subject of a terrorist coup. As a result he finds himself without a national identity, his passport is therefore invalid and he cannot depart into the States.

He is on effect on ‘lock-down’! Sound a familiar scenario?

So might our Tom have anything to teach us during his time inside? Last time we discovered that he became incredibly creative ... making a beautiful mosaic fountain no less!

The second thing that struck me during his time inside was that he very soon became part of a wee *community*.

It’s not long before our stranded traveller begins to strike up friendships with some of the staff who work in the airport.

As it so happens there are three friends who stand out... a thought I’ll return to later.



Even when cooped up inside the need to belong soon surfaces.

It seems that despite the empty streets we've seen above we, as human beings, are hard wired to belong together in community. If this is a time that you're finding difficult due to being 'cut-off' from others then take heart – you're only human!

I often ponder what such an experience as this would have been like say 30 years ago before the arrival of the myriad of new ways we have of communicating with one another – very different I suspect.

So where does this need from within us come from, this discovery that we have been made for community, that we are sociable beings ... all of us? Many years ago I came across some insights that takes our roots for community right back to the beginning of the book of Genesis. In discovering that we are made in the image of God and, as we saw last time, were therefore like God and made to be creative, so it is also with our capacity, indeed necessity, for community. It too can be traced back to the way in which we are made in God's image.

Someone once wrote that 'community finds its essence and definition deep within the being of God'. We do not have to go far into the bible to find teaching about the nature of God as a community of oneness. Genesis 1 verses 1-3 introduce us to the community of the trinity, God the creator – the architect of creation, God the Holy Spirit – the contractor of creation and God the Word – the agent of creation. In verse 26 we hear God speak of the perspective of this community of oneness : 'Let us make human beings in our likeness..'.
Therefore being made in the likeness of God we too are therefore made for community.

So how might this work out in our everyday lives and walk of faith?

Let's look at how God modelled it when in Jesus, God became one of us.

Often he would rise early or withdraw from the crowds and disciples in order to pursue his 1-1 relationship with the Father. In addition however it was clear he connected regularly with three disciples in particular and they were the ones that he called alongside him in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:37). This example of the 1-3, I referred to earlier in the network of friends/community that our airport resident got around him. Jesus also called a group of 12 disciples to journey with him over his three years in ministry. This 1-12 community of which Jesus was a part was made up of a very different and diverse group of folks. Beyond this a further group of 70 were connected to Jesus. See a pattern here in the life of Jesus : 1-1; 1-3; 1-12; 1-70 ? How does your life and pattern of relationships compare to this? Might your sense of belonging and community be enhanced by building a pattern such as Jesus did?

I know that after over 26 years in ministry I am taking a fresh look at such a model.

Friends, we are made for Community!

INSIGHTS TO INSPIRE:

Different Times by Richard Lloyd

A time to realise how time flows at rates we cannot recognise;

A slow flow, quicker now and slow again;

time to fill deliberately, time to sense each second, each minute, time to count one's blessings, and one's sins and weigh them in the balance pointlessly;

time to ponder on forgiveness long withheld, or sought and still denied, time to close up those wasted years.

A time to refrain from touching; those we love to hold, an old friend's handshake or warm embrace from those close and closer still, a child's tiny hand in your hand in total trust.

A time to tell oneself old tales, to call up names from the depths of decades, events long past, regrets and celebrations, wins and losses, failures and success; flawed judgement colours all.

Journeys real and metaphorical fill the mind, and with them moments of wonder and sadness; a child is born, a loved one dies. Journeys ending and begun.

A time to reflect on grace received and owed, on comfortable times reviewed and love that still grows reciprocated here on earth as in heaven.

A time to see our broken lives as Kintsugi, veins of gold enhancing surely rejected vessels.

A time for hope, for overcoming fear, for holding up lives sacrificed for others, reflecting the ultimate Easter love gift from God.

A time to wonder what will come, will be, will change and who we'll see.



KINTSUGI -
JAPANESE POTTERY
REPAIRED WITH
MOLTEN GOLD &
THEREBY BECOMING
MORE BEAUTIFUL
THAN THE ORIGINAL.

BIG THANKS ALSO TO
ELIZABETH GRUBB
AND CHRISTINE KIRKCALDY
WHO CAME ACROSS THIS
THOUGHTFUL PIECE
APPROPRIATE TO OUR TIMES.
WRITTEN, WE THINK BY KITTY
O'MEARA.

This is beautiful, wise and
thought provoking...

And the people stayed home.
And read books, and listened, and
rested, and exercised, and made art,
and played games, and learned new
ways of being, and were still. And
listened more deeply. Some
meditated, some prayed, some
danced. Some met their shadows.

And the people began
to think differently.

And the people healed.
And, in the absence of people living
in ignorant, dangerous, mindless,
and heartless ways,
the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed,
and the people joined together again,
they grieved their losses, and made
new choices, and dreamed new
images, and created new ways to live
and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed.



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES....

And we're off... last Sunday we travelled back to the beginning of creation as we explored the Creation and Catastrophe of Genesis 1-3. Last Sunday I know that many of you were moved by Brian Doerksen's song: 'Creation Calls' and with it the powerful images from a YouTube presentation. You'll find the link here, enjoy: https://youtu.be/TzU-K_PrL7s or perhaps ponder this:

Psalm 8 verses 3-9



'When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers; the moon and the stars you set in place; what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honour.

You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority: the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents.

O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! '

Coming up next - what have we got ...

3 May : Noah - Genesis 5-9
 10 May : Abraham - Genesis 12-36
 17 May : Joseph - Genesis 37 & 38



Why not get ahead and read what's coming next...

And finally...news and views from across the parishes

Now when I say Parish, our boundaries have somewhat expanded over recent weeks since we have begun live streaming our services online. Recent insights revealed that we have reached some 18 different countries including the States, South Korea, Australia, Ukraine, Qatar and Morocco. Who are all these people connecting with our ministries?

One person who was in touch was Louise Jackson, who though originally from Queensferry, now lives in Morocco! Louise first caught up with us for our Easter Sunday service before heading out to roll some eggs with her 2 year old daughter Salma Grace...

I asked Louise to bring us up to date with her news – and she did!

'Being a 'ferry girl' my thoughts were with the Parish Church on Easter Day, the church I was christened in and have attended when in Queensferry. We listened in to the service on my phone from lockdown in Marrakesh, Morocco where I've been living for 6 years now, working on our family travel business and being blessed with many things including my 2 year old daughter who has changed my world.

In a time when we are being asked to isolate ourselves, my days are filled with

play (some days more imaginative than others), new creations, caring for street animals and in the little time I have for myself, renewal and reconnecting with myself and others.

We are lucky to have the sun which takes the chill off facing another month of lockdown. A normally exotic and very vibrant city has fallen silent. We are only permitted out for essential services and must access those within our local area with a signed paper.

My heart is more aware than ever of the Scottish home I also have and the community that over the years I've missed, more so since becoming a mother. In these uncertain times I am certain that we will return but in the meantime I try to count my abundant blessings daily and hold tight to the love around me. I hope you are all managing to find ways to get through this time and I hope to see you all soon!



Happy birthday greetings go to two of the younger folks in our church family : Hugo Mackenzie of Station View on the 19th April and Jude McLauchlan from Rosyth on the 24th April.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM US ALL!



And finally in our news section, it is with sadness that I have to announce the death last week of Sadie Brannan of Shore Road. Sadie has been a precious member of the church family in Queensferry after moving some years ago from the west, from Penilee on the south side of Glasgow, where I happened to go to school. Just over a year ago Sadie celebrated her 90th birthday with a big party up at Dalmeny Church Centre and she'll be greatly missed for her cheerful outlook and ever-present smile. Her funeral will be held at Mortonhall Crematorium on Wednesday 6 May at 3.30pm. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter Joan and the family at this time.



As to the views – we're glad we asked as a number of you have sent in photographs from around our parishes and we're sure there are more to come... just email the office...



Geese by Dundas Loch from Derek Hobson.



From Ian Shepherd, something from the foot of the garden that illustrates Spring - with all the fresh new leaves and blossom.



From Joyce Slee, a certain local village and the glorious yellow fields as you move to its edge.

At least one family in the parish should know where this was taken ☺



Join us on Sundays at 10.30am through the wonders of modern technology:

<http://www.qpcweb.org/live>

or catch up later:

<http://www.qpcweb.org/replay>



And for those unable to access events online why not tune in to the BBC on Sundays when on Radio 4 at 8:10 am – the first Sunday Worship of the day can be heard and then at 10.45am on BBC1 'Sunday Worship' comes this week from Bangor Cathedral in Wales. On BBC Scotland at 11.15am there are 'Reflections on the Quay' and then on BBC1 at 13:15 pm Songs of Praise.

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